

The UE and OTC Collaboration: FAQs for Members

Who is OTC?

Outside The Classroom, or OTC, is a Boston-based company. Since the group's founding in 2000, OTC has created resources aimed at reducing a number of public health issues in the educational environment, focusing most specifically on high-risk alcohol consumption. OTC has an outstanding reputation as a national leader in this field.

What is AlcoholEDU?

OTC's flagship program is AlcoholEDU, an online education program currently used on approximately 450 college and high school campuses across the country.

The program is typically taken anonymously by entering freshman at a college or university; the results are collected by OTC and provided to the institution. AlcoholEdu is also implemented at the high school level. The data provided enables schools to better understand student drinking patterns, track how these patterns change from year to year, and more effectively focus other educational and prevention efforts.

What is the basis for United Educators' (UE) concern about alcohol abuse in schools, colleges, and universities?

Based on our myriad conversations with campus risk managers and administrators, UE knows that high-risk alcohol use and abuse is a top concern of our member institutions. A study of UE's student claims submitted between 2004 and 2008 revealed that the average cost associated with a claim involving alcohol was 25% higher than the cost of a claim that did not. The injuries sustained by students were serious—half of the claims involved an assault (mostly sexual assaults) and more than 80% of the dollars were spent on claims involving medical and mental health issues and slips and falls, typically from a window, balcony, or rooftop.

This data, along with the human tragedy involved with these student claims, compelled UE to bring alcohol prevention programming to our members.

Why are UE and OTC working together?

UE has long followed the work of Outside The Classroom, a company committed to strengthening the field of alcohol prevention and helping institutions develop well-informed, cost-effective strategies for reducing alcohol-related risk and preventing harm. OTC is a market leader in online alcohol education and a thought leader in comprehensive alcohol prevention programming.

Understanding the impact of alcohol on education, UE is committed to focusing our membership on effective prevention strategies aimed at reducing the alcohol risk. So a collaboration was formed—OTC had the know-how about and UE had the ability to focus educational institutions on programs targeting high-risk drinking behaviors.

How are UE and OTC collaborating?

UE and OTC have worked together since 2007, presenting at conferences and sharing resources. In addition, UE members who used AlcoholEDU received a 10% discount on the cost of the program. Starting in the Fall of 2009, however, we will be collaborating even more closely.

Specifically, UE members will receive a 15% discount off the cost of the AlcoholEDU for either K12 schools or higher education. Also, an institution's implementation of AlcoholEdu is now a qualifying activity for UE's Risk Management Premium Credit. OTC has provided significant training to UE risk management staff on alcohol prevention programming and effective strategies for reducing the alcohol risk so we are better prepared to assist our members who need assistance in developing such a program. And in the future, we plan to work together to produce additional written risk management resources.

Does UE derive any financial benefit from its relationship with OTC?

No. UE has no financial stake or investment in OTC. We are concerned about alcohol abuse in educational settings and believe that OTC has much it can offer our membership to address this risk. UE and OTC are independent organizations and UE does not receive any compensation if a member decides to partner with OTC. Additionally, OTC receives no financial incentive from UE to provide resources to UE members.

If I have questions about the UE-OTC collaboration, who could I contact?

John Schwartz, Senior Risk Management Consultant, is UE's liaison with OTC. Please contact him if you have questions.