



The University of Vermont

Policy V.2.3.6

Responsible Official: Vice Provost for Student Affairs

Effective Date: January 30, 2018

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# Alcohol, Cannabis and Other Drug Use - Students

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## Policy Statement

The University of Vermont is committed to sustaining an academic environment that both respects individual freedom and promotes the health, safety, and well-being of all members of our community. It is essential that the members of this community recognize that the misuse and abuse of alcohol, the use of Cannabis and other Illicit Drugs, and the Illicit Use of Controlled Substances constitute a threat to the educational mission of the University, a violation of federal and/or state law and a violation of University policy.

## Reason for the Policy

The University has adopted this policy in support of its educational mission and in compliance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989. The University has adopted programs to provide education about the harmful effects of alcohol, Cannabis and other Illicit Drugs, as defined in this Policy, and to prevent the misuse thereof.

While the University respects the individual freedom of the members of our community, that freedom comes with an expectation that individuals will act in accordance with University Policy and applicable local, state and federal law. Substance use is not an excuse for behavior that violates community standards. The University seeks to provide an environment free from the adverse effects of alcohol, Cannabis and other Illicit Drug use, and the Illicit Use of Controlled Substances; we support students who are in recovery and all students who choose not to use substances. All members of the University community are responsible for being fully aware of the requirements of University policy as well as local, state, and federal laws regarding alcohol, Cannabis and other Illicit Drugs, and the Illicit Use of Controlled Substances. The University holds students, Recognized Student Organizations, and varsity athletic teams, accountable for behavior that violates University policy and may refer incidents which could constitute a violation of law to University Police Services as well as to the appropriate campus disciplinary body.

The University recognizes that substance abuse is a serious problem that may require professional assistance and treatment. Accordingly, a variety of services are available to students who seek education and/or assistance for substance abuse problems. These resources include information and confidential counseling services through the Center for Health and Wellbeing. In addition, staff in these offices can make referrals to other services available in the community.

## **Applicability of the Policy**

This policy applies to students, including degree-seeking, non-degree, and non-credit students; recognized student organizations; varsity athletic teams; and guests of any of the above, on University Property and/or engaged in a University Activity.

Individuals enrolled in precollege coursework through Continuing and Distance Education (i.e., Summer Academy) also must comply with this Policy. Violations of conduct requirements by individuals enrolled in precollege coursework will be addressed through processes established by Continuing and Distance Education.

Off-campus conduct in violation of this policy, or local, state or federal laws regulating drug or alcohol use, also may subject a student to disciplinary or other appropriate administrative action.

In addition to the conduct processes set out in this Policy, students may also be subject to review of the same conduct for (1) violation of professional standards related to an academic program; (2) conduct standards associated with Athletics; (3) conduct standards associated with Recognized Student Organizations; (4) Housing and Meal Plan Contract Terms and Conditions; (5) eligibility to participate in other University sponsored programs.

## **Policy Elaboration**

See Procedures.

## **Definitions**

*Alcohol*: means any beverage containing more than 0.5% ethyl alcohol by weight.

*Cannabis*: the parts, products, and derivatives of the plant *Cannabis sativa*, *indica*, *ruderalis* and hybrid strains. Cannabis is a Schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act and, as such, is illegal under federal law. Possession and use are strictly prohibited on University Property and at University Activities, irrespective of any state law to the contrary. For more information, please see “Cannabis: What Students Need to Know” at <https://www.uvm.edu/deanofstudents/cannabis-what-students-need-know>.

*Controlled Substance*: any of the substances listed in the schedules of the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, and/or any of the controlled or regulated drugs under state law. See [https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/orangebook/c\\_cs\\_alpha.pdf](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/orangebook/c_cs_alpha.pdf).

