



# Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

## **Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act**

### **2022-2024 Biennial Review**

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## **About Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC)**

Since 1908, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) has provided unique, hands-on learning for students as the South's premier destination for Agricultural studies. Our offerings have grown a great deal since our founding, now including a wide range of more traditional 4-year degrees and paths to success, including a highly sought-after nursing program, innovative arts and science tracks, and an ever-growing list of learning opportunities and majors for our students. A member of the 26-member University System of Georgia, ABAC is proud to support enrollment of over 3700 students from 151 of Georgia's 159 counties, 53 of Florida's 67 counties, 14 states, and 21 countries as we help create a more educated Georgia. ABAC's mission is to provide excellent education by engaging, teaching, coaching, mentoring, and providing relevant experiences that prepare the graduate for life. ABAC's vision is to be an institutional destination of greatness; a college where committed students seek a life-changing experience and are prepared to contribute positively to the communities in which they live and work.

Tifton, Georgia is home to ABAC and is a tight-knit and thriving city nestled among the lush pines of South Georgia. ABAC takes pride in its community involvement and the breadth of opportunities Tifton provides to our students to get involved in hands-on learning from agriculture and natural resources to healthcare and business experience. ABAC's campus offers apartment-style housing for 1,324 students and provides a wealth of academic achievement and wellness resources, plus opportunities for students to get involved, learn, and grow within the ABAC community. Opportunities to practically apply what is learned in the classroom in the real world begin on day one. ABAC's sprawling campus is equipped with a multitude of resources, such as the J.G. Woodroof Farm, Forest Lakes Golf Course, and the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village. The College also has a campus in Bainbridge, Georgia which offers bachelor's degrees in business and nursing along with additional core curriculum classes.

Fall 2022 data reflects an enrollment of 3,648 students, 60% female, 19% underserved minority, 65% full-time, 24% first generation, 36% on campus, and 3% student-athletes.

Fall 2023 data reflected an enrollment of 3,768 students, 61% female, 19% underserved minority, 66% full-time, 25% first generation, 35% on campus, and 4% student-athletes.

### **Introduction to the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act (DFSCA)**

The Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (34 CFR Part 86) of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) require institutions of higher education, including ABAC, to certify adoption and implementation of programs to prevent the abuse of alcohol and "the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs both by students and employees" on campus property or as a part of any campus activity. Failure to comply places the College's federal funding, including financial aid, at risk (34 CFR Section 86.1 and 20. U.S.C. & 1145g.).

The law further requires higher education institutions to review Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) programs to determine effectiveness and implement any needed changes, as well as ensure that sanctions for violating the College's rules regarding the use and abuse of AODs are consistently enforced.

This Biennial Review is an excellent opportunity for the College to reflect on its successes in AOD programming and determine where improvements can be implemented. This report demonstrates ongoing efforts at ABAC related to compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations.

### **The Biennial Review Process at ABAC**

At ABAC, the Office of Student Affairs coordinates the Biennial Review process and reports on the College's behalf. Representatives from the following departments provided programmatic information and data for this compiled report: Academic Affairs, Athletics, Counseling Center, Health Center, Housing and Residence Life, Human Resources, Police, Student Activities and Dean of Students' Office.

Members of the ABAC Biennial Review Team include.

- Mr. Shawn Burnette, Coordinator of Student Activities
- Dr. Shubha Chatterjee, Assistant Director of Counseling
- Mr. Trent Hester, Director of Residence Life and Housing
- Dr. Alan Kramer, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students
- Mrs. Debbie Pyles, ABAC Police Captain
- Mrs. Cheryl Solomon, Director of ABAC Health Center
- Mr. Richard Spancake, Director of Human Resources
- Mr. Frank Strickland, Chief of ABAC Police
- Mrs. Lydia Tyson, Head Athletic Trainer
- Dr. Nicholas Urquhart, Asst. Vice President for Student Success
- Mrs. Shirley Wilson, Student Affairs Assistant
- Dr. Amy Willis, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Mr. Charles Wimberly, Director of Athletics

In completing this review, the Biennial Review Team considered the following.

- Existing and new programmatic information collected from campus partner offices
- Existing campus data, including Vector Solutions Alcohol Edu for College report
- Arrests and Disciplinary Clery data for ABAC Tifton and Bainbridge locations
- Goals, evaluations, and recommendations from previous Biennial Reviews

From this information, the Review Team compiled this Biennial Review report from the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years. The Review Team's consideration of potential opportunities related to ABAC's AOD program helped shape the recommendations. ABAC's Biennial Review includes the following.

- A brief description of AOD programs and services
- AOD case overview, including quantitative assessment numbers
- Evaluation methods

- Procedures for distributing annual drug and alcohol notifications to students and employees
- Strengths of program effectiveness
- Weaknesses of program effectiveness
- Future recommendations for AOD programs and services

Completed Biennial Reviews are available online <https://www.abac.edu/campus-life/dean-of-students/> and printed copies can be requested through the Office of Student Affairs in person on the Tifton campus in Branch Hall, Suite 208 or by emailing deanofstudents@abac.edu.

