



Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act
2025 Biennial Review
July 2023 – June 2025

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I. Introduction to Dalton State College

Dalton State College (DSC) is a four-year public institution located in the scenic foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Northwest Georgia. Just off Interstate 75, the 157-acre main campus in Dalton is 30 minutes from Chattanooga, Tennessee, and 75 minutes from Atlanta, Georgia. This ideal location combines the charm of a small town with convenient access to urban amenities, cultural experiences, and outdoor recreation including hiking, mountain biking, and climbing—all within minutes of campus.

Founded in 1963 as Dalton Junior College, the institution welcomed its first class in 1967 with an enrollment of 524 students. In 1998, the college transitioned to its current name, Dalton State College, reflecting the growth in academic offerings and degree programs. The college has continued to expand, opening the Mountain Campus in Ellijay in 2009 and launching its first on-campus residence hall, Mashburn Hall, in 2016. Prior to that, student housing was offered through the purchase and use of nearby Wood Valley Apartments beginning in 2009. The addition of campus housing helped support the launch of DSC's intercollegiate athletics program in 2012, which competes in the NAIA.

Dalton State College is a member of the University System of Georgia and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award bachelor's and associate degrees, as well as select certificate programs. DSC currently offers 24 bachelor's degrees, 7 associate degrees, and a few select certificate and mini-certificate programs across four academic schools: the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, the School of Health Professions, and the Wright School of Business.

As of Fall 2024, DSC enrolled approximately 5,140 students, with continued growth driven by increases in dual enrollment, non-traditional students, and Hispanic students. Dalton State is proud to be recognized as Georgia's first federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), with nearly 38% of the student body identifying as Hispanic/Latino. The institution also serves a high proportion of first-generation college students—more than 40% of the student population—and remains committed to access and affordability. While many students commute, a growing number choose to live on campus in Mashburn Hall, which houses 365 residents and consistently reaches high occupancy.

Dalton State students are primarily between the ages of 18 and 24, with the average student age just over 21. Women represent about 60% of the student body. The majority of students come from a 12-county service region in Northwest Georgia, though enrollment continues to diversify geographically.

The college is dedicated to student success, offering personalized support from faculty and staff who understand the needs of first-generation and non-traditional students. Academic offerings and career pathways are aligned with regional workforce demands, including high-impact programs in business, healthcare, education, and STEM fields. Recent program enhancements include expanded nursing pathways, including an LPN program at the Mountain Campus and continued support for online RN-to-BSN and paramedic bridge options through grant funding.

Dalton State continues to be recognized for its commitment to quality, value, and workplace culture. In 2024, DSC was named one of the nation's Great Colleges to Work For®, and U.S. News & World Report ranked it among the top regional colleges in the South, with especially strong ratings for public business programs. Further, the Wall Street Journal recognized Dalton State as the 2nd most highly recommended institution in the entire country as reported by students and alumni in their 2024 survey.

Dalton State College's mission is to serve as a catalyst for opportunity and success, dedicated to transforming lives and cultivating partnerships for our students and our region. Its vision, as outlined in Vision 2050, is to deliver a transformational education by engaging the unique perspectives of a diverse student population to create sustainable solutions that improve our community and world. The college is guided by core values identified in its statutes—opportunity, excellence, diversity, service, respect, and accountability—placing student welfare at the center of its work.

Dalton State College's Mission Dalton State College's mission is to serve as a catalyst for opportunity and success, dedicated to transforming lives and cultivating partnerships for our students and our region.

Dalton State College's Vision is for the institution to deliver a transformational education by engaging the unique perspectives of a diverse student population to create sustainable solutions that improve our community and world.

Dalton State College's Values Dalton State College's core values are the enduring principles that guide the College community and define how we conduct our affairs, with student welfare at the center of all we do:

- Opportunity and Access for All: We believe all of our students can succeed and achieve their full potential.
- Excellence in Teaching and Learning: We empower faculty, staff, and students to engage in the pursuit of excellence and innovation in instruction, the acquisition of knowledge and lifelong learning.
- Diversity and Inclusion: We embrace inclusion and cultural diversity among faculty, staff, and students; we strive to be a place where the diversity of ideas, values and perspectives is welcomed and nurtured.
- Commitment to Service and Collaboration: We value a campus culture of service, engagement, and collaboration to advance the welfare of Northwest Georgia and beyond.
- Respect and Collegiality: We are committed to the intentional creation of a community of learners based on respect, civility, courtesy, and appreciation of different points of view.
- Culture of Accountability: We expect integrity, responsibility, and ethical behavior in all of our relationships and hold one another and our institution accountable.

