



SOUTHERN ARKANSAS UNIVERSTIY TECH
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Action Plan: Preventing Unplanned Pregnancies

1. Provide unplanned pregnancy prevention education

During the 2021-2022 academic year, Southern Arkansas University Tech provided unplanned pregnancy prevention education through Student Success courses offered online and in the classroom. Student Success 1, 2, and 3 are required course for all students at SAU Tech; exceptions include Welding Academy, Nursing, Aviation Maintenance, and Cosmetology programs. In Student Success, instructors utilize www.powertodecide.org, www.bedsider.org, www.beforeplay.org, and www.thenationalcampaign.org as tools to assist in teaching about unplanned pregnancy. Online students complete an online training series found at <https://thenationalcampaign.org/resource/online-lessons>. Visual aids and handouts are given to students from the Ouachita County Health Department and other reputable sources. A representative for Ouachita County Health Department came and spoke to all on campus Student Success I classes during the Fall and Spring 2021-2022 semesters. Students enrolled in the academic programs that do not require Student Success 1 & 2 were presented educational information about unplanned pregnancies during seminars held throughout the school year. Videos and relevant handouts are also utilized during these sessions.

The 2021 and 2022 SOAR summer events (Student Orientation and Registration) included an informational booth and handouts targeted at drug and alcohol usage, preventing unplanned pregnancies, and other state and federally regulated information that is required to communicate with students. All first time entering students are strongly encouraged to attend SOAR.

The offices of Enrollment Services and Student Success also provide counseling services to students and refer students to outside resources as needed. Information regarding these services is found in the SAU Tech student handbook.

2. Provide Educational programming to the student population

In August 2016, SAU Tech formed a Programming Committee whose task was to coordinate education and programming needs of the campus community to ensure that all students are provided federal and state mandated information in multiple formats. The Programming Committee consists of faculty, advisors, retention specialist, residential housing, student life, financial aid, and human resources. The goal of the group is to plan programming and provide resources throughout the year to current students at the

personal level, through advising and faculty assignments, and through programming that reaches the entire student body.

SAU Tech's Programming Committee hosted a Health and Wellness Fair in October 2021 that included participants and collaboration from the Community. (see attachment of participants) Several of the booth participants provided information and resources toward preventing unplanned pregnancies.

A wide range of programming for the residential housing population addresses topics and activities geared toward assisting this group of students with options for healthy and safe choices. These activities include information about preventing unplanned pregnancies, drug and alcohol abuse, and living safely. Posters and brochures related to preventing unplanned pregnancies are placed annually on the campus of Southern Arkansas University Tech in areas that students frequent to be viewed and taken as needed.

In spring 2021, the Programming Committee discussed at length the issue of unplanned pregnancies on campus and how to prevent them. We identified the need to make contraceptives, particularly condoms, accessible to students living in campus housing. Dispensers were purchased in spring 2020. They were placed in the housing dayroom and other select identified locations throughout campus for use by students. The Ouachita County Health Department provided free condoms to be placed in the dispensers.

In April 2022, the Programming Committee along with the Student Life offices hosted Spring Fling for SAU Tech students. Part of the event focused on making safe choices. Particular focus was on taking precautions at parties when alcohol and drugs are involved, as those activities impair one's ability to make wise sexual choices.

3. Identify other topics or issues relating to the prevention and reduction of unplanned pregnancies among older teens

Numerous issues relate to the prevention of unplanned pregnancy among our student population. SAU Tech educates students about drug and alcohol use as it relates to decision making, prevention of sexually transmitted infections and diseases, campus and personal safety, and prevention of sexual assault. Students are encouraged in multiple formats to consider the impact of an unplanned pregnancy on academic and career plans, relationships with others, finances, and overall health. Discussions that provide information on sexually transmitted infections and diseases go hand in hand with discussions about unplanned pregnancy. Access to contraception is explained to students with contact information for resources provided.

4. Collaborate with the Department of Health or Federally Qualified Health Centers

The Health and Wellness Fair held in the fall semester utilizes local resources to provide resources to the students. (Reference Health Fair attendee list). Enrollment Services (advisors and LPC) also provide information about local resources to

students on the campus as needed. In Student Success, the Ouachita County Health Dept presents information to students about STI/STD and contraception. SAU Tech also has an agreement with the CABUN Clinic in Hampton to provide affordable health care for students, including family planning.

