

North Georgia Technical College
Drugs and Alcohol Prevention Plan Biennial Review 2020-2021

Purpose of the Plan

In compliance with the 1989 Amendments to the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, North Georgia Technical College (NGTC) will create a drug and alcohol awareness program to be reviewed biennially by the Drug and Alcohol Task Force Committee.

This plan will outline programs and activities associated with Drug and Alcohol Awareness endeavors undertaken by the college, with specific communication to students, faculty and staff during spring and fall semester. The plan reviews the dangers of drugs and alcohol, policy, procedure, student conduct and state and local actions. In accordance with 34 CF 86 of the Consumer Information Disclosure, the college'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 determine whether these enforcement efforts and sanctions were applied in a consistent manner. This report is submitted as NGTC's Biennial Review for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Committee Members

The college's Drug and Alcohol Task Force Committee was charged with the task of reviewing the Alcohol and Drug program and members included:

Mike King, Vice President of Student Affairs

David Savage, Chief of Campus Police

Fran Chastain, Dean for Student Affairs

Goals for the NGTC Drug and Alcohol Plan

- To support a culture and atmosphere free from alcohol and other drug use and abuse within the campus community.
- To identify and disseminate information for the members of the campus community regarding alcohol and other drug issues for the purpose of awareness, education, and prevention.

- To identify and announce the resources and intervention services available to the campus community relevant to alcohol and other drug intervention. These services include counseling, in-patient and out-patient treatment program.

Distribution of Policies

A copy of NGTC's Drug and Alcohol Procedure is distributed annually (by July 15) to all students, faculty and staff. The College strongly encourages being familiar with the Procedure. The Procedure is available in the college's catalog/student handbook: *North Georgia Technical College Catalog/Student Handbook, 2021-2022, page 120*, accessible at www.northgatech.edu.

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. In addition, NGTC emails a notification to all enrolled students announcing the publication and the website link. Further, prospective students and employees are provided with information about NGTC's Drug and Alcohol Policy and the web address for accessing it.

Alcohol Policy

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 (TCSG) or any of its Technical Colleges must comply with these laws, policies, and procedures. Any person using alcoholic beverages while on the campus of North Georgia Technical College shall be responsible for compliance with state and county laws and the College's Alcohol Procedures. 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 Policy

The use, possession, and/or sale of illegal drugs are violations of the College's Substance Abuse Procedures, and the terms of employment for employees of the college. Faculty, students, and staff who use, possess or sell illegal drugs are subject to criminal prosecution as well as potential college disciplinary actions of probation, suspension or expulsion.

Beginning in the fall term of 2021, North Georgia Technical College will utilize a program named, ***Get Inclusive***, to provide students training. This program is available as an interactive online platform providing students training on Alcohol Awareness and Sexual Assault Prevention. Students enrolled in COLL 1010 - College & Career Success Skills class will receive an email from *Get Inclusive* through their student email

account. This email will introduce the training and will provide them with an 8 week window to complete the training. The student will receive a grade for completing the training. This program focuses on four main topics: Identities and Inclusion, Consent and Sexual Violence (Title IX and Campus SaVE), Alcohol and Other Drugs and Hazing and Intimidation. We expect that students will find this platform easier to navigate than the previous service resulting in greater participation.

Enforcement

The possession, sale or furnishing of alcohol and illicit drugs on the NGTC campus is governed by the College's Substance Abuse Procedures, state, and federal laws. These laws are enforced by the Campus Police Department. Violators are subject to College disciplinary action, criminal prosecution, fines, and/or arrest.

The College's 2020 Annual Security Report shows the number of alcohol and other drug arrests and referrals reported. The link is available at:

<https://northgatech.edu/uploads/campus-police/flyers/2020-Annual-Security-and-Fire-Safety-Report.pdf?t=20201229>

Summary

North Georgia Technical College is a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia offering career and technical education to residential and non-residential students. The college consists of three campus locations serving eight counties in northeast Georgia. TCSG, the governing body for NGTC, has developed policies specific to drug and alcohol use on campus. In accordance to TCSG policy, North Georgia Technical College is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment that enriches our students, faculty, and staff. North Georgia Tech implements and adheres to TCSG Policy which prohibits the possession, use, distribution, and unlawful manufacture of illegal drugs, narcotics or controlled substances on all NGTC campuses. Alcohol is not allowed on campus except when a written 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 the laws of the State of Georgia, as they pertain to alcohol and drug use. The College's Alcohol and Drug Program places responsibility for individual and group conduct on the individuals who use drugs and consume alcohol.

The management and enforcement of NGTC's Alcohol and Drug Procedures and programs present challenges due to residential and non-residential life. Faced with on-campus violations of alcohol and drug laws and conduct policies, NGTC's Drug and Alcohol Task Force, PackCare Team also known as the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT), faculty, and staff are also involved with assessing situations where the impact of alcohol use that occurs off-campus.

Collectively, these circumstances provide challenges for the faculty and staff to recognize the signs and symptoms of abuse or dependence and make referral to internal or external resources. The College's programs address these events through emphasis on drug and alcohol laws and collaboration with the NGTC Campus Police, external agencies, and access to treatment facilities within our educational efforts.

Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program - Strengths and Areas for Improvement

The Drug and Alcohol Task Force Committee used the following materials to help produce this report and assist in their determination of the strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations:

- TCSG Policy Manual - Alcohol and Drug Policies
- Student Code of Conduct
- NGTC Catalog/Student Handbook (2021-2022)
- Annual Security Report (2020)
- Employee Handbook (2021) NGTC Intranet
- Higher Education Act of 1965, Section 484
- National Institute on Drug Abuse Website
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
- National Institute of Health Website

Strengths:

The committee recognized strengths as follows:

- Policy complies with the Drug Free Schools and Campuses Regulations
- Campus based events and activities are alcohol and drug-free.
- Employee Assistance Program available to full time employees.
- PackCare (Behavioral Intervention Team) reviews individual situations referred from the college community.
- Implemented access to counseling, mental health support, coaching and other services for students with active registration. ESPYR is the provider for these services.
- Resource Fair - event sponsored by the college each term that identifies resources available to the student. These resources are internal and external to the college campus community including providers for wellness, drug and alcohol prevention and other student related programs.
- NGTC College Catalog Information in the Student Resource Guide.

Needing Improvement:

The committee recognized the following areas as needing improvement:

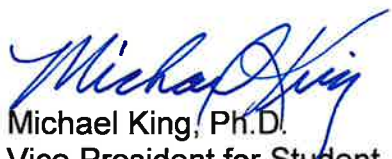
- No calendar of awareness activities posted or promoted
- Greater utilization of social media
- Increase committee membership to include members of the PackCare Team

Program Recommendations:

The Committee, through this Biennial Review, makes the following recommendations for improvement to the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program:

1. Include information from the Drug Alcohol Prevention Plan in New Student Orientation
2. Prepare and publish annual calendar of events directed at prevention and awareness to include text messaging and social media platforms, emails and brochures
3. Continued development of social media engagement to raise awareness of drug and alcohol health risks and promote healthier lifestyles.

Submitted by:



Michael King, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs

Approved:



John Wilkinson
President