

University of Pittsburgh Johnstown



Alcohol Policy
Effective August 1, 2026

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PLEASE NOTE ALL UNIVERSITY, FEDERAL, STATE AND/OR LOCAL AUTHORITIES' REGULATIONS REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH AND/OR SAFETY (E.G. SOCIAL DISTANCING, GUEST LIMITATIONS) SUPERSEDE ANY POLICY LISTED BELOW.

INTRODUCTION

The University has established a comprehensive policy concerning the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs by students and employees. It is of the utmost importance that each student reads and be familiar with University policies regarding alcohol and other drugs. As adults, students are expected to obey the law and take responsibility for their conduct. The relationship between the University and students is a non-custodial one. The University will not invade the personal lives of its community members (faculty, staff, students or others) on or off the campus, nor conduct unreasonable searches and seizures.

Our policy has been designed to give reasonable assurance that campus regulations, township ordinances, and state laws will be complied with. Members of the University community will be subject to disciplinary action, or legal process, for violation of laws, ordinances, and regulations, as well as procedures designed to comply with the same.

A: GENERAL POLICIES

The use, possession, or distribution of beverages containing alcohol on University property shall comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and University policies. Misconduct that may result in such disciplinary actions and penalties include:

1. Only persons 21 years of age or older shall be permitted to possess, consume, or transport alcoholic beverages.
2. The purchase, consumption, possession, or transportation, or the attempt to purchase, consume, possess, or transport any beverage containing alcohol by persons under 21 years of age is prohibited.
3. Distribution of alcoholic beverages to any person under the age of 21 is absolutely prohibited.
4. Distribution of alcoholic beverages to any visibly intoxicated person, under any circumstances, is prohibited.
5. No alcohol may be sold on campus. This includes sale of tickets for admission to a party at which alcohol will be distributed.
6. Alcohol may not be possessed or consumed at any on campus student function, except as subject to the provisions of the registered social event process or registered designated members-only event (see Events & Activities section).
7. Students and/or student organizations are not permitted to have vendors deliver alcoholic beverages on University property.
8. Common sources (kegs, bulk containers, “pumpers”, quantity of cases, etc.) are prohibited on campus. Storage of empty kegs, taps, or other bulk dispensers is prohibited.
9. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted to be stored or consumed in any student office on University property.

10. Alcoholic beverages may be served at University-related administrative and/or faculty functions.
 11. Private behavior and alcohol consumption off campus without the financial support or sponsorship of the University or any student organization is solely the responsibility of those involved. However, these activities may constitute a violation of the student code of conduct.
 12. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in any public area, on or off campus, including, without limitation, porches, unenclosed patios, lounges, stairs, lobbies, classrooms, hallways, walkways, and green spaces or in violation of any open container laws. Unless otherwise permitted by University policy.
 13. Regardless of ownership or origin, unauthorized alcoholic beverages, beer, alcoholic beverages, funnels, bongs, etc., found in the possession of minors, bulk containers (e.g., kegs and pumpers), and taps or other mechanisms that have been used to dispense alcohol in University-owned facilities will be confiscated and disposed of.
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B: ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

1. Residents who are under the age of 21 years are prohibited from possessing or consuming alcohol.
2. When the ownership of alcoholic beverages, containers, and other mechanisms that are used to dispense alcohol is in question, those individuals legally assigned to rooms or apartments will be considered the owners of such and will be subject to sanctioning
3. Residents who are 21 years of age or older, may possess and/or consume alcohol in their assigned living space. Note: Certain residence halls are “alcohol free,” and alcoholic beverages are absolutely prohibited to any residents or by visitors/guests in these areas. For residents who reside in suite/apartment/lodge-style housing, alcohol may be possessed and consumed within the common area only if all individuals present are 21 years of age or older. For residents who are 21 years of age or older:
 - a. The number of alcoholic beverages per person 21 and older in University-owned housing cannot exceed:
 - i. 12 12-ounce containers of beer; or
 - ii. one pint bottle or one 375-ml. bottle of liquor; or
 - iii. one 1.5-liter container of wine; or
 - iv. two four-packs of wine coolers or other mixed drinks sold in such a quantity, or
 - v. two six-packs of malt beverages or other mixed drinks sold in such quantity, (e.g., Mike's Hard Lemonade, Smirnoff Ice, etc.).
 - b. Registered students allowed to bring six, 12-ounce containers of beer or 1.5-liter bottle of wine to another residence. A guest is considered to be any individual not assigned to the room, lodge, or apartment. Residents who exceed this policy may be subject to the social host fine.
 - c. Where alcohol is present, residents of a room are limited to a total of number of guests who are 21 years or older. A guest is defined as anyone not registered to that room.
 - i. (LLC and Lodges) 2 guests (21 years or older) at any one time.
 - ii. Willow and CPA residents are limited to a total of 2 guests (21 years or older) per bedroom at any one time.
 - iii. Townhouses are limited to a total of 10 guests (21 years or older at any one time)
 - iv. Lodge Lobbies
 1. Residents of lodges who are 21 years or older may possess or consume alcoholic beverages in lobbies where they reside.
 2. When alcohol is present in lodge lobbies, residents are not permitted guests in the lobby area. When alcohol is present guests are restricted to the individual rooms. A guest is considered any individual not assigned to the room, lodge, or apartment. **When alcohol is present in lobbies guests are not permitted in the lobby.** Residents who violate this policy may be subject to the social host fine.
 3. See registered events for organizational lobby use
 - d. Any violation of other Alcohol policies, quiet hours, guest policy, or number of guests will be considered an unregistered social event.

