

NASPA

RESOURCES FOR THE 2024 TOP ISSUES IN STUDENT AFFAIRS



NASPA[®]

Student Affairs
Administrators in
Higher Education

NASPA Resources for 2024 Top Issues in Student Affairs

NASPA offers a curated set of tools and resources designed to support institutional efforts in responding to many of the issues identified in the 2024 NASPA Top Issues in Student Affairs survey.

The survey highlighted priorities to institutions in 2024, particularly in the Health, Safety, & Well-Being area, related to addressing the growing student demand for mental health services, recruiting and retaining quality mental health professionals, and promoting equitable access to these services. NASPA initiatives like the [Certified Peer Education Training](#) and [Peer Education Advisor Academy](#) are pivotal in enhancing campus-wide well-being efforts. Addressing Administrative & Governance issues, such as compliance with state and federal regulations and fostering cross-functional alignment, is also critical. NASPA's [Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Division](#) offer frameworks and

timely resources to support institutions in navigating these complexities, especially for members in regions impacted by anti-DEI legislation. And in the area of Assessment & Evaluation, utilizing student feedback and data analysis emerged as an important issue for improving support services and centering students in decisions. NASPA's Online Learning Community offers several virtual courses to build assessment capacity across campuses, and the [Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Knowledge Community](#) provides the space needed to learn from peers and foster a culture of continuous improvement.

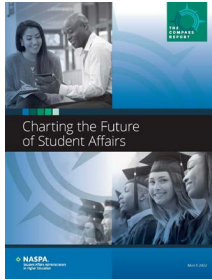
While by no means an exhaustive list of relevant resources available in the field, the resources highlighted below serve as a snapshot of offerings that can support efforts in meeting ever-evolving student needs and fostering a responsive campus environment.

Top 10 Issues in Student Affairs in 2024

Rank	Key Area	Specific Issue
1	Health, Safety & Well-Being	Providing students with health, safety, and well-being related education and training
2	Health, Safety & Well-Being	Increasing awareness of and access to mental health services for students
3	Health, Safety & Well-Being	Increasing campus-wide collaboration and approach to health, safety and well-being
4	Health, Safety & Well-Being	Addressing growing student demand for campus counseling and limited provider capacities
5	Health, Safety & Well-Being	Recruiting and retaining high-quality mental health professionals on campus
6a	Administration & Governance	Addressing compliance with state and federal regulations
6b	Administration & Governance	Establishing greater collaboration, cross-functional alignment and communication
6c	Health, Safety & Well-Being	Identifying strategies for specifically addressing the needs of traditionally underserved and historically marginalized populations
7	Health, Safety & Well-Being	Promoting equitable access and inclusion in mental health service delivery across the prevention and intervention spectrum
8a	Assessment & Evaluation	Using direct feedback from students to improve student supports
8b	Administration & Governance	Addressing funding challenges
8c	Administration & Governance	Hiring and retaining staff and faculty
9	Assessment & Evaluation	Determining the impact of specific programs or services through data analysis
10a	Administration & Governance	Re-imagining student affairs positions and organizational structures to address evolving needs of the profession
10b	Assessment & Evaluation	Using communication tools such as dashboards to help professionals make data-informed decisions

For a complete list of the 50 issues, including their overall rankings and a breakdown of respondents' institutional types and sizes, learn more here: www.naspa.org/report/2024-naspa-top-issues-in-student-affairs

[The Compass Report: Charting the Future of Student Affairs](#)



In 2020 NASPA initiated a yearlong project to identify issues and trends that could influence student affairs professionals and respective functions in the years ahead. The project was guided by a national task force of leaders in student affairs and NASPA staff, who regularly convened to discuss emerging topics. The task force conducted 18 focus groups with a total of 97 student affairs faculty, graduate students, and administrators across all position levels, as well as a national survey of professionals who hold student affairs positions at colleges and universities of all sectors and sizes within the United States. Findings from the Future of Student Affairs Task Force's discussions and extensive data collection efforts revealed four areas as most critical to the future of student affairs within the next 5 years: 1) Student Needs and Expectations, 2) Social Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, 3) Professional Preparation and Development, and 5) Workforce Satisfaction and Retention.

Issue Tags: #6b, #8c, and #10a

[Countering Political Attacks on DEI: Resources for Student Affairs Professionals](#)

Recent state-level legislation and judicial decisions questioning the very foundation of higher education to prepare diverse graduates to lead inclusively for a complex and globally-connected world has us at NASPA feeling, at times, disheartened and also recommitted to our collective purpose to fulfill the purpose of higher education. NASPA has created this web page to share resources and strategies, track legislation, solicit input, and provide opportunities to gather and learn. This page will be updated regularly, and we welcome feedback about what our members would find helpful to share.

