



Drug-Free School Policy Statement

In accordance with the Drug-free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, Albany Technical College (ATC) is designated as a drug-free zone. The use/or abuse of alcohol and other illicit drugs by students is prohibited. School standards of conduct clearly prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on campus or at any college-sponsored activities. Sanctions up to and including suspension, expulsion, and referral for prosecution will be imposed for the violation of these standards.

Drugs referred to under this policy include all illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, and misused legal drugs (both prescription and over the counter).

In accordance with the Georgia Smoke Free Act of 2005, the use of all forms of tobacco products on ATC properties is expressly prohibited. "Tobacco Products" are defined as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, all forms of smokeless tobacco, clove cigarettes, and any other smoking devices that use tobacco, such as hookahs, or simulate the use of tobacco, such as electronic cigarettes/vaping.

Drug-Free Policy*

A. Policy

1. The Federal Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Amendment of 1989 (Public Law 102-226) contains Section 22, Drug-Free Schools and Campuses, which was enacted to ensure that any institution of higher education that receives funds under any federal program has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the use of illicit drugs and abuse of alcohol by students.

2. No student may engage in the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on ATC's campus or as part of any of its sponsored activities. Such unlawful activity may be considered sufficient grounds for serious punitive action, including expulsion.

3. If a student is convicted (including a plea of nolo contendere) of committing certain felony offenses involving any criminal drug and/or alcohol statute of any jurisdiction,

regardless of whether the alleged violations occurred at the College or elsewhere, the student will be suspended immediately and denied state and/or federal financial aid funds from the date of conviction.

4. The College shall notify the appropriate state/federal funding agency within 10 days after receiving notice of the conviction from the student or otherwise after receiving the actual notice of conviction.

5. Within 30 days of notification of conviction, the College shall with respect to any student so convicted

- Take additional appropriate action against such students up to and including expulsion as it deems necessary.
- Provide such students with a description of any drug or alcohol counseling treatment, or rehabilitation, or re-entry programs that are available for such purposes by a federal, state or local health, law enforcement or other appropriate agency.

B. Responsibility

1. The College is responsible for ensuring the development and implementation of a drug-free awareness program to inform faculty, staff, and students of the following:

- The dangers of drug and alcohol abuse and the dangers of vaping.
- Drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and assistance programs.
- Penalties to be imposed upon faculty, staff, and students for drug and alcohol abuse violations occurring on the campus.

2. Resources to assist individuals with tobacco cessation, educational materials, and other wellness information will be provided by ATC.

3. ATC shall conduct a biennial review of its program to determine its effectiveness and implement changes to the program if they are needed and to ensure that the sanctions required by the program are consistently enforced.

Albany Technical College Drug and Alcohol Awareness and Prevention Plan

Albany Technical College (ATC) prohibits the unlawful possession, manufacturing, distribution, dispensation, and use of illicit drugs and alcohol on the campus or at college sponsored events in accordance with the Alcohol and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101-226).

In compliance with the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, Section 22, the College implements and maintains a drug and alcohol awareness and prevention plan.

Objectives:

Albany Technical College is responsible for ensuring the development and implementation of a drug-free awareness program to inform students of the following:

1. The dangers of drug and alcohol abuse on the campus and elsewhere.
2. Any available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and assistance programs.
3. Any penalties to be imposed upon students for drug and alcohol abuse violations occurring on the campus.

Initiatives:

Awareness – ATC informs students and employees about the policies regarding the use of drugs and alcohol, and the legal implications and consequences via the Student and Employee Handbooks, the College website, and New Student and Employee Orientations. Information on available assistance and counseling programs can also be found in the above-listed locations.

Education – ATC educates students and employees about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse on overall health and wellness. The AlcoholEdu program, professional development training for employees, training offered through the CARE Center, and Wellness Week events are held to educate students and employees on the effect of drug and alcohol abuse.

Support Services – ATC offers referral services information and designated staff available to assist and support students and employees with drug and alcohol related issues through TitansCARE.

The TitansCARE team will develop an appropriate response plan. The response will be based on the nature of the behavior, the severity of the risk, and the needs of the individual. The TitansCARE team will conduct a professional assessment to help understand each person's individual need and to evaluate risk levels when a person's behavior may endanger their own or others' health and safety. After each report has been evaluated, the TitansCARE team implements a timely intervention specifically tailored to address the needs of the individuals involved.

Resources and Activities:

Wellness resources will be available in the Library, Human Resources, the Office of Student Affairs and the Albany Technical College Police Department (ATCPD).

ATCPD will provide literature, pamphlets and brochures on alcohol and drug abuse as well as referral information.

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Provides employees and eligible family members with a comprehensive EAP to help with a variety of personal and work life matters. The EAP is a free and confidential resource available 24/7.

The Student Assistance Program (SAP)

Is a confidential counseling program designed to help students gain and maintain balance between academics, family, and work. The program's goal is to help students achieve academic success and life harmony. Participation in the program cover students to receive confidential, professional counseling from licensed therapists in the areas of marital, family, relationships, grief, stress, alcohol and drugs, financial, legal or any other challenge interfering with their academic performance.

Human Resources

Will provide education on college policies/procedures on drug and alcohol use/abuse through various professional development training, annual training, and new employee orientation. Human Resources will serve as the point of contact for the Employee Assistance program to assist eligible employees with alcohol and/or drug-related difficulties.

The Office of Student Affairs, TitansCARE, ATCPD, and Mental Academic and Physical Preparedness Grant (MAPP)

Will sponsor a variety of campus activities, programs, and workshops to promote student health and wellness. These events will include college resource fairs, guest speakers, and Red Ribbon Week activities. The Student Affairs staff are responsible for planning the New Student Orientation where new students learn about student services and college resources. Each student will be provided with a Student Success Guide, Academic Planner, and Campus Resource Guide with information about contacting all available services.

Albany Technical College Police Department (ATCPD)

Will provide information on campus policies and procedures.

Evaluation:

A Biennial Review of the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program will be conducted to determine program effectiveness and consistency of enforcement, as well as identify and implement changes when appropriate. Additionally, the Annual Review ensures that the campuses enforce disciplinary sanctions for violating standards of conduct consistently. The Vice President of Student Affairs and ATCPD will be responsible for implementation and review of the college's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program.