*Illicit Drug(s)*: Controlled Substances, and analogs, extracts, and derivatives thereof, as defined by federal law, and controlled or regulated drugs as defined by state law, for which a student does not have a valid prescription to possess or use. For purposes of this policy, and pursuant to federal law, Cannabis is a controlled substance regardless of whether a student is a “Registered Patient” under Vermont’s Therapeutic Use of Cannabis (“Medical Marijuana”) law (18 V.S.A. Chapter 86 Subchapter 2), and use or possession thereof on University Property or at University Activities is strictly prohibited.

*Illicit Use*: use of a Controlled Substance for which an individual does not have a valid prescription or misuse of a validly prescribed Controlled Substance.

*Medical Marijuana*: Cannabis for which the Student user is a Registered Patient under Vermont law (18 V.S.A. Chapter 86 Subchapter 2). Pursuant to federal law, possession and use is strictly prohibited on University Property and at University Activities.

*Possession*: is determined by control over a substance or object with or without regard to ownership.

*Recognized Student Organization*: Those student organizations recognized by the University in accordance with the provisions of the University Policy on Group and Organization Recognition

*Student*: Any person registered for, enrolled in or auditing any course(s) at the University of Vermont. Examples include, but are not limited to, students who are enrolled but not taking classes due to an academic break, medical leave, suspension, or other personal leave; students who were enrolled at the time of the incident; persons who demonstrate an intent to enroll by registering for courses; and students participating in study abroad programs.

*University Activity*: means any act or event sponsored or organized by the University, including its constituent administrative and academic units and recognized student organizations. Without limitation, “activities” shall include all intercollegiate and intramural athletic events, faculty, staff and student meetings, conferences, field trips, retreats and all other acts or events for which the University of Vermont (including student organizations) pays expenses, or provides facilities, services, supplies or transportation.

*University Property*: means any property owned, leased, or controlled by the University of Vermont, including any motor vehicle or watercraft.

## **Procedures**

Possession or consumption of alcohol by students on University Property or at University Activities is allowed only by students 21 years of age and older and only in areas designated by the University for the sale or consumption of alcohol. Possession or consumption of alcohol by individuals under the age of 21, or in any other places owned or controlled by the University, including on-campus residence halls, is strictly prohibited.

Possession or use of Cannabis and other Illicit Drugs by students on University Property or at University Activities (on or off-campus) is strictly prohibited by federal law and University policy. Illicit Use of Controlled Substances is similarly prohibited.

Alcohol, Cannabis and other Illicit Drugs possessed or consumed in violation of this policy are subject to confiscation. Any student in possession of or who has consumed alcohol, Cannabis or other Illicit Drugs, and any student who has Illicitly Used a Controlled Substance, in violation of this policy is subject to the student conduct process as outlined in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/studentcode.pdf>) and possible civil or criminal prosecution under applicable federal, state and local laws. Alleged violations of this policy by Recognized Student Organizations and varsity athletics teams will be resolved in accordance with the Student Organization Misconduct Operating Procedure ([http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/studentorg.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/studentorg.pdf)).

The University is committed to creating a quality learning environment free from the abuse of alcohol. Possessing and using devices designed or intended to be used for the rapid consumption of alcohol (i.e. funnels, beer bong, etc.), and engaging in behaviors intended to intoxicate (i.e. races, games, etc.) are considered aggravating circumstances when considering appropriate sanctions. The presence of empty containers or drug paraphernalia leads to a reasonable presumption that the student(s) found in possession of such containers or paraphernalia consumed the container's original contents or used the paraphernalia for its intended purpose.

### **The following actions are prohibited:**

#### **1. Alcohol**

- a. Possessing or consuming alcohol if under the age of 21 in the United States or under the legal age of consumption according to the laws of a foreign host-country. An individual, 21 or older, may consume alcohol on University property or at University sponsored events only in areas where the University expressly allows the sale or consumption of alcohol. No person, regardless of age, is permitted to possess or consume alcohol within the on-campus residential areas of the University.
- b. Operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.
- c. Misrepresenting one's age for the purpose of purchasing, possessing, or consuming alcohol.
- d. Possessing, furnishing, or consuming alcohol in University owned or leased buildings, University grounds or lands, including residence halls, except as otherwise permitted in this or other University policies.
- e. Possessing, furnishing, consuming or serving from a common source of alcohol (i.e. 12 or more servings, kegs, beer balls, punch bowls, or other approximate equivalent number of servings.), unless being served and monitored by a licensed vendor after receiving approval for alcohol at a University event through applicable procedures.