Issue Tags: #6a

[NASPA Online Learning Community - Resources for Safeguarding Staff and Campus Initiatives in the Wake of Anti-DEI Legislation](#)

Staff, faculty, and students in states with proposed or enacted legislation are experiencing tremendous uncertainty and strain. We are aware that the impacts of hostile legislative climates are having an immediate effect on the lives and livelihoods of student affairs staff and faculty. In the face of conditions of scarcity and threat, we believe in the importance of community, dignity, and connection to purpose to counter those conditions.

Based on input from staff, organizational partners, and members, NASPA has curated this resource hub for individuals and institutions. This resource hub contains links to websites, webinars, short courses, blogs, etc. for professionals needing financial resources for NASPA membership and professional development, job search assistance, as well as, resources aimed at nurturing individual and institutional well-being during times of transition. In the hub, you will also find information about upcoming events and programs and information to keep you informed on the latest legislative policy updates as they relate to DEI in higher education.

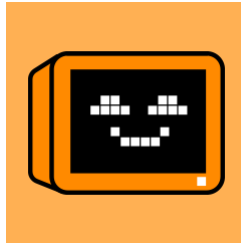
Resource Hub Modules

- Policy Updates (pdf version of the monthly update and links to our policy tracker)
- Job Support Resources
- Membership Resources for Professionals and Faculty in Transition
- Resources for Individual and Institutional Well-being
- Discussion Board to Connect with Others (must be logged in)

Issue Tags: #6a, #8c

TimetoUngrind

Time to Ungrind is a social norms campaign that seeks to change the way in which students, faculty, and staff think about education, work, and success. Encouraging students to “ungrind” and focus on self care, Time to Ungrind contributes to students' improved overall mental health, well-being and success.



Leveraging evidence-based prevention, Time to Ungrind disrupts harmful cycles of grind culture and establishes a new paradigm—one that values personal and communal well-being alongside individual achievement and institutional reputation. This strategy leads to a downstream impact to ultimately mitigate the risks associated with substance misuse and promote a more balanced and sustainable lifestyle.

Issue Tags: #1, #2, #3 and #6c

Certified Peer Education (CPE) Training

CPE training is an effective strategy for building a well-educated and sustainable peer education group. CPE Training helps peer educators develop leadership skills to be able to successfully create and implement campus programs. The training includes eight modules, covering the role of peer education, helping peers make a behavior change, listening skills, response and referral skills, how to take action and intervene, recognizing the role of diversity and inclusivity, programming and presentation skills, self-care, and group dynamics. To get in touch, fill out the [CPE Help Desk form](#) or e-mail cpe@naspa.org.



CPE will be adding additional Modules this fiscal year. Campuses will be able to pick and choose add ons if interested. They include the topics of mental health, prescription drug misuse prevention, cannabis, and assessment and program evaluation.

Issue Tags: #1

360 Proof

360 Proof is a comprehensive evidence-based program that was created to help universities reduce the consequences of high-risk alcohol use and enhance collaboration between campus prevention teams, students, and their support systems. Built on solid research data and real-world results, 360 Proof combines effective tools, strategies, and ongoing expert guidance to help students make better decisions about their alcohol use.



Three-Pronged Comprehensive Approach

- **Campus self study** - Review and enhance your prevention strategies using the campus self-study tool. This process will help you assess specific alcohol issues, behavioral trends, successes, and gaps of your current prevention efforts in your specific campus context.
- **The PFI Approach Works** - A candid and confidential online tool designed for students, studies show the [personalized feedback index](#) can have a significant effect on students' alcohol use. This includes a reduction in total number of drinks consumed per week, frequency of alcohol use per month, and frequency of drinking after one year. Test it out yourself.
- **NIAAA Recommended Strategies** - The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) has been instrumental in compiling research on college alcohol prevention, targeting both individual students and campus environments. Utilizing [CollegeAIM](#), campuses work to align strategies to reduce high-risk drinking.

Issue Tags: #1, #2, #3, and #6c

Peer Education Initiatives



Peer Education Initiatives' provides training and support to both professional staff and student peer educators who contribute to an environment where peer-led programs, events and workshops can be a catalyst to elevate holistic well-being.

Issue Tags: #2

NASPA Strategies Conferences



The NASPA Strategies Conferences provide student affairs practitioners with the knowledge and skills to effectively address collegiate alcohol and drug misuse prevention, mental health, sexual violence prevention and response, peer education and well-being through a variety of comprehensive and integrative approaches. The convergence of the five NASPA conferences allows campus practitioners a unique opportunity to learn, network and engage.

Issue Tags: #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6c, and #7

Trends in Mental Health State Legislation 2023-2024

Navigating services related to mental health has become a common part of the college experience for students. Addressing mental health concerns is recognized as a critical component of student well-being and success and an increasing priority for state legislatures. The 2023 state legislative landscape offers insights into state-level strategies for how institutions and professionals might work toward proactive solutions to address the growing crisis.