### ***Alcohol & ABAC Police***

The possession, use, sale, or distribution of alcohol on the College campus is governed by ABAC Alcohol Policy and Georgia State Law. ABAC Police enforce state and local ordinances pertaining to the illegal possession, use and sale of alcoholic beverages, and underage drinking laws. The possession, use, sale, or furnishing of alcohol is allowed only when authorized at a social function in designated areas with prior approval of the College President and when authorized for educational or research purposes. Although local authorities have primary jurisdiction in areas off campus, ABAC Police officers can and do respond to student-related incidents that occur on campus and in close proximity to the campus.

### ***Alcohol & Student Code of Conduct***

The possession, consumption, and manufacture of alcoholic beverages on ABAC property are prohibited. A student under the age of 21 who is determined to be under the influence of alcohol will be legally cited for underage consumption of alcohol, and the case will be referred to the appropriate legal authorities for disposition by the appropriate judicial process. The student will also be subject to ABAC administrative sanctions due to a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. A student in an intoxicated state manifested by boisterousness, rowdiness, obscene or indecent appearance, or by vulgar, profane, lewd language, or other disorderly behavior may be cited and referred to the appropriate authorities for disposition by the appropriate college disciplinary process. No student shall furnish or cause to be furnished any alcoholic beverage to any person under the legal drinking age of 21.

### ***Illegal Drugs & ABAC Police***

ABAC is a Drug Free institution. The possession, use (without a valid medical or dental prescription), manufacture, furnishing, or sale of any narcotic or dangerous drug controlled by federal or Georgia law are prohibited. The ABAC Police Department issues citations and performs custodial arrests in accordance with state law. In addition to possible fines and imprisonment for violation of local, state, and federal drug and alcohol laws, students are subject to sanctions under the ABAC Student Code of Conduct for violating policies governing AOD. These sanctions may include but are not limited to fines, community service, mandatory courses on drug and alcohol abuse, parental notification, probation, and suspension or expulsion from the College. The policies of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia also apply to ABAC students who violate the drug and alcohol policy.

### ***Illegal Drugs & Student Code of Conduct***

The possession or use (without valid medical or dental prescription), manufacture, distribution, or sale of any drug controlled by federal, or Georgia law are prohibited. Possession and use of drug paraphernalia, including but not limited to any form of bong or smoking device, such as a hookah, are prohibited.

## **AOD Programs and Services**

### ***Academics***

Health and Wellness (PHED 1100) is a required two-credit hour class for all students (with a few exceptions). The textbook for this class devotes one chapter to AOD issues and is required for all PHED 1100 classes.

### ***Athletics***

#### **Programs and Services**

- **Mandatory Orientation:** The athletics department conducts a mandatory orientation program prior to the start of each fall semester. All student-athletes attend to review expectations conducted by the Athletic Director. The Head Athletic Trainer assists the coaches in informing student-athletes on the policies regarding alcohol, legal drugs, and illegal drugs as stipulated by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, the College, and the Athletics Department.
- **Drug Policy:** One of the fundamental beliefs of the NAIA and the ABAC Athletic Department is that athletic participation is a privilege and that those student-athletes who use illegal performance-enhancing or recreational drugs substantively violate that privilege. In response to violations of this nature that occur and are detected in ABAC sponsored or sanctioned events, continuation of rights and privileges or participation by the individual or the institution will be reviewed or revoked, as appropriate. ABAC's Athletics Drug Policy is a Suspected Use Policy: ABAC does NOT random drug test but reserves the right to test any athlete if reasonable suspicion identifies a student-athlete using illegal substances. Each instance is handled on a case-by-case basis. The totality of circumstances will be studied. The institution's accepted responsibility is to provide a competitive environment free from drug and substance use and abuse.
- **Alcohol and Drug Use Violations:** Each coach addresses student conduct in their team rules including alcohol and drug use violations. The expectation is that student-athletes are often looked upon as role models, particularly by young children: thus, personal conduct must always be above reproach. Representatives of ABAC are expected, either at the College or on road trips, to refrain from alcohol, tobacco, and drug use.
- **Alcohol Edu:** All incoming first-year student-athletes must complete the Vector Solutions Alcohol Edu course before their first off-campus trip of the semester.

#### **Strengths**

A layered approach to AOD programs and policies is utilized with student-athletes: Coaches, the Director of Athletics, Athletic Trainer(s), and other athletic professional staff play a team role in educating, preventing, and holding student-athletes accountable to AOD expectations.

#### **Weaknesses**

The mandatory orientation is an annual meeting, and the specifics need to be reinforced throughout the year. The Director of Athletics reminds coaches to do so, but no specific gathering occurs that allows that message to be reinforced to all athletes. First-year or transfer student-



athletes who arrive after the annual meeting must still read and sign the *Student-Athlete Handbook*, stating that they understand the expectations and accountability.

