

NUMBER: STAF 3.02  
SECTION: Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support  
SUBJECT: Alcohol Policy and Guidelines for the University Community  
DATE: June 1, 1992  
REVISED: July 15, 2014  
Policy for: Columbia Campus  
Procedure for: Columbia Campus  
Authorized by: Dennis A. Pruitt  
Issued by: Office of the Vice President

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## I. Policy

The purpose of this policy is to educate the University of South Carolina – Columbia on the expectations and guidelines regarding the use of alcohol. (For the purposes of this policy, the University of South Carolina – Columbia may also be referred to as the “University.”) This policy governs the consumption, possession, distribution, and sale of alcoholic beverages (including beer, wine and distilled spirits) on the University of South Carolina – Columbia campus, in or at any University owned or controlled facility, and by members of the University community.

As an institution in higher education and in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, the University of South Carolina – Columbia places significant value on the concepts of healthy and responsible decision making for all members of the community. The University supports strict enforcement of South Carolina’s laws in regards to consumption, possession and sale of alcoholic beverages. This policy also applies to every function or event, including but not limited to receptions, dinners, banquets, and campus-wide activities sponsored by organizations or individuals associated with the University of South Carolina – Columbia.

### A. General Guidelines and Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following terms are defined as follows:

1. A “Student” is any person who is admitted, enrolled, or registered for study at the University of South Carolina – Columbia for any academic period, is participating in any University sponsored academic or preparatory programs, and/or resides in a University of South Carolina – Columbia residence facility. Persons who are not officially enrolled for a particular term but who have a continuing student relationship with, or an educational interest in, the University of South Carolina – Columbia are considered “students”. A person shall also be considered a student during any period that follows the end of either the spring or fall semester that the student has completed until the last day for registration for the next succeeding

semester. A person shall also be considered a student during any period while the student is under suspension from the institution or when the person is attending or participating in any activity preparatory to the beginning of school including, but not limited to, fraternity or sorority recruitment, orientation, placement testing, and residence hall check-in.

2. A “Faculty Member” is any full-time academic instructor and full-time lecturer who is not a degree candidate in the units of their appointments; clinical and research professors; visiting faculty and emeriti professors; librarians; and such other persons as the faculty chooses to elect to its ranks. Faculty also consists of the president, provost, and deans; professors, associate professors, and assistant professors.
3. “Staff and Administrators” are the entire group of employees who work at the University that are non-teaching, non-student employees.
4. The “Campus” is the designated area such as buildings, grounds, and other facilities owned or controlled by the University of South Carolina – Columbia.
5. “Off Campus” areas are considered to be any building, grounds, or other facilities not owned or controlled by the University of South Carolina – Columbia.
6. “Alcohol Event Registration” is the process through which an individual or organization must participate in order to host any function involving the consumption of alcohol in a University owned or controlled facility.
7. The “[Behavioral Intervention Team \(BIT\)](#)” addresses student behaviors that are disruptive and may include mental health and or safety issues.

B. State Law and Local Ordinances

For information on South Carolina’s laws on alcohol use please visit: [What Are You Prepared to Lose?](#)

C. General Guidelines for the University Community

1. No person under the age of 21 may purchase, possess, or consume any alcoholic beverages anywhere on the University of South Carolina – Columbia campus.
2. Persons of any age may not sell or give any alcoholic beverage to a person under 21 years of age.
3. Persons and their guests 21 years of age and older may possess and consume alcoholic beverages in individual campus residence hall rooms or apartments on campus, but not in the common areas of a residence hall on campus (e.g., lounges, lobbies, hallways, balconies, decks, bathrooms, study areas, etc.)

4. Common source containers of alcohol (e.g, kegs) are not permitted on the University of South Carolina – Columbia campus at any time.
5. All events sponsored by any entity that involve alcoholic beverages in University owned or controlled facilities must be registered through the Department of Student Life. Upon submission of the [Alcohol Event Registration Form](#), information and requirements will be requested.
6. Any container of alcohol being transported must be sealed and covered while on University premises.
7. No person, organization or corporation may sell any kind of alcoholic beverage on the campus of the University, unless there is an alcohol permit to do so.
8. No alcohol may be served or consumed in any University building or open space except as provided in the [Alcohol Event Registration Form](#). This includes personal consumption as well as consumption at a private party event.
9. Events hosted by a University entity on campus and where students are present must purchase and serve alcohol through the contract of a licensed third party vendor.

### C. Guidelines for Students

Students (as defined above) must adhere to the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and the General Guidelines for the University Community as well as all Federal, State, and local laws and ordinances. In addition, students should be aware of the following:

#### 1. FERPA/Parental Notification

The University may disclose the result of a disciplinary proceeding to a parent or guardian so long as the student is under the age of 21 at the time of the incident and the proceeding has resulted in a violation of University drug or alcohol policies, or any federal, state, or local law.

- a. following a sanction that places the student on housing or conduct probation (official notice that any additional offense may affect the student's ability to live on campus or attend the University), or that results in removal from University Housing or the institution (e.g. housing removal/relocation, suspension, or expulsion).
- b. following the second violation of University policy regarding alcohol.
- c. following any incident in which the use of alcohol has resulted in hospitalization. Notification will come from the [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) Chair or designee.

