



USM Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy

Office of the Chief Student Affairs Officer

Applies to: Students and guests

Effective: 04/01/87
 Last Revised: 05/01/12
 Responsible Office: Chief Student Affairs Officer

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I. Philosophy

The primary goal of the alcohol and other drugs policy is the health and safety of all members of the University of Southern Maine community. We value and promote an environment of legal and lower risk alcohol use and support alcohol-free environments. We recognize alcoholic beverages may be available at some campus activities however such activities must be consistent with the University's values and being under the influence of alcohol in no way lessens accountability to the University community. The University complies fully with local, state, and federal laws regarding the sale, possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages. The unlawful manufacture, possession, use or distribution of drugs or controlled substances is strictly prohibited. All students and guests are held responsible for behavior in violation of this policy. The University provides education on alcohol and other drug use through programs, support, and resources.

II. Good Samaritan Policy

Abuse of alcohol and other drugs can create life-threatening situations that require an immediate response from emergency services personnel. In all instances, the University's main concern is that those in need receive prompt medical attention. The University cannot guarantee absolute immunity from sanctions associated with violations of the Student Conduct Code. However, efforts may be made to mitigate sanctions under the Student Conduct Code associated with alcohol and other drug offenses for "Good Samaritans." Sanction mitigation may be considered for any "Good Samaritan" who actively sought medical attention at the time of the incident for themselves or others. For complete policy visit <http://www.usm.maine.edu/ocs/good-samaritan-policy>.

III. University Alcoholic Beverage & Drug Guidelines

This policy, the Student Conduct Code, and all applicable laws apply to students while on-campus and on University related trips and University sponsored events off-campus. Additionally violations of the law and/or University policy that occur off-campus and at activities not directly sponsored by the University may also be resolved through the Student Conduct process and could result in University sanctions.

Alcoholic Beverages

The sale, possession, and use of alcohol on the campuses of the University of Maine System must comply with the local, state, and federal laws and regulations and with campus regulations and procedures. The acquisition, possession, transportation, sale, and consumption of alcohol by anyone under 21 years of age is prohibited by University policy. It is a violation to be intoxicated on campus or at any University sponsored activity off-campus regardless of where the consumption occurred. In addition, kegs and other common sources of alcohol, drinking games, and funnels and other similar paraphernalia are not permitted on-campus or at any University sponsored activity off-campus.

Alcohol may be possessed or consumed in lower risk ways on University property only by persons 21 years of age or older at University events approved under the *Alcohol at Events Guidelines* (included below) or under the following conditions:

- In a suite, apartment, or bedroom in the residence halls where alcohol consumption is permitted so long as a resident of the room is present who is 21 or older and all guests are 21 or older
- The room door is closed and there are no kegs or other common sources of alcohol
- Drinking games and funnels are not permitted

For the complete Residential Life Alcohol Policy please visit <http://www.usm.maine.edu/reslife/residence-hall-policies>

Coerced or Forced Consumption of Alcohol or other Drugs

In instances, such as hazing, where a person(s) forces another to consume alcohol or other drugs, or conspire(s) to force another to consume alcohol or other drugs, immediate and strict sanctions (including suspension or dismissal) may be imposed on the responsible individual(s) and/or sponsoring organization or anyone who fail(s) to take direct action to stop the incident (personal intervention, calling authorities).

Alcohol at On-Campus Events Guidelines

University policy permits alcohol consumption at on-campus events however the consumption of alcohol should never be the primary purpose or focus of an event. Alcohol-free social events are encouraged. In keeping with the philosophy noted above, the following policies and procedures for serving alcohol at on-campus events are in effect:

1. A request for alcoholic beverage service must be made for each function where alcohol will be served by contacting Conference Services at 207-780-5960 or Dining Services at 207-780-4204 or 207-780-5612 at least 21 days prior to the event. All alcohol service must be provided by Dining Services, as the holder of the Liquor License at USM. University community members and guests are prohibited from dispensing alcohol. Dining Services has the right to deny requests for alcohol service. Any requests to use a licensed and insured alternative alcohol provider must be submitted in writing to the Director of Administrative Services and the Chief Student Affairs Officer at least 21 days prior to the event. Non-alcoholic beverages and food/snacks must be available and provided by the Caterer in the same location as the alcoholic beverages during the entire time alcoholic beverages are being served.
2. All events that include alcoholic beverage service must have a USM Public Safety presence unless otherwise waived by the Director of Public Safety. A [Request for Police Services Form](#) must be submitted to USM Public Safety for each event at least 14 days prior to the event. USM Public Safety has the prerogative to deny approval of alcohol service.
3. A representative from the sponsoring organization/department **must be at the site of the event, before, during, and after the event**. The onsite representative is responsible for receiving any deliveries, ensuring the room is set up, greeting guests, overseeing the event, troubleshooting, and making certain that the University's policies are followed. Outside groups being sponsored by a University department or student group must be in compliance with the Sponsoring External Programs policy. For more information please visit <http://www.usm.maine.edu/conferences/sponsorship-external-programs>.
4. The acquisition, distribution, possession, or consumption of alcohol must be in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, strict controls must be enforced in order to prevent underage drinking, and risk management procedures must be in place. The sponsoring organization/University department is responsible for assisting the Caterer in ensuring that attendees' behavior is consistent with University policies and the law and creating an atmosphere where norms of responsible alcohol use prevail.

5. Possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages is only permitted in the locations approved in the request for Police Services Form. All event venues must be in compliance with fire, safety, and crowd-control regulations.
6. University units purchasing alcoholic beverages and/or alcoholic beverage services must comply with the [Use of University Funds Policy](#). The University may entertain dignitaries, donors or alumni to promote the advancement of the institution; however alcohol is considered an allowable expense **only for the guests' beverages**, unless prior approval from the Chief Financial Officer or designee is obtained. Alcohol may also be served at some official University business events or functions **with pre-approval** from the Chief Student Affairs Officer (CSAO) or designee. The business purpose must be clearly indicated and submitted in writing at least 21 days in advance of the event to the CSAO. Examples of business related events include Board of Trustee and Board of Visitors meetings or senior level interviews spanning a day or more.
7. The Student Activity Fee and other funds under the control of student organizations may not be used to purchase alcoholic beverages.
8. There must be a primary purpose for a gathering other than the availability of alcohol. Alcohol should not be used as an inducement to attend.
9. No campus event involving alcoholic beverages is permitted where alcohol is consumed as part of a competition, such as drinking games or chugging contests is allowed.

Promotion of Alcohol

The University does not permit permanent sponsorship or advertising in its public spaces that promote alcohol. Sponsorship by companies or distributors who purvey alcohol is not permissible without the approval of the Chief Student Affairs Officer prior to acceptance. When permitted, the Sponsorship or Promotion must be portable and removed at the end of the event. In addition the sponsorship may not encourage underage drinking or the misuse of alcohol. This applies to events and activities directly organized or sponsored by the University on or off-campus, as well as to events sponsored by others who may be leasing, renting, or using University facilities.

Drugs

The following behaviors are a violation of law and/or University Policy:

- Illegally possessing, using, manufacturing, dispensing or selling drugs
- Intentionally or recklessly inhaling or ingesting substances (e.g., nitrous oxide, glue, paint, etc.) that will alter a person's mental state
- Using someone else's prescription drug, or the distribution or sale of prescription drugs
- Possessing drug paraphernalia containing illegal drug residue, including but not limited to bongos or glass pipes
- Exhibiting signs of being under the influence of illegal drugs (such as smell of having used marijuana, blood-shot eyes, vomiting, difficulty standing, agitation, etc.) anywhere on campus or at a University sponsored activity off-campus, regardless of where the consumption occurred
- Permitting any person to violate the drug policy on-campus
- Supporting a violation of the drug policy by being present when other person(s) are violating this policy

Medical Marijuana

Federal law and the *Drug Free Schools and Workplace Acts* make possession and use of marijuana on-campus illegal, even in states with medical marijuana laws. Thus, the University of Maine System does not permit medical use of marijuana anywhere on campus. Furthermore, students who are under the influence of medical marijuana or in possession of marijuana for medical reasons are not exempt from normal conduct and job performance standards. Although the use of medical marijuana is not permitted on-campus, students on the medical marijuana registry may make a request for other reasonable accommodations through the Office of Support for Student with Disabilities.

Tobacco Policy

The University restricts smoking to designated smoking areas on all three USM campuses. The goals of the policy are to reduce exposure to the health hazards of second-hand smoke, provide an environment supportive of tobacco-free lifestyles, and to lessen the environmental impact of cigarette litter. The University does not permit tobacco advertising or sponsorships from tobacco companies or distributors.

For the complete Tobacco Policy, please visit

<http://www.usm.maine.edu/sites/default/files/University%20Health%20and%20Counseling%20Services/Tobacco%20Policy.pdf>

IV. Local, State, and Federal Alcohol & Drug Laws

It is a violation of law to do any of the following (provided as a general summary of the major applicable laws):

- Purchase, order, pay for, or share the cost of alcoholic beverages if you are under 21
- Possess alcohol if you are under 21
- Consume alcohol if you are under 21, except in a home in the presence of your parent, guardian or custodian
- Transport alcohol if you are under 21
- Sell alcohol to, buy alcohol for, or furnish alcohol to anyone under 21
- Allow anyone under 21 who possess or is consuming alcohol to remain in your home or in other property that you own or occupy
- Show or give false information about your name, age, or other identification to purchase or obtain alcohol
- Have an open container of alcohol in your possession in any unlicensed public place
- Have an open container of alcohol in your possession while driving or riding in a motor vehicle
- Operate a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or other drugs
- Knowingly obtaining, possessing, using, or distributing a controlled substance

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and the Drug-Free Workplace Act require the University to provide students, faculty, and staff with information on an annual basis regarding the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol, potential sanctions, health risks, and available assistance and treatment. For more information about these Acts and to view the University of Maine System's annual notice, please visit <http://www.maine.edu/pdf/alcoholdrugbroc.pdf>.

