

Ferris State Alcohol-Abuse Prevention Fact Sheet

Ferris State provides numerous alcohol-abuse prevention programs. The University also sponsors alcohol-free events for students. A few of the prevention activities include:

Social Norming Project

Social norming is a research-driven prevention method that involves thorough researching of the “norms” of any community, then publicizing these norms in order to break the illusion of perceived norms. The intent is to ultimately change certain social behaviors. An initiative is underway to provide University students with accurate information that will help to dispel misperceptions about how much alcohol, and how often, the average student consumes.

New Student Orientation Peer Drama

- . The Peer Drama is a series of vignettes and discussion topics presented by a group of current Ferris students.
- . The students act out various situations involving alcohol regarding peer pressure, date rape, regretted sex, violence, drinking infractions and alcohol poisoning, with a presentation of statistics and behavioral tips after each skit.

BACCHUS

- . BACCHUS is a national student organization with chapters on hundreds of campuses.
- . The group’s purpose is to advocate low-risk drinking and educate students about social alternatives to underage drinking and alcohol abuse.
- . BACCHUS will co-sponsor several student-focused programs outlined in this report.

BRAD

- . Student Alumni Gold Club is partnering with the division of Student Affairs and the office of Alumni Relations to encourage students who are about to celebrate their 21st birthdays, to do so safely. Gold Club members mail Project BRAD (Be Responsible About Drinking) birthday cards as reminders about the dangers of alcohol abuse.

New Student Classroom Prevention Project

- . 50-minute prevention modules delivered in FSUS 100 classes
- . Primary topics include alcohol issues, sexual assault issues, HIV/AIDS issues
- . Target audience is more than 900 new students

Awareness Day Events

- . October – AIDS, Alcohol & Acquaintance Rape Awareness Week
- . December – SafeHoliday Campaign
- . February – SaferBreak Week

Continued on reverse

Peer Education Teams

- . Students are recruited through advertising and classroom visits to serve as volunteer peer educators for their fellow students. Peer educators attend training meetings and events throughout the academic year.
- . These trained student volunteers speak to other students in classrooms, residence halls and at student group meetings on topics including alcohol abuse prevention.

Prevention Resource Center

- . The Prevention Resource Center serves as an additional location for the distribution of educational materials about a wide range of issues related to students on campus, including the use/abuse of alcohol.

Alcohol-Free Programming/Residence Hall

- . Late Night Social Activities events in coordination with University Recreation at the Student Recreation Center and the Rankin Student Center.
- . Puterbaugh Hall, an alcohol- and smoke-free residence hall, is designated for students who choose to live in an alcohol- and smoke-free environment.

Risk Management Education

- . Police officers from the City of Big Rapids coordinate with FSU's Student Leadership and Activities Office and the Department of Public Safety to provide thought-provoking, informative programs on the risks and potential consequences of using alcohol.
- . Presentations inform student organization leaders and advisors about the risks associated with various activities. Liability issues and safe party guidelines are part of the program.
- . Leaders of student organizations are required to participate in the program prior to hosting any organization-sponsored event.
- . Risk management education increases communication between University/City of Big Rapids officials and students.

Free Counseling Offered

- . Free and confidential individual and group counseling services are available to all FSU students through the University's Counseling Center in Rankin Center.
- . Licensed professional counselors and therapists consult with faculty and staff and accept referrals from faculty and residence hall personnel.
- . Students may be referred to off-campus agencies when appropriate.

Funding for Alcohol Prevention Program

Ferris has received \$59,000 in funding over the past two years from the Michigan Department of Community Health for a comprehensive mentoring program to emphasize an alcohol and drug-free approach to campus life. The program includes activities for freshmen who are looking to make the transition from high school to college without using alcohol. The statewide initiative has funneled nearly \$1 million into prevention programs at state universities.