II. Objectives of the Biennial Review

Compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA)

Dalton State College is committed to maintaining a safe, healthy, and supportive learning and working environment. As a federally funded institution of higher education, the college complies with the **Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA)** and **Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), Part 86**, which require colleges and universities to implement comprehensive substance abuse prevention programs and conduct biennial reviews of their effectiveness.

In compliance with **EDGAR Part 86** ([eCFR Title 34, Subtitle A, Part 86](#), last updated April 2024), Dalton State conducts a detailed biennial review of all Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) prevention efforts. The review includes an evaluation of program effectiveness, identification of needed changes or improvements, and an assessment of policy enforcement procedures related to student and employee standards of conduct. Guided by the federal publication *Complying with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations: A Guide for University and College Administrators* (DeRicco, 2006), the biennial review is designed to meet two primary objectives:

1. To determine the effectiveness of, and to implement any necessary changes to, the AOD prevention program.
2. To ensure consistent enforcement of disciplinary sanctions for violations of AOD-related standards of conduct.

Dalton State College's 2023–2025 Biennial Review includes:

- A summary of alcohol and other drug prevention programs and services offered on campus, including program goals and progress toward goal achievement.
- An assessment of program effectiveness, including strengths and areas for improvement.
- Recommendations for program revisions or the development of new initiatives and support services.
- AOD-related case summaries and a quantitative overview of violations and referrals.
- A description of procedures for distributing the annual Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program (DAAPP) notification to students, faculty, and staff.

Through this process, Dalton State ensures compliance with federal requirements while continuously working to foster a campus culture of health, responsibility, and accountability.

III. The Biennial Review Process and Future Recommendations

At Dalton State College, the Dean of Students Office is responsible for coordinating the Biennial Review process. The Review Team has completed its biennial review of data,

programming, and departmental feedback to determine the College's strengths and weaknesses, as well as provide recommendations for improvement.

For the Biennial Review to be completed the following areas/offices were utilized to obtain information for the compiled report:

- The Dean of Students' Office
 - Dr. Jami Hall, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students (promoted to Vice President for Student Enrollment & Success at the close of the 2024-2025 academic year)
 - Heather Williams, Director of Student Life & Belonging
 - William Mast, Director for Community Standards & Student Outreach
- The Department of Athletics
 - Ben Rickett, Interim Athletic Director & Men's Golf Head Coach
- The Department of Health & Wellness
 - Jenny Guy, Associate Director of Counseling Services
 - Christina Larmon, Director of Health and Wellness
- The Department of Public Safety
 - Michael Masters, Director of Public Safety
 - Elicia Walker, Lieutenant with Public Safety
- Human Resources
 - Lori McCarty, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources
- The Office of Residential Life
 - Tim Reilly, Director for Residential Life

This report will be made available online and printed copies can be requested through the Dean of Students' Office located in the Pope Student Center, upper level.

Updated Recommendations (2023–2025 Review Period)

Based on the findings of the 2023–2025 Biennial Review, the Review Team recommends the following actions to strengthen Dalton State College’s Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) prevention efforts, improve compliance with federal regulations, and enhance support for student well-being:

- 1. Administer the ACHA-NCHA Survey on a Biennial Basis**

Continue administering the American College Health Association’s National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA) survey every other year. This tool provides valuable insight into student health behaviors, including AOD use, and supports data-driven planning for prevention and wellness initiatives.

- 2. Strengthen Cross-Departmental AOD Prevention Programming**

Foster regular collaboration among the departments of Health & Wellness, Student Conduct, Public Safety, and Student Life to coordinate and deliver impactful, campus-wide AOD programming. Align these efforts with national awareness campaigns and incorporate evidence-based strategies.

- 3. Leverage GOHS Grant Funding to Expand AOD Initiatives**

Dalton State College has successfully secured funding from the Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) to support additional AOD prevention programming. The Review Team recommends continuing to leverage this funding to implement high-impact events, particularly those focused on impaired driving prevention, responsible decision-making, and student engagement.

- 4. Enhance Educational Outreach for First Year and Transfer Students**

Expand AOD education efforts within orientation programs, First-Year Experience courses, and other transition touchpoints.

- 5. Develop a Strategic AOD Awareness Campaign**

Create a marketing and messaging plan to increase visibility of AOD policies, available resources, and healthy decision-making strategies. Utilize a variety of communication channels including digital media, campus signage, and peer education.