Students convicted of a federal or state drug conviction can be disqualified from receiving financial aid funds. For more information visit <http://ifap.ed.gov/ifap/byAwardYear.jsp?type=drugworksheets>.

V. Sanctions

Any student or guest found to be in violation of local, state, and/or federal law, or who violates the University's guidelines contained herein, will be subject to the [UMS Student Conduct Code](#) Process and/or referral to the appropriate authorities for legal action. Athletes are also subject to the [Athletes Code of Conduct](#).

VI. Resources

Education and Prevention

Alcohol and other drug use can interfere with the learning environment, affect the health and safety of students and guests, and is often a factor in campus crime. In keeping with USM's commitment to foster a safe, healthy learning community, the University provides the following alcohol and other drug education and prevention resources.

The Well, 113 Upton Hall, Gorham Campus

The Well is dedicated to helping members of the USM community develop and increase their awareness of every aspect of wellness. Individual and group educational programs focus on reduced risk alcohol consumption and the learning and health effects of alcohol and other drug use. Outreach programs include: online assessments called Echug and Etoke, BASICS: Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students, the PARTY program (Promoting Alcohol Responsibility Through You), Alcohol and Other Drug Classroom presentations and Prime for Life, an evidence-based alcohol and drug program designed to challenge common beliefs and attitudes that directly contribute to high-risk alcohol and drug use. The Well is managed by the Assistant Director of Gorham Student Life & Coordinator of Substance Abuse Prevention. For more information please visit www.usm.maine.edu/studentlife/thewell.

Promoting Reduced-Risk Alcohol Choices (PRAC)

This campus/community coalition is comprised of University students, staff, faculty and both University and Gorham Police Department representatives. PRAC meets monthly and addresses high risk alcohol and drug issues. PRAC has collaborated for over 11 years and is a member of Maine's HEAPP: Higher Education Alcohol Prevention Partnership with 20 other colleges and universities in the state.

Substance Free Living

The Department of Residential Life offers Substance Free accommodations for students who are interested in living within a community of students who have committed to a substance free lifestyle. To reside in this community, students must sign a contract and commit to a substance free lifestyle. For more information, please contact the Department of Residential Life at (207) 780-5240 or visit www.usm.maine.edu/reslife.

Counseling and Treatment

Students who have concerns about their use of alcohol or other drugs are urged to seek assistance. University Health & Counseling Services offers individual and group counseling funded by the Health fee on all three campuses. A professionally trained, licensed drug & alcohol counselor is available for individual appointments and leads a weekly group counseling session focusing on substance abuse. For more information including the numbers to call for an appointment please visit www.usm.maine.edu/uahcs.

Links to information regarding alcohol and other drugs
<http://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/StatsSummaries/snapshot.aspx>
<http://www.factsontap.org/>
<http://www.tobaccofreemaine.org/>

Off Campus Resources

AL-ANON: (207)284-1844 <https://sites.google.com/a/mainefg.org/ais/Home>
 Alcoholics Anonymous: 877-515-1255 <http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.com/aa-maine-me.html>
 Day One: (207)-874-1045 <http://www.day-one.org/>
 Narcotics Anonymous: 1-800-974-0062 <http://www.namaine.org/>
 Recovery Center at Mercy Hospital: (207) 879-3600 <http://mercyhospital.com/cms>
 Find Treatment: <http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/TreatmentLocator/faces/addressSearch.jspx?state=ME>

Contacts – On Campus Resources

Services	Office	Telephone	URL
Policy Clarification for Students Student Conduct Code	Office of Community Standards	207-780-5242	www.usm.maine.edu/ocs
Policy Clarification for Visitors	USM Public Safety	207-780-5211	www.usm.maine.edu/police
Individual and group counseling/assessment for alcohol and other drug issues for students	University Health & Counseling Services	207-780-4050 (counseling) 207-780-5411 (health)	www.usm.maine.edu/uhrs
Assessment, referrals, educational materials, and general information	The Well & the Coordinator of Substance Abuse Prevention	207-780-5158	www.usm.maine.edu/studentlife/thewell

Related Policies:

- [UMS Student Conduct Code](#)
- [UMS Alcohol Policy](#): Student Affairs Section 502 of the UMS Trustees’ Policy Manual
- [UMS Student Substance Abuse Policy](#): Student Affairs Section 505 of the UMS Trustees’ Policy Manual
- [UMS Employee Substance Abuse Policy](#): Human Resources Section 412 of the UMS Trustees’ Policy Manual
- [Information about Alcohol and Other Drugs](#): UMS System Brochure Drug Free Schools & Workplace Acts
- [Use of University Funds Policy](#): UMS APL IV-I
- [USM Athletes Code of Conduct](#)
- [USM Good Samaritan Policy](#)
- [USM Residence Hall Policies](#)
- [USM Tobacco Policy](#)

Custodian: _____
 Chief Student Affairs Officer

Reviewed Date: _____

Approved By: _____
 USM President

Date: _____

Approved: _____
 UMS Chancellor

Date: _____

This policy is reviewed at least annually by the Office of the Chief Student Affairs Officer. Last reviewed May 2012.