

A.O.D.

Expressing Concerns about Student Alcohol and Other Drug Use

This protocol is the result of inquiries from faculty and staff about how best to approach a student who is exhibiting signs that their relationship with alcohol and other drugs (AOD) is causing them harm. We hope this outline will help increase your comfort and confidence in talking with students about their AOD use.

1. Call the Counseling Center(ext 3122) if you have any questions about expressing your concerns.
2. Remind yourself that “Intervention always works”. You may be the first to talk about the problem with this student or the last in a long succession of interventions that finally convinces him or her to examine their relationship with alcohol and other drugs. It’s not your job to get the student to the Counseling Center but simply to recommend an AOD Check-up.
3. Approach the student in private with an attitude of concern.
4. Express your concern with “sensory feedback”. “What I ‘see’ is that you come into my class late, unprepared, smelling of alcohol and visibly under the influence.” “You frequently doze off in class and your grades are problematic.” “I have ‘heard’ you talk about a relationship with alcohol and other drugs that includes bingeing, partying on multiple nights of the week, significant consequences, laughing about blackouts or embarrassing behavior and I am concerned.”
5. Suggest that the student call to make an appointment for an AOD Check-up at the Counseling Center and give him or her our number. (717-872-3122) Support them in making the call as soon as possible by encouraging them to use your phone and make the appointment from your office. Remind them that it is free, confidential and that the goal is simply to have them honestly examine their relationship with alcohol and other drugs.
6. Allow the student to respond but resist the temptation to engage the student in debate about any possible minimizations or excuses and hold him or her to the standards of appropriate conduct and respect. Remember your task is to express concern and suggest an AOD check-up.
7. Respect the student’s right to decline you suggestion and encourage them to at least take the E-Chug (alcohol) or E-Toke (marijuana). The icons for these confidential self assessment screening tools are on the Counseling Center Web Page
8. Follow up with a note or privately ask if they have followed through on your suggestion.
9. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to call the AOD Guy at the Counseling Center. (ext.3122)

Expressing Concerns About Student AOD Issues

1. Call Counseling Center (x 3122) for clarity and support if necessary
2. Remember “Intervention always works”
3. Privately approach student with an attitude of concern
4. Express concern in “I heard, I saw” feedback
5. Suggest calling Counseling Center (x 3122) for scheduling an AOD Check-up
6. Allow them to respond if they choose but expect them to respect your suggestion and concerns.
7. Call Counseling Center (x 3122) if you need support.
8. Follow up in private