IV. Alcohol and Other Drug Programs and Services

Alcohol and other drug programs and services are made available to students, faculty, and staff annually. Programs and services are typically provided through Athletics, The Ken White Student Health Center, The Counseling Center, Human Resources, Public Safety, Residential Life, Student Conduct, and Student Life. Types of programs and services vary year-to-year.

Athletics:

Programs and Services

The Athletics Department at Dalton State College maintains a proactive approach to Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) education and policy enforcement, in alignment with institutional, legal, and NAIA expectations. The following initiatives are currently in place:

- a. An annual department-wide orientation is held at the beginning of the fall semester. This session is mandatory for all student-athletes, coaches, and athletics staff. The orientation includes targeted education on AOD-related issues, with specific emphasis on institutional policies, state and federal laws, athletic department standards, and NAIA regulations.
- b. The NAIA Banned Substances List is shared and reviewed with all participants ([viewable here](#)). Particular attention is given to the misuse or sharing of prescription medications, a concern frequently observed across collegiate athletics with potentially serious legal and health consequences.
- c. Nutritional supplements are also a point of emphasis during AOD programming. Students are informed of the risks associated with supplement use, especially as it relates to substances prohibited under NAIA guidelines.
- d. Alcohol use is addressed with a focus on the relationship between age, legality, privilege, and responsibility. Conversations underscore the legal implications of underage drinking and providing alcohol to minors, as well as the broader societal expectations tied to responsible behavior.
- e. As part of NAIA compliance, all student-athletes are required to sign a consent form allowing for drug testing in the event they are selected during participation at a NAIA championship event.

Strengths

- a. The Athletics Department approaches AOD education with intentionality, directly addressing known risk behaviors and areas of concern within the student-athlete population.

- b. When appropriate, student-athletes are encouraged to share personal stories and experiences, which often create a meaningful and relatable impact among peers.
- c. In cases of AOD violations, student-athletes are sometimes invited to voluntarily speak with teammates about their experiences and the consequences they faced, fostering peer accountability and reflection.

Weaknesses

- a. The impact of a single, annual orientation is inherently limited. Without reinforcement, key messages may lose effectiveness over time.
- b. AOD programming is primarily delivered at the start of the fall semester, which means that student-athletes who join during the spring do not receive the same structured education or policy orientation.

Recommendations

- a. Implement repeated, targeted messaging at strategic intervals throughout the academic year to reinforce core principles of responsible behavior and policy compliance.
- b. As resources allow, bring in one or more guest speakers annually to address AOD-related topics, ideally incorporating student-athlete wellness, substance misuse prevention, and leadership.
- c. Incorporate AOD education and prevention efforts into coaches' annual evaluations, with attention to their initiative and follow-through in addressing these issues with their teams.

Ken White Student Health Center:

Programs and Services

The Ken White Student Health Center plays an integral role in supporting student wellness and contributing to Dalton State College's comprehensive Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) prevention efforts. The following programs and services were implemented during the 2023–2025 biennium:

- a. Health center staff completed advanced continuing education on the administration of naloxone (Narcan), focusing on best practices for recognizing and responding to opioid overdose situations. Although the health center does **not prescribe controlled substances**, staff are well-trained to assess substance-related risks and respond to related health concerns, including the relationship between substance use and sexual assault.
- b. The health center offers monthly testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), which includes educational components on the effects of alcohol and drug use on sexual health, decision-making, and STI transmission.

- c. Alcohol and drug use screening questions are included in the patient medical history form, which is completed and reviewed at each clinic visit. This process facilitates early identification of substance-related concerns and supports appropriate education and referrals.
- d. In partnership with the Office of Residential Life, the health center supported and delivered AOD programming directly to on-campus residents several times throughout the academic year, helping increase access to prevention efforts among residential students.

Strengths

- a. All clinical staff completed both foundational and advanced training in naloxone administration, reinforcing the health center's preparedness to respond to opioid-related medical emergencies.
- b. Screening for alcohol and drug use is consistently integrated into every clinic visit, creating an opportunity for individualized education and early intervention.
- c. Health and Wellness hosted annual health fairs on both the main campus and the Mountain Campus during the review period, with participation from community-based organizations specializing in mental health, substance use prevention, and treatment resources.
- d. The collaboration with Residence Life allowed for multiple targeted AOD education programs to be delivered in residential settings, expanding the reach of prevention efforts and reinforcing a culture of health and accountability.

