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means to expel collegians convicted of drug offenses.

Already, campus aid officials are supposed to report students convicted of drug crimes to the Department of Education, which is then to take the money away.

Legally, the student also may be prosecuted for fraudulently signing the pledge not to use drugs, fined \$10,000 and sent to jail for five years.

"Financial aid is losing its purpose, which is to provide higher education," said Jose Huizar of the California-Berkeley's student government. In late September 1989, about 50 students and nonstudents gathered on the UC-Berkeley campus for a "smoke-in" to protest the oath.

Few students seem to equate such oaths and threats with a serious anti-drug program.

"I don't think it's going to have a bearing on anyone," said Julianne Marley, head of USSA. "It's a cop-out, a nice way to think, 'Oh, we're doing something for the War on Drugs.'"

Even the nation's top drug warriors agree. "I'm sure (drug czar William Bennett) will concede it's not a great deterrent," said Bennett aide David Robb. "If people are going to sign something and not comply, that's up to them."

But Robb also maintained that, when it comes to combating illegal drugs, "all too often, universities are looking the other way."

Winning the war

Bennett and Bush, who on Jan. 25 proposed putting another \$1.1 billion in the effort, both believe the Drug War is successful.

"The momentum is shifting," Bennett said. "The scourge is beginning to end."

Recent studies suggest that the "scourge" has been diminishing for several years. Researchers at the University of Michigan, who annually report on drug use among high school seniors, found that the number of college students using illicit drugs has been declining.

In 1986, 40.9 percent of collegians said they'd used marijuana during the prior year. In 1988, the figure was down to 34.6 percent.

For cocaine, 17.1 percent said in 1986 they'd used it in the past year. In 1988, 10 percent reported cocaine use in the last year.

Crack use among college students is relatively rare. In 1986, 1.3 percent said they'd tried the addictive drug in the previous 12 months. In 1988, 1.4 percent had used it in the year before, researchers found.

When he was secretary of education two years ago, Bennett said he was shocked to hear campus officials complain about enforcing anti-drug use policies, Robb said.

"Universities were redressing past economic wrongs and ridding society of moral wrongs, yet when it came to getting tough on drug use they were sort of wishy-washy,"

Robb said.

"We're starting to see the beginning of the end to that kind of thinking," Robb said. "Universities are starting to see that drugs are not consistent with a healthy mind."

Yet Bennett, a frequent critic of the way colleges and universities are run, still had harsh words for higher education during a Dec. 11 speech at Harvard, where he accused schol-

ars, notably Princeton University researcher Ethan Nadelmann, of undermining his efforts by suggesting the best way to win the war is to legalize drugs.

"In the great public policy debate over drugs, the academic and intellectual communities have, by and large, had little to contribute, and little of that has been genuinely useful — or for that matter, mentally distin-

guished," Bennett said.

Academic officials reply that Bennett's plan simply can't work because it requires that unlikely people — educators and aid administrators — act like a national drug police force.

"We may feel better because we've required students to sign a pledge," Martin said, "but that doesn't mean the mechanism is working."

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