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## Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) Biennial Review May 2023

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**Departmental oversight of review:** Student Life and Human Resources, in collaboration with Campus Public Safety

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### **Introduction to the Biennial Review**

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) requires institutions of higher education (IHEs) to conduct a biennial review of drug and alcohol policies and programs. The university strives to educate students and employees regarding efforts of education and written policies that ensure compliance with this mandate. George Fox University performs an annual review in order to review effectiveness and implement necessary changes to remain in compliance and to assist in the care and safety of all community members. The formal biennial review process is reported every two years.

The official notification of our compliance with DFSCA is included in the Student Handbook which is available online for all students, faculty, staff, and administration. IT can be accessed at [studenthandbook.georgefox.edu](http://studenthandbook.georgefox.edu). Every year all new students are asked to read the policies and continuing students are encouraged to review the handbook and any significant changes that have been made and noted near the front of the online handbook. Included in the handbook is the complete text of *The Lifestyle Standards and Values*. These commitments require community members to abide by the following:

*While we recognize that committed Christians differ in how they view the consumption of alcoholic beverages, it is clear that the improper use of alcohol by students, faculty or staff could bring much harm to the communities of George Fox University. This is especially true of the traditional undergraduate community, which consists largely of students who are under the legal drinking age.*

*Nationally, it is well documented that underage and binge drinking as well as driving with significant blood alcohol levels are major problems on college campuses.*

*In addition, there is growing evidence that some individuals are predisposed to alcoholism. For these reasons, the use of alcohol by traditional undergraduate students is not allowed at any time they are enrolled at the university.*

*Distribution and consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on a George Fox University campus with the exception of unique events that receive prior approval from the President's Executive Team. The university does not serve or use alcohol when undergraduate students are present. Further, we are a smoke-free campus (including vapor cigarettes) and the use of tobacco and marijuana, in any form, is not permitted in any George Fox University facility or the grounds. Please see the student handbook and employee handbook to review our alcohol, drugs, and smoking policies in their entirety.*

In addition, the handbook emphasizes the Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco policy under our Community Policies. It states the following:

***Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco***

*George Fox University is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy educational environment free from alcohol, drugs and tobacco. The use, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages and illicit drugs, including marijuana, synthetic marijuana or controlled substances, or the abuse of legal substances, are prohibited on or away from campus. Medical marijuana, as well as recreational marijuana, whether smoked, vaporized, edible, topical, tinctures, wax or any other form is prohibited regardless of any state's laws permitting marijuana.*

*We are a tobacco-free and smoke-free campus. The university prohibits smoking, including e-cigarettes/vapor cigarettes, and all forms of tobacco use or possession everywhere on-campus; as well as off-campus by students.*

*Visitors to our campus are expected to comply with these standards.*

The handbook also clearly articulates for students how the University responds to alcohol, marijuana, or drug incidents. Student Life has a detailed process for community accountability to alcohol and drug violations by making it restorative and redemptive to the greatest extent possible. There are varying steps that take place depending on the

nature and severity of the violations. Consequences and educational components (including online courses), counseling, and assessments are part of this process. There are also steps that include parental notification, suspension warning, suspension, or dismissal depending on the level and frequency of the violation(s).

The handbook also outlines the process for students voluntarily disclosing their behavior and seeking help. There is a *Help To Change and Grow Policy*, which encourages students to get help with violating behaviors without fear of consequences. In these cases, student life staff will help the student toward growth and assistance to live within the community guidelines. Exceptions to this approach may be when behavior is repetitive, self-destructive, harmful or hazardous to others, a threat to self or others, violations of Title IX, or involves a significant legal issue in which the university is obligated to uphold the law.

In addition, the handbook articulates a *Conditional Immunity Policy*, which is an important aspect of seeking help. The policy is outlined below:

***Conditional Immunity***

*Additionally, the University wants to eliminate barriers for students who may be hesitant to seek medical or emergency help or report the incident to university officials because they fear being held accountable for policy violations (e.g., drinking alcoholic beverages). To encourage reporting, George Fox pursues a policy of offering students who are accessing help for themselves or others, conditional immunity from being charged with policy violations related to the particular incident. While there may be no community accountability sanctions for these individuals, the University may provide elements of help, support, and education.*

While all policies are stated in our student handbook we also provide reminders at least twice yearly through our Daily Bruin email announcements about our policies and where to access this information.

Additionally, all undergraduate students are required annually to complete the Alcohol and Other Drug online educational module through Vector Solutions.

For employees, there is an Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace Policy in the Employee Handbook, Section 2.2.5

(<https://www.georgefox.edu/offices/hr/handbook/chapter02.html>). It outlines expectations for all employees, including drug and alcohol testing, and potential corrective action steps.

The biennial review process is informal and appropriate for an alcohol and drug-free campus such as George Fox. Student Life staff work together to discuss and refine programs and responses to alcohol and drug use on our campus and to ensure consistency in sanctions. Select staff members meet regularly to deal specifically with matters of conduct. This focused effort provides for consistency and accountability as sanctions are compared, and careful attention is given to the way we follow through with each student who violates our code of conduct.

The following section outlines the drug and liquor law violations for our campuses.

### **Newberg Campus Safety and Security Report**

For the 2019-2021 Newberg Campus Safety and Security results, the statistics can be found [here](#).

### **Portland Campus Safety and Security Report**

For the 2019-2021 Portland Campus Safety and Security results, the statistics can be found [here](#).

George Fox University annually reviews policies to ensure compliance with DFSCA and reports these in the Biennial Report every other May.

Questions regarding any aspect of this report should be directed to Mark Pothoff, Dean of Students (mpothoff@georgefox.edu) or Nichole Drew, Vice President of People and Culture (ndrew@georgefox.edu). Questions regarding George Fox's crime statistics can be directed to Ed Gierok, Director of Campus Public Safety (egierok@georgefox.edu).