Weakness

- a. While outreach programming has resumed, the health center continues to rebuild some community partnerships that were disrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic, limiting the frequency and depth of certain initiatives.

Recommendations

- a. Maintain and expand the annual campus-wide health fair on both the main and Mountain Campuses, with continued engagement from local health agencies and prevention partners.
- b. Continue and grow AOD educational programming in partnership with Residence Life to ensure sustained outreach to students living on campus.
- c. Increase general health promotion efforts related to substance use throughout the academic year through tabling events, awareness campaigns, and interactive educational opportunities.

The DSC Counseling Center:

Programs and Services

- a. Hosted a Fresh Check Day program at which information and resources were available for students regarding substance abuse red flags and resources.
- b. Offers QPR programming which discusses the link between substance abuse and suicidal behaviors.
- c. Provided weekly summer programming (3 distinct programs) for entire campus community (including faculty and staff).
- d. Offers a variety of therapy types to students.
- e. Provides referral services to UWill psychiatrist services for medication options.
- f. Therapist involved in planning committee and implementation of inaugural Dalton State Mental Health Summit.

Strengths

- a. Programming was offered by licensed and trained professionals.
- b. Collaboration with other departments and committees across campus.
- c. Fresh Check Day programming can continue without additional training needed around substance abuse issues.
- d. All programming and services are free to students.
- e. Additional free mental health services for students, including psychiatric services, available through Uwill.

Weaknesses

- a. Marketing across campus/social media platforms has been low outside of events like new student orientation.
- b. Staff limitation and number of students desiring to be seen in one on one, in person therapy.
- c. Beginning in Fall 2025, Uwill psychiatric services will no longer be covered by the University System of Georgia. Continued access to these services will require institutions to assume the cost at premium rates.

Recommendations

- a. Increase marketing efforts of programs and services across all platforms.
- b. Offer a variety of programs to raise awareness of holistic health and its impact on retention.
- c. Build relationships across campus to enhance and improve referrals and understanding of services.

- d. Explore potential funding sources to sustain Uwill as a continued mental health resource for students.

Human Resources:

Programs and Services

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Dalton State College participates in the University System of Georgia's Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which provides confidential counseling, educational resources, and training on a variety of topics, including substance use and mental health.

- The EAP offers training seminars and webinars for managers and employees, including content related to alcohol and drug awareness, stress management, and workplace wellness.
- Counseling and support services are available free of charge to all employees and are designed to help navigate personal or professional challenges that may impact health, relationships, or job performance.
- While many individuals can manage these issues independently, EAP exists to offer professional and objective support when needed.
- Services are confidential, and the Office of Human Resources consistently receives positive feedback from employees about the program.
- The provider supplies quarterly and annual customer satisfaction reports, which reflect high levels of employee satisfaction and utilization.
- Employees can access the EAP 24/7 through the customizable website usg.mylifeexpert.com, which allows users to create a profile and access a range of wellness tools and resources.
- EAP awareness is reinforced through biweekly communications via the HR/Well-being Update email, keeping services visible and top-of-mind for employees.

Well-Being Program

Dalton State actively participates in the University System of Georgia's comprehensive Well-being Program, which focuses on empowering employees to take charge of their physical, emotional, and financial well-being.

- The program includes initiatives in health management, stress reduction, tobacco and smoke-free living, financial wellness, and access to virtual mental health services through LiveHealth Online Psychology.
- Programs are supported by partnerships with USG benefit providers BCBSGa and Kaiser Permanente, who offer coaching and support services.
- Dalton State has received multiple recognitions for its high levels of employee engagement in system-wide wellness initiatives.
- Programs are developed based on an annual prevalence report and benchmarking of employee health risk factors across the system.

- Wellness resources are promoted through biweekly HR/Well-being Update emails and targeted communications from USG, ensuring that employees are aware of opportunities and support services available to them.
- The system-wide program has seen broad support from both individual institutions and the USG system office.

New Hire Orientation

New hire orientation at Dalton State College includes foundational education on institutional expectations and available employee support resources.

- The Office of Human Resources reviews critical policies and programs, including the Drug-Free Workplace Policy, Ethics Policy, Employee Assistance Program, and Well-being initiatives.
- These discussions are designed to educate new employees about behavioral expectations, compliance standards, and available support services.
- Recognizing that orientation can be information-heavy, Human Resources continues to enhance and streamline materials to improve long-term recall of key content.
- Orientation materials and employment forms are completed electronically and remain accessible to employees for future reference.
- All employees are also required to complete annual compliance training, reinforcing awareness and understanding of institutional policies and available resources.