For more information or for a [FERPA Waiver to Release Information](#), refer to the [Office of Student Conduct](#).

2. Off-Campus Accountability

Students arrested off campus may be subject to University disciplinary action when their conduct violates University standards. Failure to report this information to the [Office of Student Conduct](#) can result in a “Failure to Comply” charge and may result in further disciplinary action.

3. Sanctions

The University is not a sanctuary that relieves students of their responsibilities as citizens to abide by laws or University policies. As such, individual students and/or student organizations are responsible for abiding by the University policies and [Student Code of Conduct](#) and state/federal laws whether on or off campus. Failure to do so can result in criminal, civil, and University proceedings and sanctions. Students and student organizations that are in violation of the law are also violating the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and can be held accountable under both separate systems. Violations of this campus Alcohol Policy as well as other regulations contained in the [Carolina Community](#) will be referred to appropriate University offices.

Sanctions for the violation of University policies are based upon the severity and frequency of the violation. Sanctions may include but are not limited to: completion of educational and risk reduction programs, fines, community service, probation, individual screenings, research papers, educational counseling groups, suspension of student organization status; suspension from use of University facilities for a designated time period, or appropriate probation conditions in order to maintain one's student or organizational status.

D. Guidelines for Student Organizations

Student organizations hosting an event must adhere to the General Guidelines for the University Community as well as all Federal, State, and local laws and ordinances.

Co-sponsorship with an alcohol distributor, charitable organization or tavern (an establishment generating more than half of its annual gross sales from alcohol) where alcohol is given away, sold or otherwise provided to those present is prohibited

For guidelines on promoting events, please refer to section J.

E. Funds

1. No student activity fee or other University collected fee will be used to purchase alcohol for use either on or off campus.
2. No other funds of an officially recognized student organization deposited or administered through the Student Organization office may be used to purchase alcohol for use either on or off campus.

All events involving the use of alcohol must register through the Alcohol Event Registration process.

F. Students and student organizations that are in violation of the law are also violating the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and can be held accountable under both separate systems. Violations of this campus Alcohol Policy as well as other regulations contained in the [Carolina Community](#) will be referred to appropriate University offices.

G. These rules are minimum standards. Student organizations and groups are free to adopt standards that go beyond the minimum requirements of this policy and are encouraged to do so.

H. Sanctions (please refer to section I, C, 3)

I. Guidelines for Faculty, Staff, Administrators and University Guests

1. Faculty, staff, and administrators must adhere to the General Guidelines for the University Community (section IV) as well as the Drug-Free Workplace Policy (<http://hr.sc.edu/policies/drugfree.pdf>)
2. Guests occupying University buildings and facilities must abide by University policies and the policies and procedures of the University caterer and University facility.

J. Promotional Guidelines

1. Advertisements that promote or allude to alcohol use as an incentive to attract students (including bar nights, free alcohol, drink specials, etc.) are prohibited in all campus publications and media.
2. Materials posted or distributed may not glorify, edify, promote or support the use, sale, or consumption of alcohol and illegal drugs. These materials may not display trademarks and/or brand names of alcohol or illegal drug products.
3. The printed (or alluded to) advertising message for student organization's event may not promote the consumption, the presence of any quantity, the frequency of consumption, or the price of any alcoholic beverages.

4. If a non-University source is utilized for the support of advertising an event, the content of the advertisement or promotion must clearly promote the student or campus organization's name and function as the central message. This includes all flyers, posters, newspaper ads, banners, endorsements, sponsorships, etc.

K. Event Tailgating

1. The University is aware of the tailgates that occur before and after events that take place at University owned and/or controlled facilities. The University does not support or condemn tailgating; however members of the University community should be aware that:
  - a. tailgating grounds are often not owned or controlled by the University. Students, faculty, staff, and administrators are still held to the standards set for the set forth in this policy as members of the University community.
  - b. when tailgating on non-University grounds, students are accountable to the policy in the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
  - c. individuals who choose to consume alcohol are responsible for their behavior and should not operate a motor vehicle after they have consumed alcohol.

L. Referrals/Resources

Members of the University community who are concerned about the use or abuse of alcohol or other drugs (by themselves, colleagues or their friends) may receive assistance from the following contacts:

Alcoholics Anonymous: (803) 254-5301

Lexington/Richland Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council (LRADAC): (803) 726-9300

USC Counseling and Human Development Center: (803) 777-5223

USC Department of Student Life: (803) 777-6688

USC Division of Law Enforcement and Safety: (803) 777-4215

USC Office of Student Conduct: (803) 777-4333

USC Office of Substance Abuse Prevention and Education: (803) 777-3933

USC Thomson Student Health Center: (803) 777-3175

II. Related Policies

University Policy STAF 6.26 Student Code of Conduct

<http://www.sc.edu/policies/staf626.pdf>

III. Reason for Revision

Office names, contact information and links in policy were updated. No substantive changes were made.