



## Faculty Options When Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Issues Arise with Their Students

Given national data, it is clear that alcohol and other drug use is likely diminishing the performance of some of your students and will limit their academic and personal potential this semester.

### AODA background brief summary:

Student culture (esp. 18-25 age) off campus is saturated with alcohol or drugs and, whether they use or not, students have to negotiate these issues.

- **Alcohol:** Most (80%+) students drink and a portion (~30%) drink in a pattern that creates consequences.  
\*Of all drugs, alcohol use generates the most harm by far due to widespread prevalence and the impacts of excessive drinking.  
High levels of use create risk for a range of consequences such as:  
Reduced academic and professional performance, blackouts, DUI, injury, sexual and physical assault, legal issues, among others.
- **Marijuana:** the legal landscape is in flux which contributes to increasing use. (~20% 30-day use rate)\*  
Marijuana may have some benefits for some and is often perceived as less troublesome than alcohol, but it is not risk free. Higher use levels can diminish or distort psychosocial development, impact memory, and produce symptoms of dependence.
- **Opiates:** heroin and prescription opiates use rates are far below alcohol and marijuana but are increasing and create high risk for dependence and life-altering consequences. (<3%)\*
- **Prescription ADHD Drugs:** Casual use of drugs like Adderall and Ritalin is also growing in frequency for studying or staying alert while drinking. Students greatly underestimate the risk of such use.

\*<http://core.siu.edu/common/documents/2011%20-%202013.pdf>

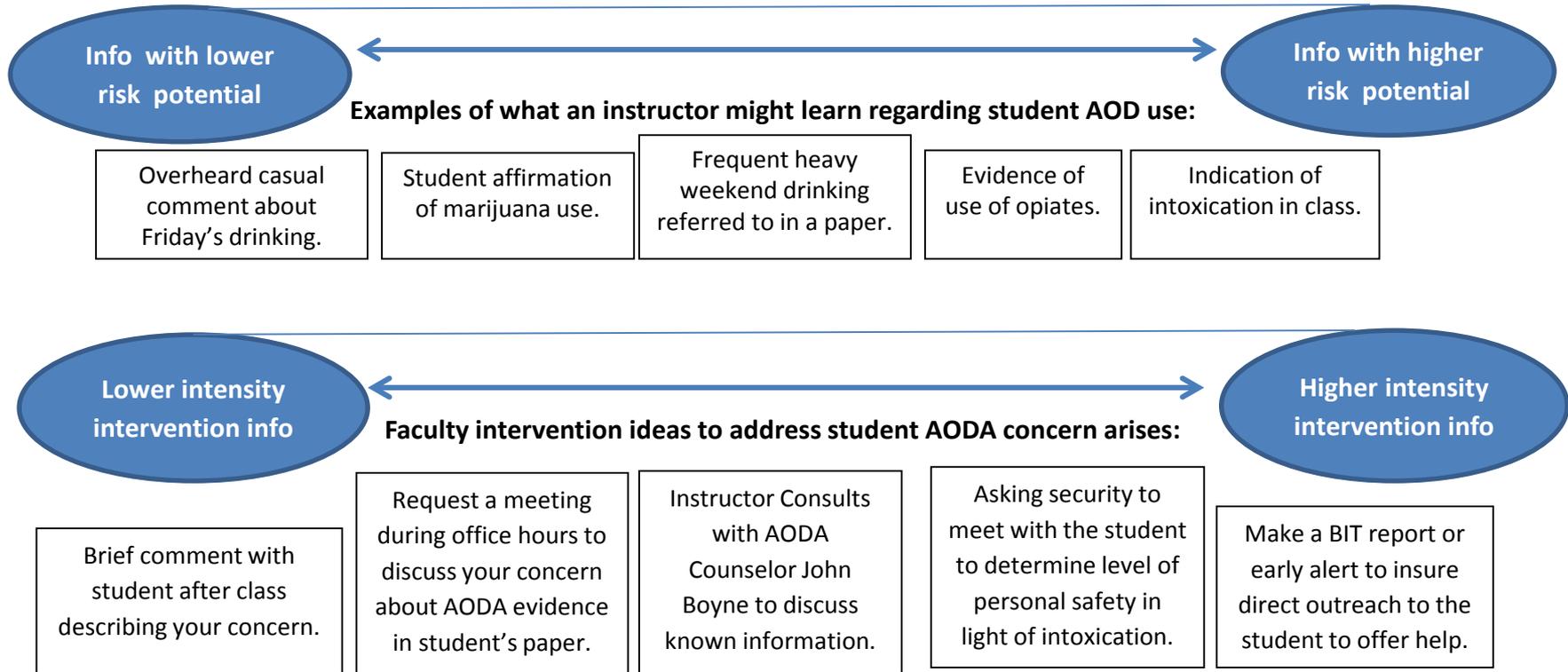
➤ Faculty decide for themselves what the scope their role is in regard to student wellness, generally, and in regard alcohol and drug use among their students, specifically. Some guidelines to consider:

1. Do not underestimate the potential impact that faculty intervention can have in promoting healthy choices.
2. Know that there is a range of options for addressing a known concern about a student's use of alcohol or other drugs (AOD).
3. Consider valuable prevention options to employ even before any AODA issues may arise with one of your students.

➤ Instructors may learn about student substance use in a variety of ways: through written material, casual conversation among students, reports of other students, or direct observation. Indications of use may suggest low or unknown risk level, or may suggest a high risk level in the student from their use.

# What can you do?

The risk potential inherent in what is known about a student's AOD behavior can be aligned with how an instructor might intervene as suggested below.



## Preventative steps instructors can consider for all students before AOD issues may arise:

1. Keep these issues on your radar- odds are that some of your current students are at risk.
2. Invite John Boyne to your class for interactive discussion.
3. Direct students to the electronic Check-up to Go on the Madison College AODA website <http://madisoncollege.edu/aoda>
4. Promote moderation/ Challenge attitudes of excess.
5. Connect AODA issues to your curriculum if possible.
6. Promote healthy ways to manage emotions .

Questions/Comments? Please contact John Boyne AODA Counselor  
616-3418 jboyne@madisoncollege.edu