Strengths

- a. Dalton State offers a comprehensive and accessible employee wellness program with a variety of tools and support services.
- b. Strong participation in EAP and well-being initiatives reflects employee engagement and institutional support.
- c. Employees have access to structured growth and leadership opportunities, such as NWGA LEADS and annual meetings with 2nd-level supervisors focused on employee development.

Weaknesses

- a. Additional touchpoints for communication throughout the year could enhance awareness and participation in wellness programs.

Recommendations

- a. Develop a comprehensive annual communication plan, with regular messaging beginning each year after the Labor Day holiday.
- b. Identify and promote training and development opportunities through the EmpowerBoldly platform to increase employee engagement in wellness and professional development.

- c. Continue to encourage participation in professional growth opportunities such as NWGA LEADS and maintain the annual meeting with 2nd-level supervisors to discuss employee growth and development, which is distinct from the annual review process.

Public Safety:

Programs and Services

Drug Awareness Course

Dalton State College's Public Safety Department offers an educational Drug Awareness course aimed at increasing awareness of common illicit substances and their physiological impact.

- The course includes a PowerPoint presentation and a display of look-alike drugs and drug paraphernalia.
- Substances discussed include marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, ecstasy, and synthetic cannabinoids.
- The goal of the course is to inform members of the campus community—including faculty, staff, students, and student organizations—about the dangers of illicit drug use and promote a culture of awareness and prevention.

Alcohol Awareness Course

The Alcohol Awareness course is designed to educate the campus community on the effects of alcohol on the body and mind.

- The presentation includes a PowerPoint overview and, if time permits, a video covering alcohol abuse and its consequences.
- The course is open to faculty, staff, students, fraternities, and sororities and serves as a proactive strategy to reduce harmful alcohol use and improve safety on campus.

Strengths

- a. Public Safety regularly updates the content of these awareness courses to reflect emerging alcohol and drug trends, ensuring the information provided is current and relevant.

Weaknesses

- a. Participation in the courses is voluntary and not part of a mandated curriculum, which can limit attendance and impact.

Recommendations

- a. Explore opportunities to integrate these awareness courses into academic classes—particularly those in Criminal Justice, Health and Science, and Perspectives (the required freshman course on college success).

Residential Life:

Programs and Services

Resident Assistant Training

- Resident Assistant staff at Dalton State College complete a holistic training program that is broken up in three intensive weeks throughout May and August. These intensive weeks have them meet representatives from Student Conduct, Counseling, and Public Safety on how to assist and refer students in need including all forms of substance abuse that may occur within the Residence Hall. Role-playing activities are utilized to provide as much of a realistic feeling as possible to ensure the student staff is aware of how the scenario may play out when they are confronted with these situations. We follow up this training with monthly staff meetings and bi-weekly individual touch bases with each Resident Assistant. The overarching objective of these interactions with our student leaders is to ensure they can properly detect substance abuse within the resident community, feel comfortable reporting it up to college officials, and that they assist those students in receiving the necessary help.

Programming and Bulletin Boards

Residential Life incorporates both active and passive educational strategies to promote substance awareness within the residence halls.

- Resident Assistants (RAs), in partnership with professional staff, are required to implement a variety of programs and create educational bulletin boards each semester on a wide range of topics, including substance use prevention.
- Over the past two years, over 10 programs related to alcohol and other drug prevention have been delivered in the residence hall, with five specifically focused on alcohol education.
- Residential Life partnered with the Ken White Student Health Center to provide monthly health education programming, with many sessions centered on drug and alcohol awareness and prevention. These collaborations enhanced outreach and offered residents access to health professionals and relevant campus resources.
- Bulletin boards are updated monthly as part of a strong passive education model. During March and October, all boards are themed around responsible alcohol consumption and the risks associated with illegal drug use.
- At each new student orientation, Residential Life hosts a breakout session to review the institution's alcohol and drug policies with both students and their parents.

Housing & Residential Life Policies on Substance Abuse

- One month before move-in, students receive a link and PDF of the Residential Living Guide, which outlines all community standards and expectations.
- Alcohol: Use, possession, sale, or distribution of alcoholic beverages or paraphernalia is prohibited on campus, including public intoxication and underage distribution, except where explicitly permitted by policy.
- Drugs: Possession or use of illegal or controlled substances without a valid prescription is prohibited, including synthetic drugs and any drug activity outlawed under Georgia or federal law.

