

Going Online: Sexual Assault and Alcohol Abuse Prevention at Oregon State University



95% Student Completion
Rate of Online Courses



Exceeds Compliance
with Title IX, Clery Act & EDGAR Part 86

Oregon State University faced a challenge that is all too common today: how can we improve the attitudes and behaviors of students around alcohol and sexual assault — while also reaching a large and diverse body of students?

In order to promote a safe and healthy experience for all of its students, the university set out to implement population-level prevention education on alcohol and sexual assault for all incoming students. In partnership with EverFi, Oregon State achieved an extraordinary 95% completion rate of their online education programs, while exceeding compliance with prevention mandates from Title IX, Clery Act (Campus SaVE/VAWA), and the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR part 86). But there were some big questions the institution needed to answer along the way.

Not least among these were the issues of time and space. In-person educational sessions were impractical due to the sheer number and diversity of students at the university, including a large number of online, non-traditional, and international students.

“We have a very diverse, complex population,” says Jill Childress, Assistant Director of Residential Education, **“so we realized that trying to reach them in a classroom setting alone wasn’t going to work. Based on our needs and resources, we knew that an online approach was going to be most effective.”** To achieve the best results, Oregon State set out to create a program that integrated population-level online education with in-person work by campus prevention professionals.

Collaboration Focused on Protecting & Educating Students

Experts from across campus came together to collaborate on the creation of the Oregon State University Prevention Center, a centralized team including representatives from Student Affairs, Student Health Services, University Housing, the Office of Equity and Inclusion, and more. In order to comply with Title IX and the Clery Act, the school would need to provide primary prevention and awareness programs to all incoming students. But from the beginning, the taskforce knew they wanted to go beyond the federal requirements. They needed to reach students before they ever set foot on campus. The question was how.

“We were looking for something that would help us meet all of our compliance requirements,” says Roni Sue, Co-Associate Director of Bias Prevention and Education with the school’s Office of Equity & Inclusion. **“But we also required a program that would drive real positive changes in student attitudes and behaviors.”**

Because of the demonstrated efficacy of EverFi programs across multiple third-party studies, the Prevention Center turned to EverFi as their partner in building the university’s online prevention programs. The Oregon State team knew they needed evidence-based educational approaches, so they adopted two EverFi programs together: AlcoholEdu for College and Haven – Understanding Sexual Assault. By using EverFi programs as the foundation of their strategy, they could be confident that they would meet federal and state compliance mandates and, more importantly, ensure that they reached and impacted students.

For the Oregon State team, it was clear that issues of high-risk alcohol use and sexual assault were linked and essential to address simultaneously. The curricula of AlcoholEdu and Haven reinforce one another, integrating closely to provide students with a comprehensive learning experience, while also promoting a healthy campus community.

The Oregon State and EverFi teams worked in collaboration to implement these programs at the right time and directed

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toward the right students, integrating the online education seamlessly with the Prevention Center’s in-person instruction. **“EverFi’s online courses provide us with an opportunity to address as many educational issues surrounding alcohol and sexual assault as possible,”** says Leslee Mayers, Associate Director of New Student Programs and Family Outreach, **“and then our face-to-face programs can supplement.”**

With this integrated approach, the Prevention Center is able to deliver crucial ongoing prevention messages to the widest possible group of students, exploring likely scenarios they might encounter and giving them the knowledge they need to be safe and successful.

Impacts and Outlooks

The widest possible group of students is wide indeed — today, 95% of incoming Oregon State students have completed their prevention training, all without a hard mandate from the University. Oregon State is able to measure students’ engagement, victimization rates, attitudinal and behavioral changes, and more, through analytics provided by EverFi. But

the benefits of the Prevention Center’s approach are evident in conversations with students as well.

“We’ve heard feedback from students saying, ‘Thank you so much for providing this content to us,’” reports Robert Reff, PhD, Director, Prevention and Health Promotion. **“Students are finding the content relevant, and the courses easy to use and relate to, and I think that’s huge.”**

At Oregon State, students are safer and satisfied — giving them a greater opportunity to succeed. Incidents of alcohol abuse and sexual assault can dramatically disrupt students’ lives, but effective prevention education enables them to remain in school and enjoy every opportunity to succeed. With centralized and widely adopted online courses for prevention education, students are more informed and prepared for their time at the University.

And as new student safety and wellness challenges emerge, Oregon State is ready to identify and respond to them swiftly. Now and in the future, the university is equipped to address compliance, and keep students healthy, safe, and ready to learn.