

## What Parents Should Know About Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention at SMU

SMU has implemented numerous recommendations made by President R. Gerald Turner's University Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention.

"No one policy or program alone can guarantee wise decision-making on the part of students encountering new freedoms at college or those entering with existing drug and alcohol problems," Turner said, in accepting the Task Force recommendations. "It is our hope, however, that the many recommendations we will implement will strengthen a culture of personal responsibility and academic achievement, a community in which students make the best use of resources, programs and assistance."

Highlights of new programs and policies:

### The "Call for Help" Program

A Good Samaritan (help for others) and Medical Amnesty (help for oneself) program enables students who are intoxicated through alcohol and/or drugs to seek emergency medical help and not be subject to the discipline process at SMU. This exemption is related only to the alcohol and drug policies.

### Academic Initiatives

Various actions include more Friday classes, encouraging faculty to take attendance in class and asking faculty to help identify students of concern.

### Social Event Registration Process

Students planning off-campus social events work with a team from the offices of Student Life and Student Affairs to ensure that events are planned responsibly.

### Caring Community Connections

An online process has been established for gathering and acting upon reports from faculty and staff of students exhibiting signs of distress.

### Late Night Fun on Campus

Midnight Movies at Hughes-Trigg Student Center, Midnight Climb at the Dedman Center for Lifetime Sports climbing wall and the All-Night Homecoming Float-Building Party are examples of enjoyable late night activities on campus.

Hughes-Trigg Student Center and Dedman Center for Lifetime Sports are open later for new late night and weekend activities.

The Late Night Programming Grant Fund helps support on-campus events and student excursions to explore Dallas. The goal is to make the SMU campus a center of activity at night and on weekends.

### Helpful Campus Contacts

Dr. Lisa S. Webb, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Student Life – [lisawebb@smu.edu](mailto:lisawebb@smu.edu)

Deanie Kepler, SMU Parent Liaison – [gkepler@smu.edu](mailto:gkepler@smu.edu)

Dr. Lori S. White, Vice President for Student Affairs – [askstudentaffairs@smu.edu](mailto:askstudentaffairs@smu.edu)

Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention – 214-768-4021

SMU Police Department – 911 or 214-768-3333

Anonymous nonemergency crime tip – 214-768-2TIP

### Learn the Facts

Download the “Drug & Alcohol Guidebook 2008–09” at [smu.edu/parents](http://smu.edu/parents) for tips on discussing substance use, information about legal penalties and University sanctions, parental notification policies and suggestions on staying involved.

### Use Your Influence

Studies have shown that parents’ opinions and guidance do influence their college students’ decisions regarding drug and alcohol use.

SMU encourages every parent to become familiar with campus policies, discuss substance abuse issues and be a positive influence with his or her student.

Call your student frequently during the crucial first semester and know the signs of substance abuse, including lower grades, mood changes and an unwillingness to talk.

Attend Family Weekend and other campus events, and ask to meet your student’s friends.

Familiarize yourself with campus resources and encourage your student to use them.

To learn more about the University’s Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention, visit [smu.edu/smunews/liveresponsibly](http://smu.edu/smunews/liveresponsibly).