Strengths

- a. RA training is designed to equip student leaders with the skills necessary to detect signs of alcohol or drug use and intervene appropriately.
- b. Educational programs and monthly bulletin boards help deliver consistent messaging to students both actively and passively.

Weaknesses

- a. Current training is limited to RAs and does not extend to other student leaders who support the residential community.
- b. Programming has historically emphasized social and community-building events over educational initiatives.

Recommendations

- a. Expand AOD training to include other student leaders within the residential community to ensure broader preparedness.
- b. Shift the programming model to place greater emphasis on educational topics, particularly those related to alcohol and drug prevention.

Student Conduct:

Programs and Services

a. AlcoholEdu

- Dalton State College requires all new and transfer students to complete AlcoholEdu for College, an interactive online module grounded in evidence-based prevention strategies. The program engages students through dynamic content designed to inform and influence responsible decision-making related to alcohol and other drugs. The course is a mandatory component of the onboarding process for all incoming students.

- AlcoholEdu for Sanctions is assigned to students who have been found in violation of the Alcohol policy of the Student Code of Conduct.

The *Student Code of Conduct* has an Alcohol Policy which states:

- Alcohol:
 - Possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverage on campus, regardless of a person's age.
 - Providing, distributing, or selling an alcoholic beverage, except as permitted by law.
 - Facilitating the consumption or possession of an alcoholic beverage in violation of the college policy or law.
 - Disruptive or disorderly conduct connected with the influence of alcohol.
 - Operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or while impaired by the consumption of alcohol.
 - Misuse of the Travel and Off-Campus Events policy found in the RSO Manual.

https://www.daltonstate.edu/campus_life/forms.cms

The Student Code of Conduct has an Amnesty policy that allows students seeking medical attention for themselves or others to seek help and opt for amnesty from student conduct charges.

Strengths

- a. AlcoholEdu is successful in terms of student participation and exposure to alcohol education. All incoming students must complete the course. Those who fail to complete Part 1 have a hold placed on their student account preventing them from registering or withdrawing from classes.

Weaknesses

- a. Currently, there is no method of measuring how many students may be "clicking through" or haphazardly filling out the assessment in AlcoholEdu. Therefore, the information we do gain regarding students' drinking habits and perceptions regarding alcohol can be viewed skeptically at best.
- b. The AlcoholEdu program is only offered to first-year students and transfer students (unless a transfer student has completed the same or similar program elsewhere). There is no additional educational assessment tool issued to upper-class students to learn if their attitudes or behaviors have changed over time or to offer further education based on new life-stages such as turning 21 years old to all enrolled students.

Recommendations

- a. Collaborate with Student Life, Health & Wellness, and Public Safety departments to engage and educate students during the fall and spring semesters.

Student Life:

Programs and Services

- a. Dalton State is an alcohol- and drug-free campus. Any exceptions for alcohol at campus-related events require non-delegated approval from the President. The RSO Manual outlines the policies and expectations for student organizations and student events on campus.
- b. All RSO Officers must participate in an annual training session to review the handbook and campus policies.
- c. Fraternity & Sorority Life members complete mandatory online alcohol and other drug training during their first semester through their Inter/National Headquarters.

Strengths

- a. Student Life provides opportunities for students to be involved and engaged on campus with no connection or association with alcohol.

Weaknesses

- a. No formal survey or data is being captured related to alcohol and other drugs beyond a first-semester student at Dalton State.
- b. Basic review and understanding of expectations and policies does not address education, understanding, and application of material for all students.
- c. There is currently no campus-wide programming or advocacy coming from Student Life to raise awareness and understanding to the broader student body.

Recommendations

- a. Collaborate with other offices on campus to create programs and opportunities to engage with students about alcohol education.
- b. Seek funding opportunities and campus collaborations that would allow for campus-wide educational programs.

V. AOD Student Conduct Case Overview

The information below was gathered via Maxient, the comprehensive conduct software-as-a-service that allows the College to track all incidents report.

Violations Reported:

From July 2023 – June 2025 there were **22** cases reported to student conduct involving alcohol.

