



Student Affairs Fee Advisory Board

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Funding Request Form FY2027

Department should complete one form for each individual request

Department:

Student Life

Program, Service or Operation Requested:

Staff position – Student Development Specialist II

General Description:

As the University, the Division, and Student Life have adjusted to the changes made through the MGT report, University Health Services and Student Life have found a division of content load based on Interpersonal Violence Prevention (IVP), Alcohol and other Drug education (AOD); and the other content related to student health and wellness. Student Life has retained responsibility for IVP and AOD work. Over the last year it has become clear that we are understaffed in meeting the needs of the student body specifically associated with AOD education, outreach, and support.

1) We are responding to increased compliance expectations with new state laws around fentanyl education and use. We maintain a role in the Drug-Free Schools and Communities work on campus, and are asked to assist in all required connections between substance misuse and Title IX components.

2) In the engagement of the JED Campus Initiative and Healthy Minds Study initiated by Chancellor Sharp, student data indicates that there is an increased prevalence of substance use within our student population, particularly around binge drinking and self-medicating to manage stress/depression/anxiety through use of alcohol or other non-prescribed drugs.

Request Type:

☒ Full ☐ Increase ☐ One-Time ☐ Partial/Matching

Type of Funds Requested:

☒ UAF ☐ Other

General Questions***How does this address an important need and/or positively impact students?***

Substance Misuse and Violence Prevention within Student Life is responsible for educational programs and support resources around topics including alcohol and/or other drugs and interpersonal violence prevention. Some of the unit's programs include Green Dot Bystander Intervention Training, Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Month, Alcohol Education Workshops, Social Norming Campaigns and Education, Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week, BASICS Interviewing (Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students), and

individual consultations with students.

National surveys as well as surveys conducted with Texas A&M University students demonstrate the on-going need for health and wellbeing education for students.

American College Health Association, 2022

*25% of respondents reported participating in risky behavior (ex. blacking out, injuring self or others) when drinking

*20.7% of students have never consumed alcohol.

*23.5% consumed 5 or more drinks the last time they drank alcohol in a social setting

Aggie Wellbeing Wishes Survey, 2024-2025

*24% of respondents had at least one binge drinking episode (5 or more drinks in 2 hours for men; 4 or more drinks for women) in the past two weeks.

*7% of respondents had at least three binge drinking episodes in the past two weeks.

What department/Division strategic plan item does this support?

Division Strategic Priority: Well-being

6.1 Integrate holistic wellbeing practices in programs, services, and facilities

Please provide data, evidence, and/or input (student faculty, staff, other) you gathered to help you determine the need for additional resources.

Currently the SMVP unit is comprised of five full-time staff (an Assistant Director, two SDS IIs, one SDS II, and an Administrative Coordinator) covering all content for both alcohol and other drug and interpersonal violence prevention. The load is large, and the staff has turned down more than a dozen requests from student organizations and others on campus about AOD related content due to limited staff. Workload and enrollment in the Alcohol Education Workshop (AEW) has more than tripled in the last two years after the City of College Station Municipal Court released its MIP, DUI, DWI, and PI data coming out of Northgate. The team is working to build and coordinate new required training based on state law. In addition, through the JED work, additional programming, educational touch points, and outreach on alcohol and other substance misuse is needed to help support our campus community.

What actions have you implemented or discontinued internally to address the identified need?

Unfortunately, the need is growing and the strategies to reduce load by rethinking program delivery, reducing large scale programs, and streamlining requests has not alleviated the strain. Increasing one-on-one or small group work along with growing data shows the need to enhance the work of this area.

If funding is granted, what metrics will you use to evaluate success of this program/service/operation?

Staff positions are evaluated through the annual performance review process conducted each spring semester.

***Have other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered?
Please explain.***

Alternative funding such as fundraising are not considered for full-time positions.

Total Estimated Cost

| Funding Description | Amount |
|--|-----------------|
| Salary for SDS II | \$51,750 |
| Benefits | \$20,700 |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| <i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if Applicable)</i> | |
| <i>TOTAL INCREASE REQUESTED</i> | \$72,450 |