### Recommendations

The addition of more periodic meetings throughout the athletic calendar year, with guest speakers being brought in to speak to student-athletes and provide education services. Implementing a Student-Athlete Handbook to reinforce expectations may assist.

### ***Counseling Center***

The college experience can be very stressful for students and requires the establishment of new coping skills. ABAC's Counseling Center exists to address such needs and to help students achieve academic success through the provision of counseling services. The mission of the Counseling Center is to foster the development and emotional well-being of ABAC students through personal behavioral health counseling.

### Programs and Services

The Counseling Center provides the following services across the Tifton and Bainbridge locations.

- Individual counseling
- Group counseling
- Prevention and outreach
- Consultation
- Crisis response
- Art therapy (Tifton only)
- Biofeedback (Tifton only)

Counseling, to the extent permitted by law and ethical standards, considers all information as confidential and is not disclosed to any other person or campus unit without the written permission of the clients or as requires by law. The College employs one full-time licensed Counselor and one half-time licensed Counseling Center Assistant Director to whom students can confide and seek assistance with AOD addictions. The Counseling Center can also refer clients to community treatment facilities for those students needing more extensive treatment than the College can provide.

The Counseling Center provides individual counseling to ABAC students for substance abuse and other personal concerns. Currently enrolled and registered students incur no charge for this service. Every student is informed of the nature and scope of treatment and are given a choice with regard to participation. When the scope of therapy exceeds what the ABAC Counseling Center can provide, the student is informed of alternative resources, and appropriate referrals occur.

In matters of student discipline or crisis, the Counseling Center staff can provide assessment and consultative services to students, colleagues, or units of the College to help maintain the campus environment, the clients' anonymity and preserve the confidential nature of all counseling relationships.

### Strengths

- ABAC is experiencing an increase in students actively seeking counseling services. A strong working connection between the Counseling Center and Academic Support exists to

provide wellness and academic support services to increase student achievement.

- The College has hired an additional full-time licensed counselor.
- 988 and UWill services have been promoted across campus and targeted in on campus Housing.

### Weaknesses

The increasing demand for mental health counseling is challenging to meet with limited staffing and resources.

### Recommendations

Continue pursuing funding sources to be able to implement more services for students. Data collection also needs to continue so as to justify funding for services.

### ***Dean of Students' Office (Student Conduct)***

Students who violate the College's alcohol policies are required to complete an online Alcohol Awareness and Prevention (Vector Solutions Alcohol Edu Sanctions) course and complete community service and/or pay a fine. Students involved in alcohol-related hospitalization under amnesty are required to complete the Vector Solutions Alcohol Edu course.

All ABAC students are required to complete a University System of Georgia sponsored Vector Solutions Alcohol Education course during their first semester at ABAC. According to the Vector Solutions Alcohol Edu Impact Report Survey, 98 % of ABAC students agree that Alcohol Edu helped them establish a plan ahead of time to make responsible decisions about drinking, and 99% report that the education prepared them to help someone who may have alcohol poisoning.

Students are subject to sanctions under the ABAC Student Code of Conduct for violating policies governing alcohol and other drugs. These sanctions may include but are not limited to fines, community service, institutional service, programming, mandatory courses on drug and alcohol abuse, parental notification, probation, and suspension or expulsion from the College. The policies of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia also apply to ABAC students who violate the drug and alcohol policy.

### Programs and Services

- Alcohol Edu for College is an interactive online program that uses the latest evidence-based prevention methods to create a highly engaged learning experience, inspiring

students to make healthier decisions related to alcohol, cannabis, e-cigarettes, and other drugs. Alcohol Edu is a USG initiative and is the most commonly used alcohol prevention program in higher education. The goals of Alcohol Edu for College are to ensure that every incoming student at ABAC understands the alcohol impact as it relates to college life and is better informed when making choices regarding the use of alcohol. Student Affairs utilizes the Vector Solutions Alcohol Awareness programs for all first-year students and requires students in student leadership positions such as Student Government Association, Greeks, Athletes, Campus Activities Board, Ambassadors, Resident Assistants and Student Workers to complete training. Student Affairs staff members expect students in leadership positions on campus to be change agents for the ABAC community. Student Affairs also requires any residential students in violation of ABAC's Guide to Residential Living, Illegal/Substances in Residence Halls, to take the course.

- Greek Life recently added (July 19, 2021) policies and procedures for socials mandated by all fraternities and sororities to improve risk management. Certified Peace Officers at events, forms to declare intent and if alcohol and food will be present, social event guest list, sober event monitors, and safe drivers are examples of improvements implemented.

### Strengths

The AOD programs provide students with information on AOD misuse and allow students to experience the effects of AOD in a controlled and safe environment. The following Category 2 Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) are now required to complete Vector Solutions courses: Campus Activities Board (CAB), Student Government Association (SGA), and Ambassadors. Our Orientation Team, the Stallion Society, Resident Assistants, Greeks and athletes are required to address Vector Solutions.