Year	Violation	Total
2023-2024	Alcohol (Possession or consumption)	15
2024-2025	Alcohol (Possession or consumption)	7

VI. Annual Distribution of Policies

Dalton State College ensures compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act by distributing alcohol and other drug (AOD) policies annually to students, faculty, and staff through a variety of communication channels. Primary methods include campus-wide email notifications, presentations during New Student Orientation, Fall and Spring Campus Assemblies for faculty and staff, and New Employee Orientation. Policies are also accessible year-round via institutional websites and handbooks.

A Dalton State College Policy and Procedure Manual and other HR Policies:

The following Human Resources materials and institutional policies are reviewed with all new employees and remain publicly accessible throughout employment:

- a. Dalton State College Policies and Procedures Manual, introduced during New Employee Orientation and available online.
- b. Human Resources Administrative Practice Manual, distributed at orientation and housed online for continuous access.
- c. Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs, reviewed with all new hires (see Appendix A).
- d. Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Website, offering access to support resources for employees.
- e. USG Well-Being Website, which provides wellness programming and support services.
- f. Tobacco and Smoke-Free Policy, part of the College's ongoing health promotion efforts.
- g. USG Tobacco and Smoke-Free Initiative, aligning with system-wide health standards.

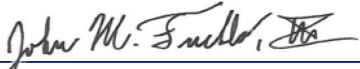
B Public Safety Policies and Procedures as related to AODs:

Dalton State's Public Safety department enforces campus policies aligned with state and federal law and plays a vital role in AOD education and compliance:

- a. Alcohol and Drug Policy is published on the Public Safety website and reinforced through programming and outreach. Public Safety's website houses DSC's Alcohol & Drug Policy found [here](#).
- b. The College strictly prohibits the consumption, sale, distribution, or possession of alcohol or illegal substances on campus or at any college-sponsored event. Prohibited behaviors include:
 - Intoxication on campus or at college events
 - Operating a motor vehicle under the influence
 - Using student organization funds to purchase alcohol or drugs
- c. The College adheres to all Georgia state laws regarding alcohol and drug use, with violations subject to disciplinary action by the Student Conduct Board.
- d. The Annual Safety and Security Report, which includes the Alcohol and Drug Policy, is emailed to the campus community each year. It is also posted on the Public Safety website, with print copies available upon request.

- C Residential Life, Housing Contract and the Residential Living Guide:
Students residing in Mashburn Hall must complete a housing contract each academic year, which includes behavioral expectations regarding alcohol and drug use.
- The Residential Living Guide outlines these expectations and serves as a shared resource for students and families.
 - All residents are required to review and acknowledge the guide, reinforcing a community standard within the residential environment.
- D RSO Manual
The RSO Manual outlines the policies and procedures governing all recognized student organizations.
- It is distributed to RSO presidents and advisors annually at the start of the fall semester during the re-registration process.
 - The manual remains available year-round on the [RSO website](#) to ensure consistent access and accountability.
- E The Student Code of Conduct
The Student Code of Conduct establishes behavioral expectations for all Dalton State students.
- It is publicly accessible [online](#) and is introduced to students during New Student Orientation.
 - The Code is also referenced in the official Dalton State Catalog, reinforcing its centrality to student life and campus standards.
- F The Student Handbook
a. The Student Handbook, included in the [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#), serves as a comprehensive resource for campus policies, procedures, and student support services.
- It includes guidance on grievance processes, campus life, and institutional policies related to alcohol and other drugs.
- G Student Travel Registration and Waiver
Students participating in off-campus travel related to Dalton State College are required to complete a Student Travel Registration and Waiver.
- This electronic form outlines the institution's expectations regarding alcohol, drug, and tobacco use while traveling on behalf of the College.
 - Students must acknowledge and agree to these expectations, which note that violations may result in institutional, civil, or criminal consequences.
 - The [form](#) is available on the Dean of Students Office website under the Forms/Resources section.


VII. Signatures of College Officials



Dr. John M. Fuchko, III
President

8/21/2025

Date



Dr. Jami Hall
Vice President for Student Enrollment & Success

08/22/2025

Date

VI. References

DeRicco, B. Complying with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations [EDGAR Part 86]: A Guide for University and College Administrators (Washington, DC: US Department of Education, Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention, 2006).

Appendix A



POLICY ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Dalton State (hereinafter the Institution) employees must not perform job duties while using any substance in any manner that has a negative effect on performance of assigned duties or adversely affects Institution business. In accordance with federal and state laws and because of the potential detriment to the health and well-being of Institution employees, all employees are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful use, possession, manufacture, distribution, dispensation, or sale of alcoholic beverages, controlled substances (including marijuana), or other dangerous drugs on campus (including all property owned or leased by the Institution) and at all Institution activities on or off campus.

