

# **Biennial Review Drugs and Alcohol Prevention Plan 2025-2027**

West Georgia Technical College

## Purpose of the Plan

To comply with the 1989 Amendments to the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, West Georgia Technical College (WGTC) will create a Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program to be reviewed biennially by the VP of Student Affairs (VPSA) and/or designees. This plan will outline programs and activities associated with Drug and Alcohol Awareness endeavors throughout the year, with specific communication to students, faculty and staff during Spring and Fall semesters. The plan reviews the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse, policy, procedure, student conduct and state and local actions. In accordance with 34 CF 86 of the Consumer Information Disclosure, WGTC's plan will review the enforcement and disciplinary sanction(s) imposed on violators of the college's Drug and Alcohol policies. The Biennial review will help determine whether these enforcement efforts and sanctions were applied in a consistent manner. This report is submitted as West Georgia Technical College's Biennial Review for the 2025-2027 academic years.

## Summary

West Georgia Technical College (WGTC) is a non-residential institution which offers over 100 associate degree, diploma, and technical certificate programs of study. WGTC also partner with area business and industry to offer excellent continuing education and economic development programs to further support the workforce development needs of this region. WGTC is one of 22 colleges in the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) serving roughly 6,900 students across five campuses located in seven counties. TSCG, the governing body for WGTC, has documented policies specific to drug and alcohol use on campus. In accordance to TCSG policy 4.8.1

(<https://tcsգ.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/policymanual/overview>), WGTC is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment that enriches its students, faculty, and staff. WGTC implements and adheres to TCSG Policy 4.8.1 which prohibits the possession, use, distribution, and unlawful manufacture of illegal drugs, narcotics or controlled substances on all campuses. Alcohol is not permitted on campus except when a written Exception Request is submitted for consideration and is approved by the college President. It is the responsibility of each student, faculty, and staff member to be familiar with the provisions of the policy and also the State of Georgia laws as they pertain to alcohol and drug use and abuse. The College's Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program places responsibility for individual and group conduct on the individuals who use drugs and consume alcohol. The management and enforcement of WGTC's Alcohol and Drug policy and programs present unique challenges due to WGTC's non-residential life; rather than being faced with on-campus violations of alcohol and drug laws and conduct policies, WGTC's VPSA, Dean of Students, Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT), faculty, and staff more often handle the impact of alcohol use and abuse that occurs off campus and within college-related activities; thus placing the emphasis on recognizing the signs and symptoms of use/abuse and providing external resources available for treatment. The college's focus is to address drug and alcohol prevention through emphasis on drug and alcohol laws, collaborations with external agencies, and access to treatment facilities within our educational efforts.

## Goals for WGTC Drug and Alcohol Prevention Plan

1. To support a culture and atmosphere free from alcohol and substance use and abuse while on the campus community property
2. To develop and disseminate information for the members of the campus community regarding alcohol and other substance-use issues for the purpose of awareness, education, and prevention
3. To make the campus community aware of the availability of treatment for alcohol and other drug/substance use intervention services such as counseling, referral to in-patient and out-patient treatment, and to provide ongoing support for students, faculty, and staff.

Achievement of these goals is measured by student awareness rates, sponsored alcohol and drug/substance awareness events, activities and campaigns, as well as knowledge of alcohol and drug/substance use and dangers. Students may be provided surveys during specific times during the semester most notably at Health & Wellness and Student Life events. Additionally, surveys will help indicate that students are knowledgeable of counseling and support services, which are perceived as valuable assets.

### Events, Activities, and Awareness Campaigns

To meet these goals, WGTC's Student Life Office and the Behavioral Intervention Team offer a variety of programs designed to educate and support an alcohol-free and drug-free/substance-free lifestyle on campus, while also educating students about the importance of responsible and safe behavior regarding drugs and alcohol off campus. Below are some examples of these efforts: As a campus community effort, WGTC plans to launch a continuous multi-media campaign on all campus locations to inform students about the dangers and effects of alcohol and drugs/substance abuse to include:

- Information in the WGTC Student Handbook
- Information in the Student Code of Conduct
- Drug and alcohol awareness information and resources on the campus website under WGTC Student Support Resources and Student Consumer Information
- Partner with community mental health/recovery resources multiple times a year to make available to student's various educational programs related to drugs and alcohol, such as: safety and responsibility, coping mechanisms, counseling and recovery, etc., to increase awareness and dispel myths and misconceptions about drinking and drug use.

