

Princeton University Alcohol Policy

Students at Princeton University are responsible for knowing and abiding by both state and University regulations regarding the consumption of alcohol. The University provides educational programs and information on alcohol and drug abuse, as well as counseling services related to alcohol and other drug use. Students are expected and encouraged to be aware of the social, physiological, and psychological consequences and personal risks of excessive drinking in order to make responsible and informed decisions about the serving and consumption of alcohol.

The University alcoholic beverage policy is consistent with the laws of the state of New Jersey, which, in general, prohibit the consumption and serving of alcoholic beverages by and to persons under 21 years of age. **Students are responsible for their behavior, whether or not they are under the influence of alcohol.** The consumption of alcohol does not constitute a mitigating circumstance when it contributes to the violation of University regulations. The policy affirms the need for mutual respect and personal responsibility within a diverse community.

The University respects the right to privacy, and its representatives will not enter dormitory rooms without substantive cause (i.e., without reasonable suspicion that University policies or regulations have been violated). However, **those whose behavior infringes on the rights of others have, in essence, forfeited that right to privacy.**

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What are the responsibilities of Princeton University students?

Alcoholic beverages normally will not be provided at events where persons under the legal drinking age for consumption of alcoholic beverages are present, including those sponsored by the University, the residential colleges, University centers, the Undergraduate Student Government, and the classes. Those who are of legal drinking age and who wish to host a gathering with alcohol **must obtain approval from and comply with the guidelines established by the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students** (see <http://web-script.princeton.edu/~computer/Alcohol/index.php>) or the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School.

Availability of alcoholic beverages shall not be the primary focus of advertising for campus social events. Those given approval to serve alcoholic beverages are responsible for ensuring that **only those of legal drinking age are served, that alcohol is consumed—if at all—in a legal, healthy, and responsible way, and that no intoxicated individuals are served.**

It is the immediate obligation of those in the presence of a severely intoxicated person to contact appropriate University or local medical or safety personnel (such as Public Safety officers, deans, University Health Services (UHS) staff, University Medical Center at Princeton staff, or local police or members of the rescue squad). Neither intoxication nor admission to UHS for intoxication will be grounds for disciplinary action. Contacting the Department of Public Safety for assistance in transporting a student in need of medical attention will not, in itself, lead to disciplinary action. Disciplinary action will occur only if other circumstances indicating a violation of University policy are observed. In such an instance, failure to call for assistance will be considered an especially serious violation of policy.

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When will the Department of Public Safety or other University administrators intervene?

1. A Public Safety officer (or another University administrator) may enter a room whenever there is reasonable cause to believe that someone's safety may be in jeopardy or that a violation of the alcohol policy is taking place.
2. Public Safety will not have cause to investigate possible alcohol violations unless indicators of alcohol provision are observed. Such indicators may include—but are not limited to—kegs, bottles, cans, spilled alcohol, an individual leaving a room in possession of alcohol, or intoxicated behavior.
3. In the event of a noise complaint, Public Safety will go to the room and knock on the door. If no one answers, Public Safety may enter the room and instruct the residents of the room to control the noise. Regardless, Public Safety may enter the room where there is cause to investigate further, as described above.

When are Princeton University students in violation of the alcohol policy?

Students are in violation of the University alcohol policy under any or all of the following circumstances:

1. When participation in or the organization of an activity encourages excessive drinking (i.e., drinking games, pre-gaming with hard alcohol, initiation activities, hazing), as these acts can endanger the individual being served. These are **especially serious** violations.
2. When the serving or **consumption** of alcohol contributes to behavior that (a) intimidates or harasses others; (b) injures or threatens to injure others (i.e., driving under the influence of alcohol, assault); (c) leads to the destruction of property; or

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(d) infringes on the peace and privacy of others, students are in violation of the policy.

Any of the above will be regarded as an especially serious violation.

The preceding regulations apply to students both on campus and in the local vicinity of the campus. Violations of local ordinances or state laws by students may also be grounds for University disciplinary action, regardless of where such violations occur; if they clearly violate University standards of conduct. In keeping with state law, where a student has been detained by Public Safety or local law enforcement officials on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol, the refusal to submit to the taking of breath samples for the purpose of determining blood alcohol content will be taken as conclusive evidence that the student was driving under the influence of alcohol. Additional state and federal laws can be found at www.princeton.edu/odus/standards. (See insert.)

