

Mississippi College 2015 Biennial Alcohol and drug Prevention Program Review

Review period:
Academic Year 2013-14
Academic Year 2014-15
Completion Date: November 30, 2015

Next review period:
Academic Year 2015-16
Academic Year 2016-17
Anticipated Next Completion Date: November 30, 2017

I. Introduction

Mississippi College - Mission

Mississippi College, governed by a Board of Trustees elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is a private, co-educational, comprehensive university of liberal arts and sciences and professional studies dedicated to the pursuit of academic excellence. Founded in 1826, Mississippi College is the oldest institution of higher learning and the largest private university in the state of Mississippi. As a Christian institution, Mississippi College values the integration of faith and learning throughout the educational process.

Consistent with its Baptist heritage and relationship to the Convention, Mississippi College provides a quality Christian education for its student population. Students select the university because of the quality of its academic programs, Christian environment, and location. The university strives to recruit students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, leadership, and church/community involvement. The majority of students come from Mississippi and other southeastern states.

Mississippi College stimulates the intellectual development of its students through the liberal arts and sciences and concentrated study in specialized fields, including pre-professional and professional programs. Furthermore, the university environment promotes the spiritual, social, emotional, and physical development of its students and encourages them to utilize their skills, talents, and abilities as they pursue meaningful careers, life-long learning, and service to God and others. The university emphasizes those undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs which offer opportunities for service. Additionally, the university reflects its responsibility of service to the community through a variety of learning opportunities and numerous cultural enrichment experiences.

Mississippi College is committed to excellence and innovation in teaching and learning. The university seeks to employ and retain faculty who are dedicated to teaching/learning and advising students, who support and engage in scholarship and creative activities that

advance knowledge, and who seek to continue their own professional development. The university also seeks to employ and retain staff and administrators who are equally dedicated to supporting these efforts. Furthermore, the university selects employees who reflect Christian values and a commitment to service. Mississippi College is an equal opportunity employer in accordance with Title VII and applicable exemptions.

Mississippi College – Vision Statement

Mississippi College seeks to be known as a university recognized for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ.

Mississippi College – Statement of Values

- By embracing the Mission and Vision of Mississippi College the members of the university community are striving to practice and promote:
- Fidelity - We commit ourselves to the life and teachings of Christ Jesus.
- Integrity - We strive daily to exhibit Christ-like character.
- Inquiry and Knowledge - We pursue knowledge and truth.
- Service - We use our gifts, talents, and abilities to advance the genuine well-being of our community and promote Christian values.
- Respect - We commit to building a community that challenges, inspires, liberates, and ultimately transforms.
- Excellence - We utilize our God-given gifts to the best of our abilities in order to produce the highest quality of work.
- Stewardship - We carefully shepherd our resources.

The Drug Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (34 CFR Part 86) of the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) require an institution of higher education (IHE) such as Mississippi College to certify it has adopted and implemented policies and programs to prevent the abuse of alcohol and use or distribution of illicit drugs both by students and employees both on its premises and as a part of any of its activities. As part of this requirement, Mississippi College is providing this document to educate students and employees in the area of substance abuse, and to illustrate the University's current substance abuse programs and policies. Included in this document are the following items reflecting the commitment of Mississippi College to prevent the abuse of alcohol and use or distribution of illicit drugs.

- Standards of conduct that clearly prohibit the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees
- A description of the legal sanctions under College, local, state, and federal law for unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol
- A description of area alcohol and/or drug counseling, treatment, or rehabilitation or re-entry programs that are available to employees or students
- A clear description of the sanctions on students and employees that the IHE will impose for violations including expulsion or termination of employment and referral for prosecution, for violations of the standards of conduct.

The law further requires that the IHE conduct a biennial review of its program with the following objectives: 1) determination of the effectiveness of the policy and implement changes to the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) program if they are needed; and 2) to ensure that the sanctions developed are enforced consistently.

The biennial review must also include a determination as to:

- The number of drug and alcohol related violations and fatalities occurring on the campus or as part of their activities that are reported to campus officials; and
- The number and type of sanctions the IHE's impose on students and employees as a result of the violations.

By law, this document must be made available to the public upon request. It must be retained for three years after the academic year in which it was created.

II. Drug and Alcohol Programs and Services

This section states the ways in which specific functional areas provide or support Mississippi College's alcohol and other drug programs and/or services.

A. Student Affairs

The Division of Student Affairs, under the direction of the Associate Dean of Students, complies with the annual notification of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.