### Weaknesses

Consistent AOD programming that expands across the entire academic year is needed but identifying funding/resources is the challenge.

### Recommendations

Require the leadership/membership of more of our Category 2 Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) to complete the Vector Solutions programs. We intend to implement this mandate with The Stallion newspaper team, Phi Theta Kappa officers, and with all RSO Presidents on campus.

### ***Health Center***

ABAC Student Health Center's mission is to help students develop and maintain good health and well-being for success in college. At the ABAC Student Health Center, the nurse practitioner along with a registered nurse works with faculty and students to manage their acute episodic healthcare needs.

The ABAC Student Health Center offers the following services:

- *Illness diagnosis and care for non-urgent/acute care* such as colds/flu; sore throat, allergies, upper respiratory infections, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, ear and eye infections, urinary infections, rashes/minor skin conditions, minor sport injuries (sprains/strains) and other common acute illnesses.

- *Physical Exams:* for ABAC campus sports and nursing as well as sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment
- *Immunizations* offered in the ABAC Student Health Center are Tdap, Hepatitis B, and Influenza vaccines
- *Birth Control:* provides oral contraceptive pill management and free condoms

The ABAC Student Health Center provides comprehensive episodic non-urgent-acute care on the Tifton campus. The clinical team is comprised of a certified nurse practitioner and a registered nurse. Given the smaller cohort of students on the Bainbridge campus, health services are not offered at this location.

ABAC Student Health Center utilizes the campus newspaper and the campus-wide email to provide health-related advisories and information for employees and students to help mitigate any incidence of preventable and infectious diseases within the campus community.

### Programs and Services

The University System of Georgia (USG) provides well-being initiatives with topics ranging from health management, tobacco cessation, and weight management to mention a few. The well-being program aims to create a comprehensive approach to achieving well-being that engages and empowers the entire USG community. The USG also provides Employee Assistance Program (EAP) free of charge to the USG employees and their family members. These programs have received tremendous support from the USG institutions as well as the system office.

AOD educational materials and brochures are on display in the ABAC Student Health Center lobby and may be obtained by an employee or student as warranted. These are very visible to any person entering into the lobby area.

### Strengths

The ABAC Student Health Center is a non-judgmental zone for a student or employee to come for guidance for misusing AOD. The ABAC Student Health Center will work collaboratively with the department of Student Affairs and Public Safety to help disseminate AOD educational brochures, campus wide newspaper article regarding usage of AOD, or campus-wide email.

### Weaknesses

Providing information to students can be a challenge. Students do not always read/review the campus wide newspaper, and/or their emails in a timely manner. Also, some students utilizing or misusing AOD's may not be aware that they have a problem until a health illness develops as a result of their frequent or excessive usage of an AOD.

### Recommendations

The ABAC Student Health Center will work collaboratively with the ABAC Student Affairs and the ABAC Public Safety to increase awareness at the Public Safety Fair held in the Spring on the ABAC Tifton Campus. The campus wide newspaper will be utilized as a vehicle to disseminate information regarding usage of an AOD and where to seek assistance. The ABAC Student Health Center will have a social history section on their history form for the student/employee to complete regarding any usage of alcohol or illicit drugs and if so, how often. If identified a possible problem, the nurse practitioner will discuss with student/employee for the need of possible counseling or intervention of their AOD misuse.

## *Human Resources*

The Human Resources (HR) Department at ABAC has a mission to deliver innovative, comprehensive, and effective Human Resources performance as a strategic partner in supporting the College's mission, goals, and values. Human Resources strives to be a strong and viable asset to ABAC's Leadership Team, administrators, faculty, staff, and student workers by leveraging the Human Resources function to deliver superior service and to assist ABAC employees and students in a caring, trustworthy, and timely manner.

### Programs and Services

- Employee Assistance Program (EAP): The University System of Georgia (USG) has partnered with KEPRO to provide employees and their family members with a comprehensive Employee Assistance Program (EAP) effective July 1, 2019. Services are free and confidential and are available to all regular employees and their immediate household members. More information can be found by reviewing the USG Board of Regents (BOR) EAP brochure at: <https://benefits.usg.edu/work-life/employee-assistance-program>. Most employees will face a personal problem or family care issue that impacts the quality of their home life, relationships, health, or ability to do their best at work. Most of the time employees can work these matters out, however, at times, employees could benefit from professional, objective guidance and support. The EAP is available for this reason. The HR Office receives positive feedback from employees regarding the services. The provider delivers an annual customer feedback report showing positive customer satisfaction. In 2021, the EAP implemented a new customizable website, [usg.mylifeexpert.com](http://usg.mylifeexpert.com), for employees to create profiles and have immediate access to assistance.
- ABAC Human Resources provide training seminars and webinars for managers and employees on various subjects, including alcohol and drugs. In addition, the program offers counseling and other resources to help our employees.
- Well-Being Program: The USG provides well-being initiatives that include topics ranging from health management to tobacco and smoke-free. The program has partnered with our benefits providers, Anthem and Kaiser, to offer support and coaching services to our employees. The programs offered are a direct result of an annual prevalence report and benchmarking of employee risk factors.
- New Hire Orientation: During the new hire orientation, Human Resources staff review the Drug-Free Policy, Ethics Policy, EAP resources, and Well-Being resources. All new employees are required to read and sign a statement acknowledging their understanding of the USG Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs. Each policy and resource are used to help educate and communicate the expected behavior in the workplace. All employees participate in annual compliance training to help emphasize the importance of these policies and resources.
- Drug Testing: Drug testing is conducted on all Public Safety employees' pre-employment, for cause, and post-accident.