[Click here](#) to review our full Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs:

SIGNATURE:

By initialing below, I certify that I have read the above information, and I agree to the conditions of hiring.

Your Initials: _____

Appendix B



ALCOHOL POLICY

1. Upon approval of the President, Dalton State College permits the service or consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus subject to the following guideline. For purposes of this policy, alcoholic beverages include all beverages containing alcohol, unless otherwise specified herein. The form to request permission to serve/consume alcohol is available through the Administrative Assistant to the President or is available on the campus M Drive and must be completed to initiate the request for approval process. A 15-day lead time is required.
2. The sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on campus. For organizations or individuals desiring to serve alcohol: (1) events must be by invitation; (2) those served must be 21 years of age; and (3) alcohol must be included in the price of the ticket for the event if there is a charge to attend. The sponsor of the event is responsible for obtaining any permits and/or licenses necessary for that event from appropriate governmental agencies. Service or consumption of alcohol is intended to be limited to specific events, i.e., luncheons, dinners, or receptions which honor individuals, and which occur in connection with official College programs or by special permission of the President.
3. Students of legal drinking age, as designated by the state in which the activity is being held, are permitted to purchase, possess, and consume alcoholic beverages at off-campus activities that are not being funded through student activity funds, institutional funds, or the utilization of campus resources (i.e., state vehicle). If alcohol is present, attendance must never be required. If an event is mandatory, no alcohol may be served. Even the perception of, or encouragement of, required attendance must always be avoided. Persons under the legal drinking age are strictly prohibited from purchasing, possessing, or consuming alcoholic beverages.
4. Promotional materials and/or invitations must state the actual times the bar will be open. The bar will close at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled conclusion of the event.
5. The sponsor of any event involving alcoholic beverages shall implement precautionary measures such as checking ID's or refusing to serve to reasonably assure that alcoholic beverages are not accessible or served to persons under the legal drinking age or to persons who appear intoxicated.
6. DSC follows all Georgia, federal, and local laws regarding the service and consumption of alcohol. Event sponsors as well as the individual consumers are to adhere to the law. Sponsors,

and not DSC, will be responsible for determining and fulfilling all federal, state, and local requirements for their event.

7. Event sponsors are responsible for the purchase of alcoholic beverages to be served.
8. Non-alcoholic beverages and food shall be available in the same place as the alcoholic beverages and featured as prominently as the alcohol.
9. Consumption of alcohol is permitted only in non-classroom areas and outside grounds immediately adjacent thereto and when underage students are not present.
10. All non-college events at which alcohol is served:
 - Will be assessed a \$100.00 charge.
 - Will be required to pay for security staff for the duration of the even with the number of security personnel to be determined by Dalton State College Director of Plant Operations and/or the Director of Public Safety.
 - Will pay a refundable deposit of \$250.00 to cover the costs of any damages or clean-up beyond that of normal use.
11. Dalton State College reserves the right to intervene, control, prohibit, or stop any event or activity it deems unlawful or hazardous to the health, safety, or security of its students, patrons, or clients, or may cause damage to the building or premises.

PERMISSION TO SERVE/CONSUME ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

**APPROVAL MUST BE REQUESTED AND GRANTED 15 DAYS
PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED EVENT**

Event: _____

Event Date: _____ Timeframe: _____ to _____

Name of event sponsor or planner: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Address of Sponsor or Planner: _____

Location of Event (specific place): _____

Estimated numbers of attendees: _____ Will minors be present? ____yes ____no

What type of alcohol will be served? Wine only ____ Beer only ____ Wine & Beer only ____ Full bar ____

I confirm that I have reviewed and understand the Dalton State College Alcohol policy and I am therefore authorized to and hereby accept the responsibility stated within for the organization I represent. Therefore, I am seeking permission to allow alcoholic beverages to be served and/or consumed as stated above and only in conformity with said policies.

The client named herein will indemnify and hold harmless Dalton State College for all loss, cost and expense arising out of any liability, claim of liability, for injury or damages to persons or property sustained or claimed to have been sustained by anyone whatsoever, by reason of use of the authorized or not, or by any act or omission of user organization or any of its officers, employees, guests, patrons, or invitee and the client will pay for any and all damage to the property of Dalton State College, or loss, or theft of such property done or caused by such persons.

Signature of Event Planner

Date

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT USE ONLY:

Approved _____ Disapproved _____