B. Student Engagement and Campus Activities Board

All University sponsored events are substance-free.
Mississippi College is a smoke free and tobacco campus
Alcohol and illicit drugs are strictly prohibited from campus

C. Student Conduct

The Office of Student Development responds to allegations that students have violated the Mississippi College policies prohibiting alcohol and illicit drugs.

D. Student Counseling and Disability Services

Student Counseling and Disability Services administers the SASSI (Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory) to students/faculty/staff to help identify possible substance abuse disorder. The test is administered based on referrals and based on presenting problems with students or staff.

The SASSI is an instrument used to determine the probability of alcohol/drug dependence in the future. The SASSI instrument is very useful for students because it takes into account personality traits, family history of alcohol/drug misuse, etc. It gives Counseling Services an opportunity to discuss behaviors that could increase the likelihood of a future addiction. Dr. Morgan Bryant, Director of Student Counseling and Disability Services is trained in the administration and interpretation of the SASSI.

The Office of Student Counseling and Disability Services offers two training sessions during the summer months to the athletes. The program was called *Step-It-Up*. It combines drug and alcohol use/misuse with sexual assault prevention that is specifically geared to athletes. One of the professionals in the Student Counseling office has received special training to administer this program.

The Office of Counseling and Disability Services at Mississippi College provides referrals for students and employees who may be experiencing substance abuse issues. A list of some of those agencies is provided below in Part F.

E. Residence Life

The Office of Residence Life enforces university policies within the residence halls and conducts information programs on a variety of health and safety topics, including alcohol and illicit drugs, within the residence halls.

Academic Year 2013-14

Fall 2013 RA Training: During our *Behind Closed Doors* training session RAs are walked through a variety of residence hall incident scenarios. RAs are trained on how to access and address alcohol and drug violations. Also during training, a variety of other exercises are conducted with residence hall staff to discuss how to address alcohol and drug issues with residential students. Finally the RA staff manual is reviewed with particular attention to the institution's expectations and how to address alcohol and drug violations.

Fall 2013 Residential Programming: At the beginning of the semester discussions were had on institutional policies about alcohol and drugs in our mandatory hall meetings which are conducted by the Resident Assistants and professional live in staff.

Spring 2014 RA Training: During training the individual staffs reviewed with their professional Residence Life supervisor institutional and department expectations which include addressing a variety of health and safety topics, including alcohol and illicit drugs, within the residence halls.

Spring 2014 Residential Programming: At the beginning of the semester, discussions were held with residential students on institutional policies about alcohol and drugs in our mandatory hall meetings. These meetings are conducted by the Resident Assistants and professional live-in staff who have been trained in these and other related conduct matters.

Academic Year 2014-15

Fall 2014 RA Training: During our *Behind Closed Doors* training session where our RAs are walked through a variety of residence hall incident scenarios, RAs were trained on how to access and address alcohol and drug violations. Also during training, a

variety of other exercises are conducted with residence hall staff to discuss how to address alcohol and drug issues with residential students. Finally the RA staff manual is reviewed with particular attention to the institution's expectations and how to address alcohol and drug violations.

In addition, after assessing our Resident Assistants we added additional training on alcohol and drug issues with our Public Safety office and the Clinton Police department. We did a drug educational activity with an officer of the Clinton Police Department which provided the residence life staff an opportunity to observe and smell marijuana so they can develop an awareness of these items in the residence halls.

Fall 2014 Residential Programming: At the beginning of the semester discussions were had on institutional policies about alcohol and drugs in our mandatory hall meetings which are conducted by the Resident Assistants and professional live-in staff.

Spring 2015 RA Training: During training the individual staffs reviewed with their professional Residence Life supervisor institutional and department expectations which include addressing a variety of health and safety topics, including alcohol and illicit drugs, within the residence halls and on campus.

Spring 2015 Residential Programming: At the beginning of the semester, discussions were held with residential students on institutional policies about alcohol and drugs in our mandatory hall meetings conducted by the Resident Assistants and professional live-in staff.

F. Information and Prevention Resources Available Off-Campus

A listing of sources to assist students and employees is included below:

Counseling Centers

Summit Counseling – First Baptist Jackson – (601)949-1949 – Sliding Fee Scale
431 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39201

Reformed Theological Seminary– (601)923-1645 – Sliding Fee Scale
5422 Clinton Blvd.
Jackson, MS 39209-3004

Hinds County Behavioral Health – (601)321-2400 – Sliding Fee Scale
34502 Highway 80 West
Jackson, MS 39209

Therapists

Kristen Williams 601.573-8642
1801 Crane Ridge Drive
Jackson, MS 39216

Karen Bonner 601.594.1961
220 Trace Colony Park Drive
Suite B
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157