### Strengths

ABAC has an on-campus health clinic which is an in-network Anthem provider, therefore, convenient and timely medical services can be provided to employees.

#### Weaknesses

HR needs to increase communication of Kepro assistance program access for employees.

#### Recommendations

Re-establish the Wellness Task Force on campus.

#### *Police*

The ABAC Police Department is a state law enforcement agency on the Tifton campus and has been authorized by the President of ABAC as the primary provider of law enforcement, safety, and security services to the campus community and the immediate surrounding areas. Police officers are state certified through Peace Officers Standards and Training for Georgia. The ABAC Police Department provides the following services:

- Campus safety (Reporting/Investigation/Enforcement)
- Parking services
- Security camera and alarm monitoring/installation
- Monitoring of electronic locking systems across campus
- Safe walk escorts

The ABAC Police Department is essential for maintaining a safe campus environment to help promote student achievement. Services provided by the ABAC Police are appropriate for students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding ABAC community, and the department is located on the Tifton campus. Because Bainbridge is located on the Southern Regional Technical College campus, a police officer is shared between the two institutions.

#### Programs and Services

- The College takes great pride in the community and offers many advantages to students, faculty, and staff. The ABAC community is a great place to live, learn, work, and study; however, this status does not imply that the Campus Community is immune from other unfortunate circumstances that arise. Though the College is progressive with its policies, programs, and education, everyone in the ABAC community should live with a sense of awareness and use reasonable judgment when living, working, or visiting on campus.
- Crime Prevention Programs on personal safety and theft prevention are taught throughout the academic year. ABAC Police, Residence Life & Housing, the Wellness Center, and Student Affairs facilitate student, faculty, and staff programs. These programs include Active Shooter Training, Campus Safety Week, and Freshman Orientation. Theft and alcohol-related offenses are common on college campuses. However, they don't stand alone. Despite law enforcement's efforts, serious crimes occur on campuses. To help prevent such crimes the ABAC community is encouraged to report any suspicious incidents to the police and to remain alert and vigilant.
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse: The ABAC Police holds the annual Public Safety Awareness Program the week before Spring Break. Flyers, pamphlets, and brochures are



disseminated about alcohol and drugs, and the Amnesty Law is explained to students, faculty, and staff.

- Governor's Office of Highway Safety Youth Grant: ABAC Police has partnered with Residence Life & Housing staff to administer a DUI Simulator where students get into an actual vehicle and put on a virtual reality headset. Sensors are connected to the vehicle's gas, brake pedals, and steering wheel, thereby enabling the student to experience drugged or drunk driving without the real-life consequences. Goggle Games is another activity where students wear drunk goggles to learn about the different levels of intoxication and how their motor functions are affected by drinking. Lastly, Think Fast Interactive-Live is a game show where students compete in trivia about alcohol prevention.

### Strengths

ABAC student engagement with targeted programming is available to all students.

### Weaknesses

To ensure the programs by the ABAC police are positively impacting the ABAC Community, additional data collection is needed, such as timely surveys. Additionally, these data can provide strengths and weaknesses of current programming.

### Recommendations

Research best practices on data collection for AOD programs used by the ABAC police and determine the best method for capturing needed data on current program strengths and areas of improvement.

### ***Residence Life & Housing***

The residential curriculum within the Office of Residence Life & Housing (ABAC Housing) provides ABAC students with an engaging programs and events that seek to foster growth, awareness, responsibility, and belonging. ABAC Housing seeks to foster a campus community that gives students the opportunity to learn and practice skills that promote both scholarly achievement and community engagement. Aligned with the College's mission, strategic plan, and vision, the residential curriculum is focused on community building, interpersonal skills, practical life skills, civility, and well-being.

Most notably, the well-being aspect of the residential curriculum is achieved through the pursuit of actions and daily habits that promote physical, mental, and emotional health. Forming habits around healthy decision-making, compassion, stress management, and support-seeking behaviors is essential to well-being. It is through this well-being component that ABAC Housing addresses alcohol and other drug programs. ABAC Housing coordinates programs to address issues and measure outcomes of Drug & Alcohol Awareness programs each semester.

