



STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Preventing Overdose: Education, Tools and Strategies

UWM's strong foundation of evidence-based prevention and education around alcohol and drug misuse has helped the campus respond to the opioid overdose epidemic. From confidential screenings and treatment to policy enforcement and healthy environments, UWM continues to adapt to students' needs. Here is a brief summary of strategies UWM has developed to keep the campus community safe and healthy:

- First-year and transfer students younger than 21 take a mandatory 90-minute online alcohol and other drug education program before the start of classes. Beginning in August 2022, students will see updated content on polysubstance use and how to recognize and respond to an overdose. In addition, students will need to acknowledge they've read UWM's 'assistance' policy, which offers some amnesty for students who call for help.
- UWM has increased communication to students about opioids, counterfeit and laced drugs, overdose, harm reduction strategies, resources for help, and the university's assistance policy.
- UWM has partnered with Wisconsin Voices for Recovery to provide free access to naloxone/Narcan (a safe medication that can reverse an opioid overdose) to members of the community. Nalox-ZONE boxes have been installed across UWM campuses. Training on how to administer Narcan will be offered to students, faculty and staff.
- UWM's 'Save a Life' magnet, which details how to recognize and respond to overdose, includes a new step on giving Narcan and a reminder about UWM's assistance policy. The magnet is available to students at residence hall lobbies, new student orientations, Fall Welcome events and alcohol and drug misuse prevention programming.
- Our bystander intervention training for students on how to recognize and respond to an alcohol or other drug overdose, 'You Can Help! Stop Overdose,' has been updated with additional information on why, when and how to give Narcan. Visit the [You Can Help! Stop Overdose web page](#) to request training for your student group.
- Introduced in 2022, the new educational program 'Spring Break Pre-Games' features an interactive, competitive format to learn about the risks of fentanyl, polysubstance use, counterfeit and laced drugs, Narcan, mixing alcohol and other drugs, and recognizing and responding to an overdose.
- The Student Health and Wellness Center has teamed up with UWM Police's "Coffee with a Cop" program to increase awareness of fentanyl, counterfeit pills and overdose prevention.

- As part of its intervention program, the Student Health and Wellness Center routinely recommends that students who are at higher risk for opioid-related overdose carry Narcan.
- [Panther Academic Welcome](#) includes a module on the relationship between alcohol and drug use and academic performance. The module was enhanced for the 2022-23 academic year with information on the misuse of prescription drugs.
- At the start of the 2022-23 academic year, over 1,500 new residential students participated in 'Real Talk: How to Thrive in Your Community,' which includes a skills-building session on how to recognize and respond to an overdose. This is part of a large-scale pilot program to help students in residence halls contribute to and thrive in their campus community.
- Beginning in September 2022, UWM is hosting faculty and students from the Medical College of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy at monthly booths on campus where they will talk with UWM students about fentanyl, prescription drug safety, counterfeit and laced drugs, and harm reduction strategies.

For more information about UWM's alcohol and other drug misuse prevention programs and services for students, please visit the [Student Health and Wellness Center website](#).

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