- f. Purchasing, furnishing, or serving alcohol to or for an underage person or enabling an underage person to purchase, access or consume alcohol.
- g. Being intoxicated to the degree that state law mandates being taken into custody or the student's condition warrants medical attention.
- h. Creating, offering, or engaging in drinking games and other behaviors designed for the purpose of becoming intoxicated through the abusive use of alcohol.
- i. Being under the influence of alcohol, as supported by evidence through actions and/or results of field sobriety tests or alco-sensor readings administered by a police officer.

## **2. Illicit Drugs and Illicit Use of Controlled Substances**

- a. Possessing or using Illicit Drugs, including Cannabis, as defined by federal, state, or local statutes, and this Policy.
- b. Illicit Use of a Controlled Substance, including possession or use of Medical Marijuana on University Property or at University Activities.
- c. Operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of Illicit Drugs or due to Illicit Use of Controlled Substances.
- d. Distributing, selling, or possessing with the intent to distribute, Illicit Drugs, as defined by federal, state, or local statutes.
- e. Possessing or using drug paraphernalia (including but not limited to pipes, bongs, etc.).
- f. Being under the influence of Illicit Drugs or Controlled Substances due to Illicit Use as demonstrated by actions and/or other evidence.
- g. Growing and/or manufacturing any Illicit Drug, including Cannabis, as defined by federal, state, or local statutes, and this Policy.
- h. Being under the influence of Illicit Drugs or Controlled Substances due to Illicit Use to the degree that warrants medical attention and/or an individual being taken into protective custody.

## **Registration and Catering for Events**

Under no circumstances are Illicit Drugs permitted at University Activities or on University Property. Illicit Drugs explicitly include analogs, extracts, and derivatives of controlled substances, such as Cannabidiol (CBD).

University Recognized Student Organizations may apply to sponsor functions at which alcohol is served under the following regulations:

1. Sponsors must apply for approval and register any on-campus or off-campus event by completing and submitting an alcohol event registration form 30 days in advance of the event.
2. Sponsors must obtain the approval from the appropriate campus offices.
  - a. For events held in outdoor space contiguous to residence hall facilities, sponsors must obtain approval from the Department of Residential Life (Robinson Hall).
  - b. For events held outdoors or in other campus buildings, sponsors must obtain approval from the Department of Student Life (310 Davis Center).
  - c. For off-campus events sponsored by undergraduate student organizations, sponsors must obtain approval from the Department of Student Life (310 Davis Center).
  - d. For off-campus events sponsored by College of Medicine student organizations, sponsors must obtain approval from the College of Medicine Office of the Associate Dean for Students.
  - e. For off-campus events sponsored by Graduate Student Organizations, sponsors must obtain approval from the Dean's Office in the Graduate College.
3. Sponsors are responsible for the behavior of those attending the function.
4. Sponsors must cooperate with the caterer in establishing means by which only individuals of legal age are allowed to consume alcohol.
5. Sponsors must assume all financial costs (custodial, security, damages, etc.) associated with the event. Non-alcoholic beverages and food must also be provided in sufficient quantity and quality that individuals attending the event have adequate food and beverage alternatives.
6. After an event has been properly registered, sponsors of on-campus social events involving alcohol must secure the services of UVM Dining as the licensed caterer; sponsors of off-campus social events involving alcohol must secure the services of a licensed caterer.

