

The University of Tulsa's Alcohol Policy: Intent, Educational Initiatives and Behavioral Expectations

I. Intent

The University of Tulsa's Alcohol Policy, like other standards of conduct applicable to the University community, is intended to further the educational mission of the University. The University is committed to the welfare of its students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community. When individuals misuse alcohol, academic performance, health, personal relationships and safety are compromised. The University neither encourages nor condones the legal consumption of alcoholic beverages but recognizes such legal consumption occurs in a campus environment in which the majority of undergraduate students are below the legal drinking age.

Therefore, the University's Alcohol Policy has been created in the spirit of emphasizing individual and shared responsibility, healthy and informed decision-making and maintaining a caring environment – including providing medical and therapeutic responses to individuals with alcohol-related concerns. It is for these reasons that a University-wide commitment to alcohol education prevails and why members of the University community are assured that the absence of alcoholic beverages from social events is an acceptable practice.

II. Educational Initiatives

The abuse of, and dependency on, alcoholic beverages are issues of concern to the TU community as well as society at large. To this end, education becomes the responsibility of the entire campus community and includes an individual's peers, and any organization sponsoring an event where alcoholic beverages are served.

In addition, any sponsoring organization that intends to conduct events where alcoholic beverages will be consumed will be required to register the event in advance and: a) have its president and social chairman attend a University-sponsored alcohol education seminar and b) conduct a University-approved alcohol education seminar for its entire membership once a year. Failure to comply will result in the inability to conduct such events.

Additionally, a range of other educational programs are provided by various departments and organizations throughout the academic year.

III. Behavioral Expectations

Decisions about the use of alcohol are the responsibility of the individual within the constraints of the law and the University's policy. When one chooses not to use alcohol, that position should be honored and peer or organizational pressure should never be exerted to cause one to do otherwise. Those of legal age who choose to consume alcohol are expected to do so in a low risk manner.

Practicing the following behaviors will reduce one's risks (academic, social, physical, legal, personal) related to alcohol use.

- Choosing not to abuse alcohol and being supportive of others who choose not to use alcohol.
- Drinking alcohol only when one is of legal age.
- Deciding before going out whether to drink and, if deciding to drink, choosing not to exceed the amount of alcohol that is low-risk.
- Always knowing what one is drinking.
- Eating a full meal before drinking.
- Never drinking alcohol to get a head start before attending an event.
- Having a plan of how to get home safely.