Your Responsibility as a Student

In your student role, you are responsible to the academic community of the University as well as the broader community of which you are a part. The University of Minnesota Student Conduct Code (SCC) establishes standards for student behavior within the institution. In the SCC you will find information on disciplinary offenses and sanctions for violations. You will be held accountable through the University disciplinary process if you are in violation of University policy and local and state alcohol laws. Both students and student groups are responsible for knowing the code. The SCC applies both on and off campus. Remember that as a student you represent the University of Minnesota wherever you go and in whatever you do!

To view the Student Conduct Code go to: http://z.umn.edu/scc

Questions to Consider

Making an informed decision about drinking is your personal responsibility. Know that many employers and graduate programs perform background checks before making a final job offer or granting admission. Consider the following when making your decision:

- Am I willing to face the potential consequences from the law and/or University if I choose to drink?
- How could the value of my University of Minnesota degree be affected by my decision to drink?
- How might an alcohol offense on my record impact me in the future?
- If I decide to drink, what steps should I take to ensure my safety?
- Is it worth it?

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Know the Code Series produced by the
Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity
Appleby Hall Room 211
www.oscai.umn.edu

If You Decide to Drink...

- Know and follow all Minnesota laws about alcohol.
- Respect the University’s policies about alcohol.
- Watch how much your friends have had to drink.
- Help a friend if they appear to be in trouble, and don’t be afraid to call for help.
- Know how much you drink and the effect it has on you. Always be in control of your drinking.
- Use a designated driver that is sober.
- Always watch your drink, never leave it unattended, and never accept drinks from strangers.

University Jurisdiction

The Student Conduct Code applies to student conduct that occurs on University premises or at University-sponsored activities. The code applies to off-campus student conduct when the conduct is considered of substantial interest to the University.

Off-Campus Parties

If you host an off-campus party with alcohol, charge admission, and accept money, you could be charged with selling alcohol without a license. If you provide a minor access to alcohol, you could also be charged with supplying alcohol to a minor and/or violating the local Social Host Ordinance. Police may issue citations or make arrests when responding to off-campus parties and noise complaints.

University Housing

Residence halls and on-campus apartments are located on University property. Residents and guests must follow all Housing & Residential Life policies. Students that violate HRL, campus, state, or federal laws/policies are subject to sanctions through the HRL or the University conduct process. If you are in the presence of alcohol, even if you are not drinking, the incident will be documented and you will likely be charged with a violation of policy.

Parental/Guardian Notification

Your educational record is protected by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and information may not be released without your permission. However, FERPA allows the University to notify parents/guardians in some situations. Notification of parents/guardians will typically occur when a student is hospitalized for alcohol/substance use, is sent to detoxification, or has repeated alcohol/substance violations that may impact their success at the University. In most situations, the student will be informed and consulted prior to notification of the student’s parents/guardians.

Laws and Policies Related to Alcohol

What is the drinking age?
The legal drinking age in the State of Minnesota is 21 years old. It is against state law to consume, purchase, or possess alcohol if you are younger than 21 years old.

What is the Student Conduct Code Policy?
Students should not engage in illegal or unauthorized possession or use of alcohol or, where applicable, without proper University authorization.

What is Housing and Residential Life’s Policy?
For all residence halls and apartments, the possession/consumption or being in the presence of alcohol is prohibited for all residents under the age of 21. See the HRL guidebook for further details on the alcohol policy.

www.housing.umn.edu/publications/

What is the Social Host Ordinance?
The Social Host Ordinance holds individuals criminally responsible for hosting or permitting an event or gathering on private or public property where persons under 21 years of age possess or consume alcohol, regardless of who supplied the alcohol.

This ordinance applies to situations in which the social host knows or has reason to know that alcohol is being possessed or consumed by persons under 21 years of age at their gathering. Under this ordinance, the social host does not have to be present at the party, event or gathering to be criminally responsible.

(Source: City of Minneapolis Fact Sheet: Social Host Ordinance)

What are the laws about Fake ID’s?
In Minnesota, it is illegal to obtain, transfer, or use any means of identification for the purpose of manufacturing or providing or selling a false identification card to a minor for the purpose of obtaining alcohol. Penalties for this misdemeanor offense include fines or possible prison sentence.

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