### **Publicity, Advertising, Marketing, and Promotion of Events**

1. Officially Recognized Student Organizations must not enter into any promotional agreements or advertising agreements for events with alcohol beverage distributors/companies or their agents, except for paid advertisements accepted by recognized student media organizations.
2. Officially Recognized Student Organizations also must not enter into any promotional agreements or advertising agreements for events with Illicit Drug distributors/companies or their agents, expressly including those related to Cannabis and its analogs, extracts, and derivatives, such as Cannabidiol (CBD).

3. Only on-campus events which are properly registered and at which alcohol is served by the licensed caterer may be advertised on campus.
4. The sponsoring organization is responsible for any publicity, advertising, marketing, or promotion that is disseminated in conjunction with the event and must ensure adherence to the following guidelines:
  - a. Alcohol must not be the primary focus in any publicity.
  - b. Advertisements should be consistent with University policy discouraging the demeaning sexual or discriminatory portrayals of individuals or groups.
  - c. Promotion must not encourage misuse nor place emphasis on quantity or frequency of alcohol use (e.g. drink specials, etc).
  - d. Advertising must subscribe to the philosophy of low risk and legal use of alcohol. Drinking of alcohol must not be portrayed as contributing to the personal, academic, or social success of students or individuals.
  - e. Alcohol must not be associated with the performance of tasks that require skilled reaction, such as the operation of a motor vehicle or machinery.
  - f. Illicit Drugs, including Cannabis, have no place in any publicity or promotion.

### **Health Risks Associated with Alcohol and Illicit Drug Use**

The excessive use of Alcohol, Illicit Use of Controlled Substances, and use of Illicit Drugs pose significant health risks to individuals including addiction, permanent injury and death. Additional risks include the following: impairment of reflexes making the operation of vehicles or machinery dangerous; short and long-term effects from mixing alcohol with over-the-counter or prescription medications, which may include permanent damage to organs or death; negative impacts on social and emotional well-being and on education and employment; birth defects if you are pregnant; long-term health problems including liver disease, heart disease, increased risk of cancer and pancreatitis. Additional information on the health risks associated with the excessive use of alcohol, use of Illicit Drugs, and Illicit Use of Controlled Substances, may be obtained at Living Well in the Davis Center and at other student health services locations.

### **Enforcement**

The enforcement of community standards is a shared responsibility of all community members:

The Department of Police Services, as agents of the University and commissioned law enforcement officers of the State of Vermont, will investigate any violations of federal and state statutes and/or University regulations. The police officers' law enforcement authority, pursuant to 16 VSA § 2283, is statewide.

Faculty, staff, and students should intervene as appropriate when observing violations of the Alcohol, Cannabis and Other Drug Policy. When anyone is experiencing severe intoxication and/or serious injury after consuming alcohol, Illicit Drugs, or Illicit Use of Controlled Substances, it is imperative that assistance is called immediately without hesitation or fear of potential disciplinary sanctions. The Medical Amnesty Program (MAP) is designed to grant amnesty to individuals involved in such emergencies when assistance is sought by another student.

In addition, Residential Life staff and Police Services must respond in any residential area, including student rooms, when it is apparent that there are violations of the Alcohol, Cannabis and Other Drug Policy or when behavior infringes on the rights of others or may affect the health and safety of members of the community.

Alleged violations of this policy may be referred for appropriate response to Residential Life Staff, to the Center for Student Conduct and/or to appropriate law enforcement agencies. Students, Recognized Student Organizations, and varsity athletics teams found responsible for violation of this policy face a range of disciplinary sanctions, including suspension or permanent separation from the University, in addition to potential criminal sanctions.

Because of the significant costs of responding to intoxication, students who are taken into protective custody will be charged for related services. Being dangerously intoxicated is a violation of University policy and will be referred to the Center for Student Conduct. Repeated instances of dangerous intoxication may result in dismissal.