David Jones 601.278.6626
408 Fontaine Pl #104
Ridgeland, MS 39157

Ruth Glaze 601.664.0455
2508 Lakeland Drive
Flowood, MS 39232

Jean Dabit 601.977.0660
11 Northtown Drive #205B
Jackson, MS 39211

Doug Draper 601.982.8531
I 55 N. Highland Village #234
Jackson, MS 39211

Jim Baugh 601.932.6735
1855 Lakeland Drive Ste. 121
Jackson, MS 39216
Psychiatrists

Dr. Deb Gross 601.977.9353
361 Towne Center Place Ste. 1300
Ridgeland, MS 39157

Ridgewood Clinic 601.957.3211
1059 Ridgewood Place
Jackson, MS 39216

University Medical Center 601.984.1000
2500 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39211

Intensive Outpatient Programs

Psycamore Psychiatric Programs 601.939.5993
2540 Flowood Drive
Jackson, MS 39232

A Bridge To Recovery 601.977.9353
361 Towne Center Blvd. Ste. 1300
Ridgeland, MS 39157

ADHD Testing/ Dyslexia (call to confirm Dyslexia testing)
MC Dyslexia Education /Evaluation Center
(Age limits – ADHD is 18/ Dyslexia is 25) 601-925-7766
200 S. Capital Street
Clinton, MS 39058

James Austin 601.982.8700
1855 Crane Ridge Drive Ste. A
Jackson, MS 39216

David Jones 601.278.6626
408 Fontaine Place Ste. 104
Ridgeland, MS 39157

Criss Lott 601-707-5023
665 Highway 51 #D
Ridgeland, MS 39157

Nona Owens 601-260-6388
580 Springridge Road Ste. 4A
Clinton, MS 39056

Psychological Evaluations

University Medical Center 601.984.1000
2500 N. State Street
Jackson, MS 39211

St. Dominic Memorial Hospital 601.200-3144
969 Lakeland Drive
Jackson, MS 39216

Pine Grove Madison Center 601.823.0503
214 Key Drive
Madison, MS 39110

Drug and Alcohol Assessment
University Medical Center 601.984.1000
2500 N. State Street
Jackson, MS 39216

St. Dominic Memorial Hospital 601.200-3144
969 Lakeland Drive
Jackson, MS 39216

Pine Grove Madison Center 601.853.0503
214 Key Drive
Madison, MS 39110

A Bridge To Recovery (MC Students – Co-pay is waived for evaluation) 601.977.9353
361 Towne Center Blvd. Ste.1300
Ridgeland, MS 39157

ADHD/Dyslexia Treatment Alternatives
The DORE Program – (601)326-5550
1855 Lakeland Drive Ste. 221
Jackson, MS 39216

III. Health Risks

Serious health risks are associated with the use of illicit drugs and alcohol. Some of the major risks to commonly misused substances are listed below.

A. Alcohol and other depressants

Addition; accidents as a result of impaired ability and judgment; overdose when used with other depressants; damage to a developing fetus; heart and liver damage.

B. Marijuana

Panic reaction; impaired short-term memory; increased risk of lung cancer, and emphysema; impaired driving ability.

C. Cocaine

Addiction; heart attack; seizures; lung disease; severe depression; paranoia; psychosis. Similar risks are associated with the use of other stimulants.

IV. Enforcement

The history, philosophy, policies, and principles of Mississippi College prohibit the possession, distribution, use or abuse of illicit or illegal drugs. Further, Mississippi College does not approve of the use, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages. The use,

possession, or distribution of any such substances at Mississippi College is expressly forbidden and the same shall not be tolerated at or as a part of any activity undertaken at or under the direction or supervision of Mississippi College.

A. Student Conduct

The rules and regulations governing student conduct are found in the student handbook, often referred to as the *Tomahawk*. This handbook is available online at www.mc.edu/tomahawk/student-code-responsibilities/

Violations of the Mississippi College code of student conduct for alcohol or illicit drugs will result in disciplinary action, which may include expulsion, suspension, mandatory successful completion of approved rehabilitation programs, and/or probation, as well as lesser sanctions. The student conduct process allows for hearing bodies to respond in a way that best fits the individual case at hand, while also providing a level of consistency. While the cornerstone of the student conduct process is education, there are situations where a punitive response is required to ensure the safety of Mississippi College students and the community.

Primary enforcers of the code of student conduct include the Associate Dean of Students and the Office of Public Safety. These officers perform their duties in association with a number of other professionals in the Division of Student Life and the Office of Student Counseling and Disability Services.

