Guidelines for Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages

The vice chancellor for student affairs is responsible for the administration and interpretation of these regulations.

I. Residence Halls

Preface

The current Residence Life alcohol policy was formulated in June 1983 as a result of policy recommendations submitted to the Department of Residence Life by United Students in Residence Halls (USRH). A subcommittee of USRH was formed in March 1983 to study suggestions made by students in each of the residence halls. The committee's recommendations were based on the result of forums and discussions held in the residence halls during the spring semester of 1983.

During that time, each hall resident was given the opportunity to attend an open forum sponsored by his/her hall. Issues and questions about the alcohol policy were raised, and subsequent feedback was given to the USRH subcommittee for consideration. The original policy was developed during the summer of 1983. Due to the change in Wisconsin's legal drinking age, the policy was revised and edited during the summer of 1984. Further revisions were made in the spring of 1988.

A. Responsible Drinking

The alcohol policy for residence halls has been instituted with the understanding that alcoholic beverages may be consumed in accordance with Wisconsin state law by individuals in student rooms. Inherent in this policy is a recognition of and support for the concept of "responsible drinking." Responsible drinking includes the consumption of alcohol and the resultant behavior which does not adversely affect oneself and fellow residents within the floor and hall communities. The University expects students who choose to consume alcoholic beverages to drink sensibly and responsibly. Specifically, the University does not consider drinking in excess to be responsible.

The basic intent of this policy is to allow students of legal drinking age the option to consume alcoholic beverages within their living environment. Students who are not of legal drinking age may not drink alcohol in the residence halls, including their rooms. When consuming alcoholic beverages, roommates are expected to be considerate of one another. The following examples are not considered responsible drinking and will not be condoned by the University:

- Providing alcohol to an underage person.
- Loud and/or disruptive conduct.
- Drinking habits which are injurious to the health and/or education of any individual or community member.

In conjunction with this philosophy, the following guidelines have been set:

B. Student Rooms

1. Alcoholic beverages may be possessed or consumed in student rooms by those residents and their invited guests who are of legal drinking age in the State of Wisconsin.

2. Residents who assume responsibility for admitting guests become responsible for all guests in attendance.
3. Persons under the State of Wisconsin legal drinking age are not permitted to possess or consume alcoholic beverages of any kind. Individuals within this age category who violate said regulations will be subject to disciplinary action.

4. Prior approval must be obtained through the facilities request process and the Residence Hall director when more than 10 people are in a student room where any alcoholic beverage is being served. Fire code regulations allow no more than 16 people in one room at a time.

5. No kegs or barrels are permitted in any student rooms.

6. Alcoholic beverages may not be sold in student rooms.

C. Common Areas

1. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in floor/wing lounges.

2. All alcoholic beverages are prohibited in main lobby areas, hallways and bathrooms. However, alcoholic beverages may be transported through main lobbies in manufacturer sealed or capped containers to locations where it is authorized for use. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed to be consumed outside the residence hall on University grounds at any time. In addition, these alcohol guidelines apply to all approved group functions, whether on or off campus.

3. Smoking in public areas is prohibited. Smoking may occur in designated smoking areas only.

D. Special Events

NOTE: Due to the change in the drinking age, very few events involving alcohol are planned in the residence halls.

1. Groups sponsoring an event must have a theme and planned activities. This information will be recorded on the facilities request form. The intent of the alcohol policy is that parties are for special occasions and should not be a weekly event for a floor/hall.

2. Funds used for special events must come from dues or assessments collected from the membership PRIOR to the events. Each hall government should take the responsibility to monitor the amount of money spent on alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages. The number of students unable to drink alcohol should be taken into account when allocating funds.

3. At the beginning of the academic year, each residence hall government will establish a facilities request process. The purpose of the process is to review ALL requests for facilities in a timely and sound manner. With regard to functions involving alcohol, the process will recognize all established alcohol guidelines, and the individuals making requests will be required to understand the scope of their responsibilities. Final approval for requests will rest with the Residence Hall Director. For specific information regarding the facilities request process, contact your Residence Hall Director.