## **Summary of Relevant Provisions of Vermont and Federal Law**

Vermont and Federal laws control the possession and sale of alcoholic beverages and Illicit Drugs within the State of Vermont. Violations of these provisions may result in civil or criminal sanctions. Involvement with the justice system is a serious matter even if maximum fines or prison sentences do not result. A charge or conviction can adversely affect job opportunities, admission to, or ability to continue in, graduate or professional schools, and eligibility for training and financial aid opportunities. Specifically, under the Higher Education Act of 1998, students convicted under federal or state law of the sale or possession of Illicit Drugs may have their federal financial aid eligibility suspended, as follows. This includes all federal grants, loans, federal work study programs, and more. Students convicted of drug possession will be ineligible for federal financial aid for one year from the date of the conviction of the first offense, two years for the second offense, and indefinitely for the third offense. Students convicted of selling Illicit Drugs will be ineligible for two years from the date of the first conviction, and indefinitely for the second offense. Those who lose eligibility can regain eligibility by successfully completing an approved drug rehabilitation program. Filing or processing of civil or criminal charges, and imposition of sanctions, do not preclude University-imposed sanctions through Residential Life or the Center for Student Conduct.

For a comprehensive listing of state and federal penalties related to Illicit Use and Illicit Drug and Alcohol possession, use, distribution, etc., see [Appendix A](#).



## Counseling and Treatment Resources

The University encourages individuals who desire education, counseling or treatment related to the abuse of alcohol, Illicit Drugs, or Illicit Use of Controlled Substances, to obtain such services either through the University or in the community. The University offers educational programming through the Center for Health and Wellbeing's Living Well Office and Counseling and Psychiatry Services (CAPS). Counseling, referral and consultation services for abuse, misuse and/or addiction is available through CAPS. The University may, in addition to other sanctions or as a penalty for a minor first offense, require any student found responsible for violation of this policy to participate in education, consultative and/or educational programs related to drug or alcohol use.

## Forms

Approval for On and Off-Campus Student Organizations Programs with Alcohol Service  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/relateddocs/drugandalco\\_RequestforAlcoholService.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/relateddocs/drugandalco_RequestforAlcoholService.pdf)  
Procedures for Event Planning with Alcohol  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/relateddocs/drugandalco\\_Event%20Guidelines.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/relateddocs/drugandalco_Event%20Guidelines.pdf)

## Contacts

Questions related to the daily operational interpretation of this policy should be directed to:

Vice Provost for Student Affairs  
41 South Prospect Street  
Burlington, Vermont 05405  
(802) 656-3380  
<http://www.uvm.edu/studentaffairs>

University Police Services  
284 East Avenue  
Burlington, VT 05405  
(802) 656-3473  
<http://www.uvm.edu/~police/>

The Vice Provost for Student Affairs is the official responsible for the interpretation and administration of this policy.

## Related Documents/Policies

Alcohol, Cannabis and Other Drug Use Policy – Faculty and Staff  
[https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/drugfreeworkplace.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/drugfreeworkplace.pdf)  
Alcohol Policy – Faculty and Staff  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/alcohol\\_employees.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/alcohol_employees.pdf)  
Approval for On and Off-Campus Student Organizations Programs with Alcohol Service  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/relateddocs/drugandalco\\_RequestforAlcoholService.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/relateddocs/drugandalco_RequestforAlcoholService.pdf)

Cannabis: What Students Need to Know

<https://www.uvm.edu/deanofstudents/cannabis-what-students-need-know>

Code of Students Rights and Responsibilities

<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/studentcode.pdf>

Group and Organization Recognition Policy

[https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/grouprecognition.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/grouprecognition.pdf)

Hazing Policy

<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/hazing.pdf>

Procedures for Event Planning with Alcohol

[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/relateddocs/drugandalco\\_Event%20Guidelines.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/relateddocs/drugandalco_Event%20Guidelines.pdf)

Student Organization Misconduct Investigation and Resolution Procedure

[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/studentorg.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/studentorg.pdf)

## **Effective Dates**

As amended July 3, 2018

Approved by the President January 30, 2018