5. Develop plans to address child care, transportation, financial aid

The Offices of Career Pathways is located on the SAU Tech campus and provides transportation assistance, book assistance and financial aid assistance to single and married parents that qualify for these services. Student Services offices direct those that self-identify to the Career Pathways offices for assistance.

Health related absences from class, that includes pregnancies is addressed in the SAU Tech student handbook.

SAU Tech established a new institutional strategic plan in the 2019-2020 academic year. In the process of gathering feedback to incorporate in the plan, the issue of childcare was raised. In spring 2020, the campus partnered with the South Central Service Cooperative to start a preschool on the SAU Tech campus. The preschool is housed on the campus and it is ran by SCSC. This service was made available to SAU Tech students in the Fall 2020 school term.

6. Offer opportunities for current college students to reach out to younger teens to serve as mentors.

In the Fall of 2019, the action plan for Southern Arkansas University Tech was to utilize students in the Honors Program, Student Organizations and those involved in the Student Leadership program to begin to work with the local school systems in providing community services to their students. These services will include role modeling of successful lifestyles and discussion groups using factual data as to the effects that unplanned pregnancies and other related topics can have on the future of young adults preparing to enter higher education. Future plans will involve athletes and cheer members(along with above listed student groups) to address and model to age appropriate groups regarding life choices when it comes to unplanned pregnancies and the implications that a pregnancy can have on extracurricular opportunities.

7. Seek private or federal grants

At this time Southern Arkansas University Tech has not pursued private or federal grants geared specifically toward unplanned pregnancies. However, a food bank grant is in place to assist those that have financial need. This will assist single parents, pregnant students, and students who are economically disadvantaged.

8. Integrate medically accurate (as determined by the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists) course content regarding the prevention of unplanned pregnancy, including abstinence education, into academic courses.

Currently the Student Success 1 & 2 courses contain the majority of the educational information regarding preventing unplanned pregnancies in an academic course. The resources listed in section 1 are used and are fact based. Some Faculty (primarily English courses) at SAU Tech did include writing assignments that related to effects from unplanned pregnancies in their courses during the 2018-19, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years. Part of the future growth plan for this initiative is to expand on the opportunities for faculty in appropriate subject areas to include preventing unplanned pregnancies in their course content.

9. Identify a method to measure effectiveness of unplanned pregnancy activities and programming.

Material covered within Student Success Surveys will be added to the 2021-2022 action plan activities to measure effectiveness of the programming presentations that involve unplanned pregnancies. Plans are also in place to add questions to the graduating students exit survey as to if the graduates found programming to be useful and effective in their decision making processes.

Future action plans include:

Increasing communications with accurate data, facts, and figures regarding statistical information about pregnancy to SAU Tech students utilizing student emails and the SAU Tech website. This will provide information to students not enrolled in Student Success I in yet another format.

2021 Health and Wellness Fair Booths - October 2021

Ouachita County Health Unit- family planning and communicable diseases

Ouachita County Health Unit Breast Care, Hypertension, and Diabetes

Kindred At Home Hospice- resource for hospice care

Ouachita County Medical Center Trauma/Stroke Care- ER connect to ARSAVES Program (Specialized training in stroke patients)

Hannah Pregnancy Resource Center- assistance of unexpected pregnancies

Cabun Clinic Hampton, Arkansas- provided flu shots, information about STDs, unplanned pregnancy, and mental health

Christian Health Center/The Hub/H.O.P.E Health Commission – CHC primary physical, mental, and spiritual to the underinsured. The Hub – Point or resources for those needing resources. H.O.P.E – the hope of a bright future and healthy community

Baptist Collegiate Ministry

SAU Tech Nursing Students- Blood pressure and healthy choices

Women's Crisis Center of South Arkansas—Information about domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and response

SAU Tech Counseling Service- Resource for all services provided by SAU Tech counseling centers

SAU Tech Title IX- Student rights and awareness

Anytime Fitness—overall fitness and health

SAU Tech Campus Police—fatal vision goggles emphasizing prevention of impaired driving