B. Employee Conduct

Mississippi College does not approve of the use, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages at any university event or any activity undertaken under the direction or supervision of Mississippi College. As an institution affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, employees are expected to conduct themselves in accord with generally accepted standards of personal conduct. Violation of these standards and illegal actions related to alcohol and illicit drugs will result in disciplinary actions which could range from verbal warning to termination, depending on the severity of the violation.

C. Federal Student Aid Penalties for Drug Convictions

In accordance with the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, a student becomes ineligible for federal student aid if convicted, under federal or state law, of any offense in violation of laws governing controlled substances while receiving federal financial aid. Students may regain eligibility by completing a drug rehabilitation program or if the conviction is overturned.

Students should refer to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) website for more information. See www.fafsa.ed.gov

D. Criminal Sanctions

Mississippi laws prohibit: persons under 21 years of age from purchasing, attempting to purchase, consuming, possessing or transporting alcoholic beverages; public intoxication as evidenced by boisterous and offensive conduct or endangerment of self, others or

property; driving while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances; and unlicensed sale or possession for sale, of any alcoholic beverages.

The criminal penalties for drug possession, abuse, use and/or distribution in the State of Mississippi, as expressed in the Mississippi Uniform Controlled Substances Law, Miss Code Section 41-29-139, range from six months imprisonment and \$500 fine for the sale of paraphernalia to 30 years and \$1 million in fines for second offenders. Illicit drugs are listed in schedules and penalties vary.

Persons convicted on Federal charges of possessing any controlled substance face penalties of up to one year in prison and a mandatory fine of no less than \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$100,000. Second convictions are punishable by not less than 15 days but not more than two years in prison and a minimum fine of \$2,500. Subsequent convictions are punishable by not less than 90 days but not more than three years in prison and a minimum fine of \$5,000. Possession of drug paraphernalia is punishable by a minimum fine of \$750.

Special sentencing provisions for possession of crack cocaine impose a mandatory prison term of not less than five years but not more than 20 years and a fine up to \$250,000, or both if:

- A. It is a first conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 5 grams;
- B. It is a second conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 3 grams;
- C. It is a third or subsequent crack conviction and the amount exceeds 1 gram.

Civil penalties of up to \$10,000 may also be imposed for possession of small amounts of controlled substances, whether or not criminal prosecution is pursued.

V. Violation Reports

A. Alcohol Violations

In 2013-14 academic year there were 15 alcohol violations/ 13 of which were in the residence halls. One of these incidents resulted in an arrest. Sanctions for these violations included fines, community service hour requirement, online alcohol education courses, alcohol assessments in the Mississippi College Counseling Center, and housing expulsion for repeat offenses.

In the 2014-15 academic year there were 51 alcohol violations / 45 of which were in the residence halls. None of these incidents resulted in arrests. Sanctions for these violations included fines, community service hour requirements, alcohol assessments in the MC Counseling Center, reflective and research papers, deferred housing suspension and housing suspension and expulsion for repeat offenses.

No reported incidents involved employees during the period.

B. Illicit Drug Violations

In 2013-14 there were 2 drug abuse violations/ 1 of which was in the residence halls. One of the violations resulted in an arrest. Sanctions for these violations included suspension and expulsion, due to the one strike policy for drug violations during the 2013-14 school year.

In 2014-15 there were 4 drug abuse violations / 2 of which were in the residence halls. None of these violations resulted in arrests. During the 2014-15 academic year, two students were charged under the Student Conduct Code for an off-campus drug arrest. Sanctions for violations during 2014-15 included drug education programs, conduct probation, deferred suspension, housing suspension and expulsion, and suspension and expulsion from the university.

No reported incidents involved employees during the period.

VI. General Assessment and Recommendations

1. The next biennial review needs to be completed in the fall of 2017 assessing academic years 2015-16 and 2016-17 by a working group or task force of representatives from the following areas:
 - Student Life - Dean of Students
 - Residence Life
 - Office of Public Safety
 - Counseling and Disability Services
 - Human Resources
 - Athletics
 - Campus Activities Board (Student Engagement)
 - Director of Student Success
 - Christian Development
 - Faculty member
2. The university should increase its education on the topic of alcohol abuse and illicit drug abuse. The Office of Counseling and Disability Services will do psycho-educational training with students. These issues have been discussed with the Mississippi College Student Intervention Team and others across campus to raise the awareness of trends among college students.
3. Develop a standard operating procedure and point of contact to regularly capture information for the biennial review.
4. The next biennial review should be conducted in the Fall of 2017 and cover the academic years: 2015-16 and 2016-2017.