

2025 Biennial Review
Bellingham Technical College
Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention
Program

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Information on Biennial Review

The major task of the Biennial Review team is to oversee the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program (DAAPP). The team is responsible for reviewing the requirements and goals of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and collects campus information to evaluate the program, review publications, and produce the Biennial Review, including recommendations for future action.

The Biennial Review Team is inclusive of, but not limited to, the following individuals:

Michele Waltz, Vice President for Student Services
Abby Buchanan, Director of Compliance & Title IX Coordinator
Foster Robinson, Safety Director
Allison Mack, Human Resources Director
Lizbeth Gaspar Gonzalez, Student Life Director, Student Conduct Officer
Nyssa Howell, Licensed Mental Health Counselor
Chantel Fields, Executive Director of Student Financial Resources
Hannah Simonetti, Director of Diversity Equity and Inclusion

The Biennial Review team has the following two objectives in preparing the report:

1. Determine the effectiveness and implement any needed changes to the DAAPP.
2. Ensure the campus consistently enforces disciplinary sanctions for violating standards of conduct.

All statistics used to review the DAAPP are taken from the College's Annual Security Report, as well as statistics from student conduct, Human Resources, and Instruction. These statistics are gathered without disclosing the names of those involved in compliance with the students' Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) rights.

Copies of the Biennial Review will be kept on file in the Human Resources Office and the Office of the Vice President of Student Services for the purposes of employee/student reporting and accessibility. The Biennial Review can also be found on the Policies and Compliance page of the Bellingham Technical College website and will be made available in hard copy upon request to the Bellingham Technical College Human Resources Office or Office of the Vice President of Student Services.

Human Resources Office
Phone: 360.752.8549
Email: hr@btc.edu

Vice President of Student Services Office
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Information on BTC's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program

Bellingham Technical College is committed to an environment that supports the academic success and health of our students. Alcohol use and abuse or the use of illicit drugs by our students and employees may be harmful to the user and the educational environment, which must be conducive to learning. Bellingham Technical College is committed to maintaining a safe, healthy, lawful, and productive working educational environment for its students and employees.

In June 2026, the Biennial Review Team met to review the DAAPP and related policies to ensure they meet the requirements of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. This program describes standards of conduct that clearly prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on college property or as part of any Bellingham Technical College sponsored activity. The program and related policies and procedures include:

1. Description of legal sanctions under federal, state, or local law for the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol;
2. Statement of disciplinary sanctions the College will impose on students and employees for violations of the standards of conduct;
3. Description of health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol;
4. Description of treatment and counseling resources available to students and employees;
5. Guidelines for dissemination of policy to students and employees; and
6. Guidelines for preparing the annual review of BTC's DAAPP and procedures to determine program effectiveness, consistency of enforcement, and ways to identify necessary changes to the program.

The Biennial Review Team met on June 15, 2026, to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the programs in place at Bellingham Technical College to ensure compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act for the 2024 and 2025 calendar years.

Student Incidents

Student Incident Reports – Alcohol

Calendar Year	Number of Offenses	Sanctions/Outcomes
2024	3	(1) Disciplinary warning; (2, 3) Disciplinary probation, Disciplinary suspension, Deferred suspension, Professional evaluation (counselor), No contact order
2025	2	(1, 2) Disciplinary probation, Deferred suspension, Professional evaluation (counselor)

Note: Incidents would include both school policy violations and State and Federal violations. Arrests would include criminal citations issued and criminal arrests for both students and non-students on campus.

Student Incident Reports – Drugs

Calendar Year	Number of Offenses	Sanctions/Outcomes
2024	2	(1, 2) Disciplinary probation, Disciplinary suspension, Deferred suspension, Professional evaluation (counselor), No contact order
2025	0	Not Applicable

Note: Incidents would include both school policy violations and State and Federal violations. Arrests would include criminal citations issued and criminal arrests for both students and non-students on campus.

Student Drug Test Results

Calendar Year	Number of Positive Results	Sanctions/Outcomes
2024	1	Withdrew before starting class
2025	1	Program start delayed for one year

Note: Drug tests for students are administered for students enrolled in the Nursing and Allied Health Programs as a part of the clinical placement process.

Human Resources Incidents

Human Resources Incidents for Employees

Calendar Year	Number of Offenses	Sanctions/Outcomes
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2024	0	Not Applicable
2025	0	Not Applicable

Policy/Program Review

The review team noted that the College appears to be in overall compliance with the regulations, as demonstrated by:

