

Augusta University

Policy Library

Alcohol and Other Drugs

Policy Owner: Student Affairs

POLICY STATEMENT

Augusta University (AU) seeks to maintain an environment that is conducive to living, learning, and working, and therefore aims to reduce the instances of illegal and abusive drinking on campus, as well as the possession and distribution of illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia.

Alcohol

The unlawful possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages on all AU campuses is prohibited. Students residing in University owned or operated residence halls should refer to the Housing and Residence Life Handbook. Additionally, behavior that is a direct result of alcohol consumption, such as being visibly overcome by the consumption of alcohol and/or illegally driving under the influence of alcohol is prohibited. The distribution of alcoholic beverages without a license is illegal and thus prohibited. The University prohibits items that provide for a common distribution of alcohol on the campus. Examples may include, but are not limited to, kegs, unattended coolers, and bars with alcohol available to anyone, and without a licensed server. Drinking games and other rapid consumption techniques and rapid consumption devices, by their nature, promote abusive drinking and therefore are prohibited. Examples may include, but are not limited to, the following: funnels, beer bongs, “shotgunning,” liquor shots, and drinking games such as “beer pong.”

Alcohol Abuse and Health Risks

There are long-term health risks associated with alcohol use. These risks include damage to the heart, liver, and brain. However, it should be noted that the vast majority of our health risks occur over the course of a single evening, not after decades of abuse. A college-aged student has a much higher risk of an alcohol-related injury caused by a car crash, slipping or falling, getting into a fight, etc. than developing cirrhosis of the liver. However, understanding the long-term health risks is important because young adults who continue the behavior of drinking heavily risk damaging their bodies in numerous ways, including permanent damage to internal organs.

Other Drugs

The unlawful use, possession, distribution, sale, manufacture, and delivery of drugs and drug paraphernalia, including the misuse of prescription medications, is prohibited on all campuses of AU. Additionally, behavior that is a direct result of illegal drug consumption, such as being visibly overcome by the consumption, use, or abuse of drugs, including the illegal use of prescription drugs is prohibited.

Policy No.: 3973

Policy Sponsor: Student Affairs

Last Revision: 01/03/2018

According to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (§20-1-23), “Any student of a public educational institution who is convicted, under the laws of this state, the United States, or any other state, of any felony offense involving the manufacture, distribution, sale, possession, or use of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug shall as of the date of conviction be suspended from the public educational institution in which such person is enrolled. [The] suspension shall be effective as of the date of conviction.... and shall continue through the end of the term, quarter, semester, or other similar period for which the student was enrolled as of the date of conviction. The student shall forfeit any right to any academic credit otherwise earned or earnable for such term, quarter, semester, or other similar period; and the educational institution shall subsequently revoke any such academic credit which is granted prior to the completion of administrative actions necessary to implement such suspension.”

Sanctions

- Violations of the alcohol policy or rules set by Housing and Residence Life are governed by the Augusta University Student Code of Conduct and the Residence Life Handbook. Any violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary actions as set forth in the AU Student Manual (Section 3.2 –Drugs and Drug Paraphernalia and Section 3.3- Alcohol on Campus) and the AU Residence Life Handbook.
- Violations by University employees are governed by the AU Employee Handbook (Section 3.8 – Use of Alcoholic Beverages Prohibited) and the AU Substance Abuse policy. Employees may be subject to disciplinary action for alcohol and or drug-related violations.
- Student organizations that knowingly permit illegal alcohol or drug activity may be found in violation of this policy, which may result in the loss of recognition as a student organization at AU.

AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS

Indicate all entities and persons within the Enterprise that are affected by this policy:

- Alumni Faculty Graduate Students Health Professional Students
- Staff Undergraduate Students Vendors/Contractors Visitors
- Other: Include any other stakeholders not listed above.

DEFINITIONS

University-Sponsored Event: An event held on any AU owned or controlled property, campus or building, funded by Augusta University or any of its affiliated organizations.

PROCESS & PROCEDURES

Service of Alcohol on Campus

Anyone wishing to serve alcoholic beverages on University-owned or controlled property must complete the Service of Alcoholic Beverages form and submit the form to the Office of the Provost at least two weeks prior to the date of the event. The form includes information regarding the date, time, and place of event, information about who is invited or allowed to participate in the event, types of alcoholic beverages that will be served, and name and contact information for the organizer(s) of the event. The form can be found at the following website: <http://www.augusta.edu/provost/resources.php>.

The service of or selling of alcoholic beverages at a University-Sponsored event must comply with the following guidelines:

1. Complies with all federal, state and local laws, all policies of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (BOR), University regulations, and foreign country laws (in the case of study abroad programs conducted by Augusta University).
2. Proper procedures must exist to ensure enforcement and the identification of all individuals being served are of legal drinking age.
3. A licensed and insured third party vendor must serve all alcoholic beverages. It is incumbent upon event organizer(s) to ensure vendors are licensed and insured to serve alcohol. Self-service of alcohol is not permitted.
4. Access to the alcoholic beverages must be controlled in a central point(s) of distribution maintained by a licensed vendor and appropriately trained server.
5. The event's organizers and sponsors must arrange and ensure food and non-alcoholic beverages are available throughout the duration of the event.
6. Only those alcoholic beverages served or sold at the function may be consumed at the function in the appropriately designated area.
7. Anyone intoxicated or exhibiting disorderly behavior will be denied entry to the event or asked to leave at the discretion of event organizers or law enforcement. Individuals denied entry or asked to leave may face campus disciplinary action as well as potential civil liability and/or criminal prosecution, depending upon the degree of disruption and specific behavior exhibited.
8. Additional restrictive guidelines may be imposed by the sponsoring organization holding the event.
9. BOR policies restrict purchasing alcohol using state funds, including Student Activity Fee funds.
10. Violation of any regulation or noncompliance with any limitation outlined herein justifies discontinuance of the event, possible university disciplinary action, and subsequent denial of University service and facilities.

REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- AU Service of Alcohol Form <http://www.augusta.edu/provost/resources.php>
- Official Code of Georgia Annotated (§20-1-23)
- Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia Policy Manual 4.6.4 Alcohol and Drugs on Campus
https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section4/C332/#p4.6.4_alcohol_and_drugs_on_campus
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Fact Sheets—Alcohol Use and Your Health
<https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/alcohol-use.htm>

APPROVED BY:

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Augusta University
Date: 9/26/2018

President, Augusta University and CEO, AU Health System Date: 9/28/2018