E. Incapacitation Policy

In 1984 the Department of Residence Life implemented an incapacitation policy. The primary purpose of the policy is to ensure that those students who become incapacitated as a result of drinking or other drug use will receive proper medical care and a follow-up intervention. A copy of the policy is available from your Residence Hall Director or the Residence Life office. For more information regarding the policy and its history, contact the Assistant Director of Residence Life-Programs at 424-3212.
F. General Policy

This alcohol policy is designed to ensure the maintenance of a residence hall atmosphere which helps to meet the educational goals of the University. USRH, upon request from the Director of Residence Life or residence hall students, shall review all privileges and conditions contained herein and if necessary make appropriate recommendations for policy change.

G. Alcohol Beverage Containers

Persons not of legal drinking age are prohibited from possessing alcohol beverage containers (wine/beer bottles, beer cans, etc.) anywhere in the residence hall. This also includes cases or other receptacles used for the storage of alcoholic beverages and/or containers (i.e., beer/wine bottle cases, beer kegs, whiskey barrels, etc.).

Rationale: State law prohibits underage persons from buying or consuming alcohol. In order to avoid suspicion of noncompliance with the law regarding possession or consumption of alcohol by underage persons, possession of bottles, cans and other vessels that once contained alcohol is prohibited.

II. Reeve Memorial Union

A. Alcoholic beverages may be served on a catered basis as requested by University organizations, in conjunction with University sponsored events and other functions as approved by the Assistant Chancellor for Student Affairs and the Director of Reeve Union. Alcoholic beverages cannot be carried out of the beverage serving areas.

B. Students, faculty and staff purchasing alcoholic beverages in food service areas must show University ID card and proof of age to the Union or Food Service employee selling the beverage. Customers may only purchase beverages for themselves. (One ID per beverage.)

C. University of Wisconsin Oshkosh students may have guests served alcoholic beverages if the guest has proper age identification. Guests must have a sponsor who is a University of Wisconsin Oshkosh student, faculty, or staff. Sponsors will be responsible for the actions of their guests.

D. Students from sister universities may consume alcoholic beverages if they have a current University ID card and proof of age.

E. All alcoholic beverages will be furnished and served exclusively by the Reeve Memorial Union catering staff. Individuals or groups will not be permitted to bring alcoholic beverages on campus.

F. Alcoholic beverages may be provided at scheduled receptions, meetings, luncheons and banquets in the designated area in the Reeve Memorial Union. All alcoholic beverages will be served by a food service bartender. No self service will be permitted. Service for parties, receptions, and meetings will be limited to organization members and a limited number of invited guests. (No open parties are permitted.) The sponsoring organization shall certify and will be held responsible that all guests at an event where alcoholic beverages are served are of legal age. The ultimate right to refuse service to any individual is reserved to the Union with authority assigned to the on-duty staff member.

G. For those events involving more than fifty individuals, the sponsoring organization will have to pay for a Union Building Manager to check ID’s at the point of entrance.

H. Alcoholic beverages are to be consumed only in designated areas of the Union. Consumption in other areas in the Union is a violation of University regulations. Violations of University/Union regulations
concerning the use and consumption of alcoholic beverages will be handled through established disciplinary procedures

I. Alcoholic beverages may be served and sold by the Union Food Service at events scheduled outside the Union, on campus, where food is served or at special all-university events approved through the Assistant Chancellor of Student Affairs. The service guidelines within this procedure apply to all campus areas where alcoholic beverages are served.

III. General University Policies

A. Requests for alcoholic beverage service in areas other than the Union must have prior written approval of the Assistant Chancellor of Student Affairs.

B. Service areas and hours

1. Areas of service will be allowed during regular hours of operation per current building schedule.

2. The number of bartenders required varies from group to group. The University reserves the right to decide how many bartenders and/or checkers are needed for each event requesting alcohol. (See Catering Price List for bartender recommendations.)

C. Type of Service and Checking Responsibility

1. All alcoholic beverage sales will be made by a University or Food Service employee.

2. All students must be 21 years of age to consume alcoholic beverages. Acceptable proofs of age include: ID card from home state, birth certificate, military ID or driver’s license.

3. Checking of age will be the responsibility of a University or Food Service employee. If a program is determined to draw 50 or less people, the checking of ID’s will be done at the point of sale. If the program is anticipated to draw more than 50, check will be done at the point of entrance.

4. Where an event has individuals under the age of 21, an area designated as a drinking area will be established and those under the age of 21 will not be allowed to enter. This area will be monitored by a University or Food Service employee.