

Task Force on College Gambling Policies Recommendations for Science-Based Policies and Programs

Recommendation 1: Establish a campus-wide committee to develop and monitor a comprehensive policy on gambling.

Recommendation 2: Ensure that college policies are consistent with applicable local, state, and federal laws.

- A. Examine college policies to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal laws regarding gambling.
- B. Promote campus-wide awareness of local, state, and federal laws regarding gambling.
- C. Encourage campus law enforcement to collaborate with community law enforcement agencies to identify illegal gambling activities such as bookmaking operations involving students.

Recommendation 3: Strive for consistency and universal application with prohibitions and restrictions on gambling and alcohol use at special events.

- A. Be prepared for conflicts of interest when attempting to restrict or prohibit gambling and alcohol use at on-campus events.
- B. Consider the potential for sending mixed messages about alcohol and gambling.
- C. Encourage organizations to use non-gambling themes for special events.

Recommendation 4: Promote campus-community collaborations that focus on reducing problems with student drinking and gambling.

- A. Develop relationships with local gambling operators to encourage restrictions on advertising and ensure that laws on underage gambling are enforced.

Recommendation 5: Encourage adjustments in disciplinary actions applied to violators of gambling rules if the student seeks assistance from health or counseling services.

Recommendation 6: Make reasonable accommodations for students focused on recovery from a problem with gambling or alcohol.

- A. Allow students who need time off to focus on recovery from a gambling or alcohol disorder to take a medical leave of absence.
- B. Make reasonable accommodations allowing students involved in off-campus treatment to continue in classes.
- C. Allow students who withdraw and are no longer eligible for a refund to appeal the process citing gambling or alcohol problems as an extenuating circumstance beyond the control of the student involved.

Recommendation 7: Measure student attitudes, behaviors, and problems with gambling through campus surveys or by incorporating such measures into existing campus health-related surveys.

Recommendation 8: Promote campus-wide awareness of (1) pathological gambling as a mental health disorder that has a high rate of comorbidity with alcohol use and other addictive disorders, and (2) responsible gaming principles.

- A. Disseminate information about disordered gambling behavior on a campus-wide basis.
- B. Use a variety of media, including social media, Web sites, etc. to disseminate information beyond the traditional printed student handbook.
- C. Target particular groups for education about gambling disorders; for example, student athletes or student fans.

Recommendation 9: Employ evidence-based strategies to identify and help students with gambling and alcohol problems.

Recommendation 10: Strengthen the capacity of counseling services to identify and treat gambling disorders.

- A. Assess the ability of current counseling staff to meet the needs of students with gambling problems and provide additional training if necessary.
- B. Encourage referrals to off-campus treatment providers who are certified specialists in the area of addiction treatment.
- C. Specify the availability of services and promote them to students through a wide variety of media.