1. The College has a policy and procedure (515.0 Drug-Free Workplace) that articulates the DAAPP, which was updated on 6/10/2025. Policy 515.0 also outlines the procedures for preparing the Biennial Review, determining the program's effectiveness and consistency of policy enforcement, and measures to identify necessary program changes to prevent the use of illicit drugs and the misuse of alcohol and drugs among students and employees.
 - a. The DAAPP describes the legal sanctions under federal, state, and local law for the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol.
 - b. The DAAPP gives a clear statement of sanctions the College will impose on students and employees for violations of the standards of conduct.
 - i. The Student Conduct Code also articulates the range of disciplinary sanctions for drug or alcohol misuse, including a recommendation for professional evaluation.
 - c. The DAAPP contains a description of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol.
2. The College has a policy and procedure to distribute the DAAPP to all employees and students:
 - a. An email will be sent annually to all students and employees with consumer information including the DAAPP disclosure information. This email will be distributed in the fall quarter, no later than October 1st of each year.
 - b. A link to the content in the DAAPP will be included in the quarterly Drug-Free Campus Email sent to all enrolled students. This will ensure that students who enroll after October 1st for subsequent terms receive the disclosure information.
 - c. New employee onboarding sessions include distribution of the DAAPP and an employment attestation, ensuring that all employees, regardless of hire date, receive this information.
3. The College has resources available to those seeking help with drug and alcohol problems.
 - a. For students, these resources include Bellingham Technical College counselors for confidential screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment or other community-based resources, if appropriate.
 - b. For employees, BTC contracts with a local Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider.

Effectiveness of the DAAPP

The review team examined the program's efforts over the 2024 and 2025 calendar years and noted the following:

1. BTC's incident reporting system, police reports, and other data all showed that the overall number of incidents involving alcohol or drug misuse for students for both years remained low.
2. The team reviewed the student drug or alcohol policy violations and determined that the associated sanctions/outcomes appeared consistent. However, the team noted that the small sample size of violations may be a limitation to this analysis.

3. The data collected from the Nursing and Allied Health programs indicated one failed drug test in each of the two years reviewed. The standard sanction is that students are required to wait one year to re-enroll in their program following a failed drug test, which is consistently applied.
4. The number of incidents involving College employees remained zero.
5. BTC Counseling continues to provide referrals directly to individual students who self-report struggles with substance use and posts community substance abuse resources and information publicly on the Counseling page of the Bellingham Technical College website.
6. The Bellingham Technical College Counseling webpage and a Canvas self-care resource module were reviewed and updated annually (at a minimum), as previously recommended by the review team.
7. The open-rate for the quarterly Drug-Free Campus emails was assessed, and of all enrolled students who receive the email each quarter, average open rates are as follows:

Academic Year	Personal email	BTC email
2023-2024 (4 quarterly sends)	58.6%	3.2%
2024-2025 (4 quarterly sends)	59.3%	3.6%

While the open rate to BTC emails remains relatively consistent to prior DAAPP review years, the open rate for personal emails has increased from a previous biennial average of 39%.

The team noted that the Vector online training suite offered to students within the quarterly Drug-Free Campus emails is new as of this biennium. Students are informed of optional trainings available to them, including “Alcohol and other drugs” and “Naloxone and fentanyl.”

8. Language has been added to the BTC syllabi template regarding the prohibition of alcohol and drug use on campus and includes BTC’s expectations for online classes to remain drug and alcohol free, as previously recommended by the review team.
9. The Safety Director leads compliance for Washington House Bill 2112, Opioid Education and Awareness. The BTC safety website provides information on opioid and fentanyl use prevention and information on the “Good Samaritan” statute. Furthermore, Naloxone and fentanyl test strips are available in two accessible locations on campus: 3rd floor of Campus Center and A Building, locations selected for their proximity to high-traffic areas.

Recommendations

The review team made the following recommendations:

1. The team discussed the need to continue providing alcohol and drug abuse prevention and awareness information and resources to students, with resources coming from multiple departments, not only Student Life. The review team wants to maintain the trend of low drug and alcohol incidents, in part by continuing to make prevention literature and support resources widely available. The team committed to putting informational pamphlets on the two campus Naloxone vending machines, with the resources addressing smoking, drinking, the dangers of vaping, and other drug prevention information.
2. Human Resources will continue providing training for supervisors in the next biennium on the impacts of drug and alcohol abuse and how to support employees who may be struggling. Further, Human Resources will partner with the College’s new EAP provider to bring on-site training to campus, including sessions about available EAP services and how to initiate difficult conversations with students and/or colleagues who may be struggling.

3. The team recommended that BTC continue building systems to encourage employees and faculty to report and reach out for support for struggling students. The team wants to prioritize early reporting as a means of preventing drug and alcohol abuse; employees and faculty may benefit from updated incident reporting training to encourage this type of early reporting. These training opportunities should be designed to support employees and faculty to report concerns that may lead to drug and alcohol abuse.
4. In partnership with the DAAPP review team, the Allied Health Programs should review the email sent to students who test positive on their drug tests and add information on resources available to them including short-term personal counseling for current students and local options for alcohol and drug abuse assistance.

DAAPP Biennial Review Team Members


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8/13/2026

Date

Vice President, Student Services


Allison Mack

8/11/26

Date

Human Resources Director


Foster Robinson

8/10/2026

Date

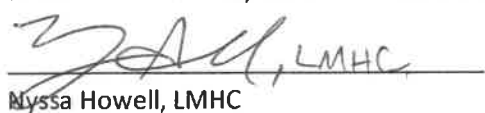
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