### Programs and Services

- Alcohol & Other Drug Trivia: This program involves having students get in teams and compete against each other by answering questions about alcohol and other drugs.
- Mocktails: Students make non-alcoholic beverages and are educated about the size of the drinks and the importance of ensuring their drinks are not tampered.

- Water Pong: Students learn about alcohol prevention while playing water pong.
- Crash Course Craze: Students navigate a course while wearing drunk goggles to learn about how alcohol impairs their motor functions.
- DUI Simulator: Students get into an actual vehicle and use a virtual reality headset. Sensors are connected to the vehicle's gas/brake pedals and steering wheel, enabling the student to experience drugged or drunk driving without real-life consequences.
- Goggle Games: Students wear drunk goggles to learn about the different levels of intoxication and how their senses are affected by drinking.
- ThinkFast Interactive: This program is a live interactive game show where students compete in trivia about alcohol prevention.
- Speakers: Myriad of guest speakers talking about alcohol and other drugs. Speakers include professional speakers and members of the Health Center.

### Strengths

- Housing AOD programs are well attended by students due to promotion and our ability to make learning fun. Many programs are incentivized in an effort to increase attendance.
- Students receive invaluable information about AOD that they can implement in their decision-making efforts.
- Housing has resources to implement and coordinate AOD programs that appeal to residential students.
- Housing collaborates with offices on campus, such as the ABAC Police Department, Health Center, and the Dean of Students Office, to implement campus-wide AOD programs.
- Partnering with ABAC Orientation and Welcome Weekend programming to host large-scale, first year student AOD events.

### Weaknesses

- Creative ways to gather, analyze, and assess data from AOD programs to include implementing surveys and focus groups and using the assessment data to improve AOD programming are needed.
- Greater variety is needed in the programming efforts to ensure that Residence Life & Housing appeal to a more diverse selection of students.
- Communicating with students is becoming increasingly more challenging. Students no longer read flyers or emails. Identifying creative methods of communication will be essential to the continued success of future AOD programs.

### Recommendations

- Partner with ABAC Orientation Programming to implement AOD programs within the Orientation, Welcome Week, and Weeks of Welcome programming.
- Create a method to gather and analyze data from AOD programs.
- Adjust the Student Conduct model to better address infractions of the Student Code of Conduct regarding Alcohol. Specifically adding a tiered system to create better, more meaningful conversation between staff and students who have violated the institution's alcohol policy.

### *Student Activities*



## Programs and Services

Alcohol Edu for College is an interactive online program that uses the latest evidence-based prevention methods to create a highly engaged learning experience, inspiring students to make healthier decisions related to alcohol, cannabis, e-cigarettes, and other drugs. Alcohol Edu is a USG initiative and is the most commonly used alcohol prevention program in higher education. The goals of Alcohol Edu for College are to ensure that every incoming student at ABAC understands the alcohol impact as it relates to college life and is better informed when making choices regarding the use of alcohol.

Student Affairs utilizes the Vector Solutions Alcohol Awareness programs for all first-year students and requires students in high-profile positions such as Student Government Association, Greeks, Athletes, Ambassadors, Campus Activities Board Executive Team, Stallion Society Orientation Leaders, and Resident Assistants to complete training.

Student Affairs staff members expect students in leadership positions on campus to be change agents for the ABAC community. Student Affairs also requires any residential students in violation of ABAC's Guide to Residential Living, *Illegal/Substances in Residence Halls*, to take the course.

Greek Life recently added (July 19, 2021) policies and procedures for socials mandated by all fraternities and sororities to improve risk management. Certified Peace Officers at events, forms to declare intent and if alcohol and food will be present, social event guest list, sober event monitors, and safe drivers are examples of improvements implemented. Student Activities in partnership with ABAC's Helping Professions Association (HPA) hosts an annual alcohol awareness event in conjunction with our Spring Mental Health Awareness Day (formerly Fresh Check Day).

## Strengths

The AOD programs provide students with information on AOD misuse and allow students to experience the effects of AOD in a controlled and safe environment.

## Weaknesses

Consistent AOD programming that expands across the entire academic year is needed.

## Recommendations

Require the leadership/membership of our Category 2 Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) to complete the Vector Solutions programs. These groups include Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) officers and members of Student Publications (e.g., The Stallion). Also, include the Vector Solutions Programs in the required training for all RSO Presidents. Market AOD programs consistently throughout the academic year.

## **Evaluation Methods**

### ***Alcohol Edu for College***

Alcohol Edu for College serves as ABAC's primary means of assessing the alcohol-related attitudes, experiences, and behaviors of students through a series of questions followed by educational sessions. These data are used to assist in the strategic planning of campus programming, including prevention programs and services.

### ***Annual Security Report***

The ABAC Police produces an Annual Security Report each year which includes statistics about alcohol and drug cases from the previous years, including arrests for drug abuse and liquor law violations and disciplinary actions resulting from these violations.