### Host a Drug and Alcohol Awareness Event

In collaboration with the Department of Student Life WGTC Health and Wellness will plan and host one annual event during the Fall semester educating students about drugs and alcohol including subjects like: responsible alcohol consumption, opioid crisis awareness, and DEA takeback days. The event will also supply students with information about community providers for drug and alcohol prevention and rehabilitation programs. All students, faculty and staff will be invited to an event planned around an open and welcoming, family-friendly and educational environment.

### Ongoing WGTC Drug and Alcohol policy distribution

Provide students with the West Georgia Technical College drug and alcohol policies on all campus locations, at all orientations and will also be available on the WGTC website, in the Student Handbook and in the Student Code of Conduct.

### Student Awareness Assessment

Students will complete a short 2-3 question assessment in which they will be surveyed for their knowledge of the WGTC drug and alcohol campaign, counseling and referral options for drug and alcohol use, and awareness of student email notification acknowledgement during campus events, study breaks or library visits. This survey will be conducted during the Fall Drug and Alcohol Awareness Event held each year during the fall semester.

Questions that might be included are:

1. "Are you aware that WGTC has an ongoing Drug and Alcohol Awareness Campaign at your campus location?"
2. "Are you aware that WGTC sends an email message to students based on the Drug and Alcohol Awareness Campaign?"
3. "Are you aware that WGTC has counseling services and referral resources for students who are affected by drug or alcohol use?"

## Distribution of Policies

A copy of WGTC's Drug and Alcohol Policy is distributed biannually (Fall and Spring semesters) to all students, faculty and staff. The College strongly encourages being familiar with the Policy. The Policy is available in the college catalog and is accessible on the college website at <https://westgatech.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2024-2025/student-catalog/student-affairs-support-services/drug-free-schools-and-communities-act/>.

Each member of the college community receives an e-mail notifying them of the availability of the policy and a link to access it online. Work with IT to track how many students open the email communication or use a read receipt of some kind so we can track how many students view the communication. In addition, WGTC emails a notification to all enrolled students announcing the publication and the website link. Further, prospective students and employees are provided with information about WGTC's Drug and Alcohol Policy and the web address for accessing it. The Drug and Alcohol Policy is also formally presented by human resources staff during each New Employee Orientation session.

## Alcohol and Drug Policy

### Alcohol Policies

The presence of alcohol on college campuses shall be governed by the provisions of federal, state and local laws and applicable State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia policies and procedures. All persons entering the campus or any facility owned or operated by the Technical College System of Georgia or any of its Technical Colleges must comply with these laws, policies, and procedures. (<https://tcsge.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/policymanual/overview>)

Any person using alcoholic beverages while on the campus of West Georgia Technical College shall be responsible for compliance with state and county laws and the College's Alcohol Policy. It is illegal in the State of Georgia for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase, possess or consume alcohol or to falsify or misrepresent his or her age to obtain alcohol.

### Drug Policies

The use, possession, and/or sale of illegal drugs are violations of the College's Drug and Alcohol Policy, the faculty contract, and the terms of employment of administrative, classified, and contingent staff.

Faculty, students, and staff who use, possess, or sell illegal drugs are subject to criminal prosecution as well as administrative disciplinary actions including mandatory counseling, suspension, or dismissal.

## Enforcement

The use, possession, sale or furnishing of alcohol and illicit drugs on the West Georgia Technical College campus is governed by the College's Drug and Alcohol Policy and state and federal laws. These laws are strictly enforced by the West Georgia Technical College Police Department. Violators are subject to college disciplinary action, criminal prosecution, fines, and/or imprisonment.

**There have been ZERO Drug & Liquor Law arrests and ZERO Drug & Liquor Law violations Referred for Disciplinary Action in the past three years (2021-2023) on ALL WGTC campuses and sites. You can review this information here: <https://www.westgatech.edu/wp-content/uploads/Clery-2024-FINAL.pdf>**

WGTC's Health & Wellness Coordinator, Dean of Students, VPSA, Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT), faculty, and staff used the following materials to help produce this Biennial Review and aid in determining strengths, opportunities, and recommendations:

- TCSG Alcohol and Drug Policy
- WGTC Student Code of Conduct
- WGTC Student Catalog (2024-2025)
- WGTC Annual Security Report (2024)
- WGTC Website, including:
  - Student Consumer Information
  - WGTC Student Support Resources
  - KnightCARE, KnightCARE FAQ, and KnightCARE Incident Report Form

- Higher Education Act of 1965, Section 484 (As Amended through P.L. 115-334, Enacted December 20, 2018)
  - Sec. 119. ø20 u.s.c. 1011h binge drinking on college campuses
  - Sec. 120. ø20 u.s.c. 1011i drug and alcohol abuse prevention
- National Institute on Drug Abuse website
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism website
- National Institute of Health website

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**Dean of Students**  
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Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT)

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