Issue Tags: #2

32 National Campus Safety Initiative



32 National Campus Safety Initiative™ (32 NCSI™) is a landmark program offered through a partnership between NASPA and the VTV Family Outreach Foundation that empowers college and university campus communities to make more informed decisions about campus safety. Developed by a team of leading experts, 32 NCSI is a robust self-assessment tool that colleges and universities can use to conduct an objective analysis of a full range of institutional safety and security facilities, policies, and procedures. The online self-assessment program that looks at key areas of campus safety in one review. 32 NCSI is solutions-focused and assists institutions with implementing and reinforcing holistic procedures to strengthen campus safety.

Using 32 NCSI, colleges and universities can better assess themselves across nine critical areas:

- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Campus Public Safety
- Emergency Management
- Hazing
- Mental Health
- Missing Students
- Physical Security
- Sexual Violence
- Threat Assessment

Issue Tags: #3

Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Knowledge Community

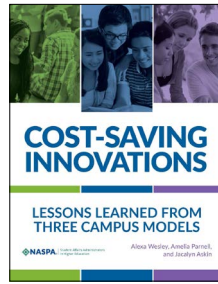
The NASPA Assessment, Evaluation, and Research (AER) Knowledge Community encourages and supports student affairs professionals as they assess learning, evaluate programs, and conduct research. By providing quality education and networking opportunities, the Knowledge Community promotes continuous improvement and AER best practices within Student Affairs.

Issue Tags: #8a, #9, #10b

[Cost-Saving Innovations: Lessons Learned from Three Campus Models](#)

Higher education is deploying a range of innovative strategies in response to rising costs and financial challenges. This report presents findings from a NASPA study on cost-saving initiatives at three institutions. Each institution aimed to creatively address different areas affecting student affordability, including the delivery of distance education, pedagogy, and support services. Insights into key decisions and business models are discussed. The programs examined have promising implications for the future of cost savings and innovation in higher education.

Issue Tags: #8b



[Five Things Student Affairs Administrators Should Know About Student Voice Initiatives](#)

Colleges and universities must consider a variety of contexts and conditions in which they can engage with students and center their perspectives in decision-making. This brief draws on national research and existing resources about student voice to outline five things student affairs professionals should consider about involving students in the design and delivery of campus policies, practices, and processes.

Issue Tags: #8a



[NASPA Online Learning Community - Health, Safety, and Well-being Offerings](#)

[Certified Peer Educator \(CPE\) Train-the-Trainer Course](#)

The CPE Train-the-Trainer course prepares Professional Staff to facilitate NASPA's Certified Peer Educator (CPE) Training Program on their campus with their students. This course certifies you to teach the CPE curriculum and certify your students as Certified Peer Educators.

Issue Tags: #1

[Peer Education Advisor Academy](#)

Advisors Academy: This self-paced course is designed to be an introduction to the various roles and competencies of an effective peer education advisor. The content for this course was developed by campus peer education advisors who serve as volunteer faculty with NASPA.

Issue Tags: #1

[Designing Campuses for Mental Health and Well-being Short Course](#)

This essential short course explores the crucial intersection of campus design and mental health in higher education. As we navigate an academic landscape marked by increasing mental health challenges, it's clear that depression and other mental health concerns, compounded by academic stress, lead to negative outcomes, including higher dropout rates. This course highlights the vital role of administrators and student affairs staff in fostering a culture of wellness and understanding on their college or university campuses. Through comprehensive insights from experts, we'll explore various mental health models, assess campus-specific needs, and develop actionable, sustainable strategies to enhance campus-wide mental health. Join us on this transformative journey to better support your students and colleagues, and to create a thriving, supportive academic environment.

Issue Tags: #3

Building a Shared Commitment to Well-being Short Course - *Coming Soon*

This course explores the concept of well-being in higher education, focusing on the design and implementation of health promotion programs. Participants will analyze the Okanagan Charter, apply health promotion models, and understand the roles of key campus partners in fostering a culture of well-being. The course also introduces the Collective Impact framework as a collaborative approach to addressing complex social issues on campus. Participants will learn to assess program effectiveness using appropriate metrics and data to inform decision-making, ultimately preparing them to enhance health promotion efforts in academic settings.

Issue Tags: #6c

Drug Free Schools and Community Act - *Coming Soon*

Compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) is of paramount importance for institutions of higher education (IHEs). It serves as the foundation for creating a healthy and safe environment within the academic community. By adhering to the regulations, IHEs demonstrate their commitment to the well-being of their students and staff, fostering an atmosphere conducive to academic success and personal growth. Compliance not only ensures the physical safety of individuals but also promotes a culture of responsible decision-making surrounding alcohol and other drugs.

