



Biennial Review

Fall 2016 - Fall 2018

(Completed December 2019)

Prepared in accordance with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (EDGAR, Part 86).

Direct questions or comments to:

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Executive Summary

History & Purpose

During Fall 2019, the Biennial Review Working Committee was formed with representatives from Brandeis University's Health Promotion and Wellness Initiatives, Brandeis Counseling Center, Office of Student Rights and Community Standards, Conferences and Events, Department of Community Living (DCL), Human Resources, General Counsel, Public Safety, and Sodexo Dining Services. The group was tasked with producing a biennial report on Brandeis' effectiveness of its alcohol and other drug (AOD) programs and the consistency of policy enforcement covering Fall 2016 - Fall 2018.

Part 86, the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations, requires that, as a condition of receiving funds or any other form of financial assistance under any federal program, an institution of higher education (IHE) must certify that it has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees. Specifically, IHEs must complete:

- Annual notification/distribution of substance abuse policy and information to all students, staff, and faculty.
- Development and implementation of a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol by students and employees.
- A biennial report on the effectiveness of its alcohol and other drug (AOD) programs and the consistency of policy enforcement.

Sec.86.103 requires that IHEs retain the above records for 3 years after the fiscal year in which the record was created. If requested, IHEs are required to submit written certification and/or copies of policy/information distributed annually, as well as copies of the Biennial Review, to the Secretary of Education and/or designees.

Key Findings

The Biennial Review report demonstrates clear growth in Brandeis' AOD prevention and intervention programs and policy enforcement spanning Fall 2016 - Fall 2018. During this period, Brandeis re-established its BASICS program, hired a full-time health promotion director, and started ongoing conversations about the importance of AOD prevention in higher education, its impact on the campus community, and best practices in harm reduction and prevention. (See next page for SWOT analysis.)

Recommendations

Brandeis University is reinvigorating its approach to AOD prevention, intervention, and treatment. The goals outlined in this report will form the basis for continuous improvement and strategic planning.

- A. Macro Level goals
 - a. Develop a "right sized" peer education program
 - b. Secure funding for the National College Health Assessment (NCHA)

- c. Increase harm reduction for high risk events
- B. Mezzo-level goals
 - a. Implement prevention & education strategies for high risk populations (eg: Greek organizations, Off Campus students, Student-Athletes, First Years)
 - b. Provide Alcohol and Other Drug training for student leaders
- C. Micro-level goals
 - a. Build and properly resource the BASICS program
 - b. Identify and develop appropriate supports for students in recovery

SWOT Analysis	
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdisciplinary recognition of need for population-level approach to AOD prevention • Full-time health promotion director hired • Consistency in policy application and enforcement • Streamlined referral processes & clarity of response protocols • BEMCo service • Students are passionate about health and wellness and are engaged in peer leadership opportunities 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacking strategic plan for AOD prevention • BASICS is under-resourced • No peer education on AOD (prior to 2019) • Limited time with new students at Orientation • Reduction in AOD training opportunities for student leaders • Lacking institutional message/philosophy regarding AOD • Lack of education/regulation of unrecognized Greek community
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships with national and regional professional organizations (ACHA, NECHA, NEHEN) • Wellness touches every area on campus and has potential to unite/build community • High demand among student body for wellness programming • National attention on rising college mental health concerns • Framework for Our Future emphasis on student well-being and quality of life • Health, Wellness, and Life Skills (HWLS) Core requirement • Mental Health Task Force (est. 2019) • Faculty and students with academic and practical expertise in public health 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent employee turnover in Student Affairs, including of leadership • Belief that Brandeis is not a “party school” among students and administration • Belief that Brandeis isn’t “fun,” and that restricting alcohol will harm social life on campus. • Legalization of recreational cannabis use in MA. • Rise of vaping among middle and high school students who are now coming to college. • Increasing prevalence and severity of mental health and social development concerns among youth.