### ***Individual Departments***

Individual departments report collecting data through processes such as event attendance, qualitative feedback, and surveys.

### ***The Healthy Minds Study***

The Healthy Minds Study (HMS) Student Survey is a web-based survey examining mental health, service utilization, and related issues among undergraduate and graduate students. HMS has been fielded at over 600 colleges and universities, garnering over 850,000 responses. Data were collected in Winter/Spring of 2024.

## **Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Case Overview**

### ***Alcohol Edu Data (Course Impact, Behavioral Intentions & Norms, Drinking Motivation)***

In 2022-23 academic year, 354 ABAC students completed Vector Solutions Alcohol Edu for College. Among students at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College who took Alcohol Edu, 83% agreed that the course changed their perceptions of others' drinking behavior. And a substantial number of ABAC students after taking the course report that they intend to limit their drinking frequency (79%) or the number of drinks they consume (79%). At ABAC the top reason stated by 74% of student drinkers choose to drink is "to have a good time with friends". Among nondrinkers, 97% say they don't drink because "drinking is against my personal values". 2% of drinkers cite the same reason when they choose not to drink. At ABAC, 72% of students surveyed are abstainers and 17% are nondrinkers. Many perceive that their peers are drinking more than they are and may feel alienated by that perception.

When it comes to skills, 98% of ABAC students reported that the Alcohol Edu course helped them establish a plan ahead of time to make responsible decisions about drinking. 99% of the ABAC students reported that the Alcohol Edu course prepared them to help someone who may have alcohol poisoning. 99% of ABAC students reported that the Alcohol Edu course prepared them to prevent an alcohol overdose.

The top reasons ABAC students stated that they chose to drink were to Have Fun (73%), Celebrate (57%), Stress (40%), Get Drunk (37%). Stress and Get Drunk reflected a higher

percentage at ABAC than at peer institutions.

In 2023-24 academic year, 962 ABAC students completed Vector Solutions Alcohol Edu for College. Among students at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College who took Alcohol Edu, 77% agreed that the course changed their perceptions of others' drinking behavior. Also, a substantial number of ABAC students after taking the course report that they intend to limit their drinking frequency (71%) or the number of drinks they consume (74%). At ABAC, the top reason stated by 50% of drinkers choose to drink is "to have a good time with friends". Among nondrinkers, 79% say they don't drink because "I am going to drive". 81% of drinkers cite the same reason they choose not to drink.

When it comes to skills, 80% of ABAC students reported that the Alcohol Edu course helped them establish a plan ahead of time to make responsible decisions about drinking. 82% of the ABAC students reported that the Alcohol Edu course prepared them to help someone who may have alcohol poisoning. Many perceive that their peers are drinking more than they are and may feel alienated by that perception. 77% of ABAC students reported that the Alcohol Edu course gave them the confidence to help someone who may be experiencing an overdose.

The top reasons ABAC students stated they chose to drink were to Have Fun (50%), Celebrate (38%), Like the Taste (25%), Stress (19%). Having Fun reflected a higher percentage at ABAC than at peer institutions.

#### ***Annual Security Report ABAC Police Data***

In 2022 (4<sup>th</sup> Qtr.), 0 arrests occurred on the Tifton and Bainbridge campuses for Liquor Law violations.

In 2022 (4<sup>th</sup> Qtr.), 18 disciplinary referrals occurred on the Tifton and Bainbridge campuses for Liquor Law violations.

In 2022 (4<sup>th</sup> Qtr.), 0 arrests occurred on the Tifton and Bainbridge campuses for drug violations.

In 2022 (4<sup>th</sup> Qtr.), 0 referrals occurred on the Tifton and Bainbridge campuses for drug violations.

In 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr.), 1 arrest occurred on the Tifton and Bainbridge campuses for Liquor Law violations.

In 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr.), 25 disciplinary referrals occurred on the Tifton and Bainbridge campuses for Liquor Law violations.

In 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr.), 1 arrest occurred on the Tifton and Bainbridge campuses for drug violations.

In 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr.), 4 referrals occurred on the Tifton and Bainbridge campuses for drug violations.

In 2024 (1<sup>st</sup> Qtr.), 0 arrests occurred on the Tifton and Bainbridge campuses for Liquor Law violations.

In 2024 (1<sup>st</sup> Qtr.), 5 disciplinary referrals occurred on the Tifton and Bainbridge campuses for Liquor Law violations.

In 2024 (1<sup>st</sup> Qtr.), 0 arrests occurred on the Tifton and Bainbridge campuses for drug violations.

In 2024 (1<sup>st</sup> Qtr.), 0 referrals occurred on the Tifton and Bainbridge campuses for drug violations.

#### ***Healthy Minds Study Data***

In Winter 2024 (301 students surveyed) 39% of students who completed the survey stated that used alcohol over the past two weeks while 61% of students stated they did not.