Issue Tags: #6a

Motivational Interviewing Screening Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment - *Coming Soon*

Screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) using motivational interviewing for alcohol use has been shown to reduce alcohol consumption, provide cost-effective treatment, and improve general and mental health. Failure to address risky, problem, or dependent alcohol use can result in deleterious health effects as well as increased health care costs.

Issue Tags: #7



Foundational Steps to Building Assessment and Capacity in Student Affairs

Where do you begin to develop a structure of assessment within a division that has operated without one? This webinar will focus on taking attendees through the foundational year of building structure and staff capacity for assessment at a community college's division of student affairs. Included are steps to teach learning outcome development in the co-curricula. There will be visuals on assessment plans, tools used to teach assessment and data literacy through an equity lens.

Issue Tags: #9

Building a Student Affairs Data Lake: Data Integration for Inquiry, Improvement, and Impact

Traditionally, student affairs has data dispersed across the division, which limits the use of data to inquiry about programs and services, inform improvement efforts and decision-making, and share impact stories. Come learn how your department or division can approach building a data lake to create real-time data visualizations that support inquiry, improvement, and impact.

Issue Tags: #9, #10b

Creating Sustainable Careers in Student Affairs: Leading with Care & Intention

In the post-pandemic era, leaders in student affairs and across higher education have been challenged to recruit and retain professional staff while maintaining our efforts to support student success. This webinar will offer participants the opportunity to hear about how division leadership worked intentionally to change the culture in their division by offering opportunities for staff to engage in critical dialogue that is resulting in improved staff morale, greater trust and tangible change.

Issue Tags: #8c

Talent Management and Leadership Bundle

Based on the Student Affairs Educator Certification Domains Talent Management and Leadership, this bundle offers high-quality professional development with the convenience of on-demand.

Issue Tags: #8c

Culture of Respect We build the capacity of educational institutions to end sexual violence through ongoing, expansive organizational change.

Culture of Respect

Ending Campus Sexual Violence

A NASPA Initiative

- **COLLECTIVE:** This ambitious two-year program brings together institutions of higher education who are dedicated to ending campus sexual violence and guides them through a rigorous process of self-assessment and targeted organizational change. Each diverse cohort relies on an expert-developed public health framework, cross campus collaboration, and peer-led learning to make meaningful programmatic and policy changes. Participating institutions receive strategic support and technical assistance throughout the process, as well as detailed documentation of campus-initiated changes that support survivors, prevent sexual violence, and communicate that violence is unacceptable.
- **FOUNDATIONS:** Foundations is an online course that prepares current and future student affairs professionals with the tools they need to be influential allies in campus sexual violence prevention and response. The six-module course is taught by NASPA staff with expertise in social work, student affairs, public health, peer education, assessment, and violence prevention. This course is a great follow-up to the introductory Title IX/Clery Act training provided by your institution.
- **CORE Blueprint and CORE Evaluation:** The CORE Blueprint is a reference guide of evidence-based and expert-recommended practices in campus sexual violence prevention and response. Compiled by experts from our multidisciplinary Advisory Board, the CORE Blueprint is organized around six key areas – the six pillars – that are essential to an effective institutional strategy for ending sexual violence. All Culture of Respect programs and tools are grounded in this six-pillar framework. The CORE Evaluation is a comprehensive self-assessment survey that allows institutions of higher education to inventory their efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence. The questions are organized around the six pillars of the CORE Blueprint, prompting institutional leaders to look at policies, programs, and procedures in each area.
 - **CORE EVALUATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE**
 - The CORE Evaluation Technical assistance package provides institutions with ad hoc assistance as they complete the CORE Evaluation.
 - Institutions receive one hour of consultation prior to the administration of the CORE Evaluation; facilitation of the most updated CORE Evaluation; a copy of the institution's raw responses along with a scoring breakdown; a customized institutional report identifying strengths and opportunities for growth; two hours of technical assistance following the administration of the CORE Evaluation; one copy of the Culture of Respect CORE Blueprint 3rd edition; and a \$100 discount off of individual Culture of Respect Foundations course.
- **CORE Constructs Toolkit:** The CORE Constructs Toolkit is a suite of six guides that provide in-depth guidance on how to prevent and respond to campus sexual violence. They include resources, tools, and templates that can be adapted to meet specific institutional needs, and shared with staff and stakeholders across your campus. The CORE Constructs Toolkit is available for purchase from NASPA. It is also an included benefit for all Collective institutions.
- **PREVENTION PROGRAMING MATRIX:** There are many ways to deliver this education to students, including online courses, in-person workshops, or large-group presentations. This free tool from Culture of Respect is a curated list of theory-driven and evidence-based sexual violence prevention programs available in the field. Culture of Respect does not endorse or support any one program; rather, we provide this clearinghouse to help institutions identify those programs that best meet their needs.

Issue Tags: #1 and #3



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