3. On campus, students are in violation of the policy (a) when **carrying or possessing** an open container* of alcohol in or across common spaces (lounges, game rooms, courtyards, dining areas, hallways, etc.); (b) when in possession of a keg and/or tap or other evidence of intent to serve alcohol (unless permission has been granted by the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students or the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School); (c) when, under the age of 21, in possession of any container of alcohol in common spaces of the University; (d) when **serving, providing, or making available** alcohol to any person, regardless of his or her age, without first obtaining approval from the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students or the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School; or (e) when procuring alcohol for persons under the age of 21 or by falsifying identification.

* Open container is defined as any container not sealed by the manufacturer.

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What are the consequences of violating the alcohol policy?

Students who are in violation of the alcohol policy are subject to a range of **University sanctions**: warning, disciplinary probation (including housing, room draw, and/or campus service sanctions), withholding of degree, suspension, suspension with conditions, expulsion, and censure. In keeping with the University's particular concern about high-risk alcohol use, the consequences for violations of the alcohol policy will reflect the level of risk represented by the behavior, as well as the impact of the behavior upon the community.

In general, the first instance of lower-risk violations will result in a dean's warning; subsequent violations will result in, at a minimum, disciplinary probation. Examples of lower-risk alcohol violations include, but are not necessarily limited to, situations where:

- Only low-proof alcohol (under 30 proof) is present;
- A modest amount of alcohol is available, appropriate to the number of persons present;
- No high-risk drinking, including drinking games, is occurring;
- No "common sources" of alcohol, such as kegs or alcoholic punch, are present;
- Neither the serving nor the consumption of alcohol has contributed to behavior that infringes on the peace and privacy or others (i.e., disorderly conduct, harassment, vandalism or property damage, injuring or threatening to injure others, driving under the influence of alcohol).

The University regards higher-risk violations of the alcohol policy as more serious than lower-risk violations. In general, a student who commits a first higher-risk violation is placed on disciplinary probation. Discipline for a second higher-risk offense will

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be more serious and may involve a long term of disciplinary probation, campus service, loss of room draw points, and/or revocation of on-campus residential privileges. Students should expect to be suspended for a third higher-risk alcohol or alcohol-related offense, or for any particularly egregious first or second offense. Higher-risk alcohol violations include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- The serving, providing, or making available of hard alcohol (in any quantity);
- The possession of hard alcohol by underage persons in common spaces of the University;
- The possession of kegs or other common sources of alcohol;
- Drinking games or "pre-gaming";
- The possession of any large quantity of alcohol (of any kind) relative to the number of people present;
- Violations that result from intoxication, such as assault, harassment, disorderly conduct, vandalism, or property damage.

Deans and directors of student life may notify a student's parents following any significant incident of drug/alcohol-related misconduct. Alcohol, kegs, and/or taps used in violation of the above regulations will be confiscated.

Students who violate the University's alcohol or drug policies are encouraged to avail themselves of the services of the Alcohol and Other Drug Program offered by University Counseling and Psychological Services. When appropriate, deans and directors of student life may require an alcohol/drug evaluation by University Health Services staff. In some cases, counseling may accompany disciplinary sanctions.

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Princeton University Drug Policy

Princeton University does not condone the possession, use, manufacture, or distribution of illegal substances or drug paraphernalia of any kind in any amount, or the possession, use, manufacture, or distribution of prescription drugs without a prescription. **Students in violation of this policy may be jeopardizing their own well-being, as well as the well-being of the University community.**

In general, a student who violates this policy for the first time will be placed on probation. Discipline for a second offense will be more serious and may involve lengthening of probation, campus service, and/or revocation of on-campus residential privileges. Students should expect to be suspended for a third offense.

Among those violations considered to be most serious are the manufacture, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs or prescription drugs without a prescription; any involvement in illegal drug use or traffic with minors, particularly from the local area; and possession or use of the more dangerous or highly addictive drugs. Students engaged in activities described in this paragraph should expect a lengthy separation or expulsion from the University.

Students possessing, using, selling, or manufacturing illegal substances may also be subject to **mandatory penalties prescribed by the state.**

For more information

Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students
258-3055

Office of the Dean of the Graduate School
258-3035

Princeton University Health Services
258-3129

Counseling Center
258-3285

Public Safety
258-1000

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What every student should know about

Alcohol & Other Drug Use

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