Of the students who stated they binge drank alcohol (over 4 drinks (female) or 5 drinks (male) in a row over the past two weeks:

Female- 32% stated they did not, 35% stated they did 1 time, 11% stated they did 2 times, 15% 3-5 times, 2% 6-9 times, 2% 10 or more times, and 3% don't know.

Male- 25% stated they did not, 21% stated they did 1 time, 39% stated they did 2 times, 7% 3-5 times, 4% 6-9 times, and 4% 10 or more times.

Out of 295 responses, 11% of students said they used Cannabis that include THC (including smoking, vaping, and edibles). 1% of students stated they used Benzodiazepines (such as Valium, Ativan, Klonopin, Xanax, or Rohypnol/Roofies) without a prescription of more than prescribed.

### **Procedures for Distributing AOD Notifications to Students, Faculty, and Staff**

- The College's AOD policy is included in each offer letter, which each new employee is required to sign and return to Human Resources. All new hires must receive AOD policy training during new hire orientation and must sign an additional statement to acknowledge understanding.
- A representative of the Campus Police Office reviews the law and campus policy with all new residential students. The Chief of ABAC police meets with Residence Assistants (RA) student leaders for additional education. The Chief of ABAC police also
- attends new student orientations and speaks with incoming students' parents about drug and alcohol policies on campus.
- As part of the Deans Letter highlighting important information regarding various college policies and procedures on campus, all students receive Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Information at the start of each semester—*In compliance with the US Department of Education, ABAC provides students and employees with information regarding alcohol and drugs on campus. Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College has adopted and implemented a drug prevention program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by all students and employees both on school premises and as part of any of its activities. Students can find more AOD information in the [Student Handbook](#).*
- The Student Handbook, available online on the Dean of Students webpage, contains the AOD Policy and the consequences of violation of the policy.

### **Strengths of Program Effectiveness**

- Resources and budget are received from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety grant.
- Cooperation from Campus and Tifton Police Departments occurs.
- Hired additional mental Health Counselor since last Biennial Review
- Implemented Maxient software which should improve communication across campus departments to assist in identifying students in need of assistance. Alcohol and drug use by students could link with other mental health and conduct trends.
- Compliance is consistent with the 26-member University System of Georgia's primary use of Vector Solutions' Alcohol Edu module to educate/train students on the negative impact of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.
- Expansion of Vector Solutions AOD training to continuing enrolled students through

- targeting clubs/orgs leaders as well as student workers
- Wellness Committee established.
- The Office of Student Affairs sends out periodic reminders to students to complete the Vector Solutions courses.
- Campus support for AOD programs and enforcement of policies is persistent.
- Compliance is consistent with University System of Georgia Tobacco Policy.
- Good promotion and participation of Alcohol and Drug prevention programs are implemented through the efforts of Student Affairs and Student Life and Housing.
- 354 new students addressed Vector Solutions Alcohol Edu course Fall '22-Spring '23.
- 962 new students addressed Vector Solutions Alcohol Edu course Fall '23 – Spring '24.
- CARE/BIT team reports have increased from Faculty & Staff for students who need assistance.

### **Weaknesses of Program Effectiveness**

- The Task Force could define specific goals and assess achievement.
- Resources to promote services.
- Although compliance is consistent with the 26-member University System of Georgia's primary use of Vector Solutions' Alcohol Edu module to educate/train students on the negative impact of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; these programs are primarily targeted for newly matriculated students.
- Putting teeth behind requirement can add a barrier to enrollment for students.
- Vector Solutions Alcohol Edu course is 1.5 hours long and there may be other modules out there that are more effective by being shorter, more interactive and hard hitting.
- Support from University System of Georgia in sponsoring Vector Solutions courses serves as a critical springboard for our AOD program and could severely impact if funding redirected.

### **Future Recommendations**

After reviewing the campus policies, programs, and assessment initiatives as part of this Biennial Review process, the ABAC Biennial Review Team offers the following recommendations:

- Continue to implement relevant recommendations from previous Biennial Review Reports, including regular distribution of best practices for campus AOD partners and the utilization of a central college-level contact for the AOD program.
- Utilize Wellness Committee to define specific AOD goals and assess achievement, including education, prevention and methods. Wellness committee can utilize the data found in this report to identify the most salient issues for the ABAC campus and community.
- Implement peer mentoring program on campus.
- Find a way to identify and train peer educators on campus which should help other students of assessment, making use of available data, including the Alcohol Edu survey, police reports, campus judicial cases, and referrals to counselors, and Health Center.
- Increase communication with and among campus AOD partners to create a more cohesive programming and assessment structure across service areas. Include faculty and staff in prevention efforts.
- Increase education of AOD programs and policy to all campus constituencies. Use email, message boards, wellness center equipment, and social media for distribution.
- Increase programming about AOD prevention in campus student organizations.
- Continue to revise the AOD policy to include explicit risks of AOD use/abuse and

available resources for students who need help with AOD-related issues.

- Implement a First Year Experience course could help by having a forum to promote AOD programs.
- Expand education surrounding the importance of AOD education.

