What is Curriculum Infusion (CI)?

Curriculum Infusion (CI) is an Environmental Prevention Strategy focused on changing aspects of the environment that contribute to the use of alcohol and other drugs. Curriculum Infusion allows campus-wide prevention programming. It is a process for integrating substance abuse prevention content into courses that are regularly offered across the curriculum. This information session will discuss where and how it is used on college campuses across the nation.

Faculty members have substantial potential for impacting student attitudes and behavior, including attitudes and behavior toward alcohol and other drugs. In the classroom, students are more focused and attentive, are less subject to peer influence, and have opportunities for discussion, research, writing, and other assignments related to substance abuse.

Faculty designed prevention content may comprise a two or three week unit of a course, or the substance abuse prevention content may wind thematically through a course.

Prevention content can be readily integrated into courses across the curriculum. Some examples:

- Curriculum added to a course in business and management may address ways in which alcohol and drug abuse by employees and managers negatively affects workers and greatly increases business costs.
- A course in teacher education may ask students to study the effects of alcohol and drugs on the communities where they will teach and to design drug prevention curriculum for classes they will be student teaching.
- A course on the media may address the ways advertising by the alcohol industry targets college students to create brand loyalty.
- A course in biology may consider fetal alcohol syndrome and other biological effects of alcohol and drug abuse.
- A course in gender studies may address the relationship between heavy drinking and sexual assault.

Curriculum Infusion program at Fairfield University (since Spring 2012)

*Be SMART (Students Managing Alcohol Responsibly Together), funded through a grant from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, uses prevention education, evidence-based interventions, and a media campaign to curb underage drinking at the University. Our aim is to facilitate and help students learn how to make healthier choices by enhancing decision-making skills.

http://www.fairfield.edu/lifeatfairfield/healthsafety/counselingpsychologicalservices/stanceabuse/