4. Regardless of the resident's age, alcohol is prohibited in residence halls that are exclusively first-year residences. Residents in the first-year halls where a guest is present found in violation of the alcohol policy are subject to the social host fine.
5. Residents are responsible and may be legally accountable for their own actions and the actions of their visitor(s)/guest(s), including any damages or injuries which result from actions during or after the consumption of alcoholic beverages.
6. Only factory-sealed containers of alcoholic beverages may be brought into on-campus housing.
7. Kegs, bulk containers, pumpers, taps or other mechanisms are not permitted.
8. Alcoholic beverages, or the possession and/or use of drinking paraphernalia that promotes the abuse of alcohol and/or puts a student in a position to consume alcohol irresponsibly, is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, funnels, beer bongs, taps, and kegs in possession of individuals under the age of 21, any alcoholic beverages not permitted under this policy, or alcohol in excess of amounts permitted under this policy, will be confiscated and disposed of, regardless of ownership or origin.
9. Alcohol containers found in on-campus housing being used as decorations, or for any other purpose, may be confiscated and disposed of, regardless of ownership or origin.

C: RICHLAND TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE

The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown is located in Richland Township. The Richland Township supervisors approved Ordinance No. 117 on June 16, 1980. Excerpts from that ordinance follow:

SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to consume alcoholic beverages on the sidewalks, streets, avenues, alleys, playgrounds, parks, parking lots, or other public places within the Township of Richland.

SECTION 2. Any person violating said ordinance shall, upon summary conviction before a District Magistrate, be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding \$25, and costs of prosecution and, in default of the payment of the fine imposed and costs, be sentenced to serve not more than five days in the Cambria County Jail.

D: ORGANIZATIONAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Preface

Pennsylvania law states that the legal drinking age is 21 years of age. All members, new members or associate members must abide by all federal, state, county, city and University regulations as well as their national alcohol/risk management policy. The entirety of this policy will be enforced for registered student organizations.

This policy is a compilation of national fraternity and sorority risk management policies with additional guidelines pertaining specifically to the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown campus and surrounding community.

The ability to host registered events is neither an organizational nor student right. It is at the discretion of the University to permit registered events and may be administratively revoked by the University. The final determination to permit a registered event to be held and/or allow an event to continue ultimately rests with the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee.

These policies are in addition to policies within the Student Code of Conduct.

1. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, each recognized group is responsible for compliance with the Social Event Policy, by itself and its members, including activities taking place anywhere, whether on or off campus in official chapter houses, in private domiciles, or in publicly or privately owned facilities or elsewhere.
2. Recognized groups must fully comply with all applicable laws, including without limitation the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regarding the possession, consumption, distribution, and use of alcoholic beverages. Among other things, Pennsylvania law prohibits:
 - a. Furnishing or providing alcohol to anyone under the age of 21 or to anyone visibly intoxicated, under any circumstances.
 - b. Anyone under the age of 21 from possessing or consuming alcohol, under any circumstances.
3. The decision as to whether to have alcoholic beverages at the functions of recognized groups is left to the discretion of those groups, except where otherwise prohibited (i.e., rush events, mixers). However, enforcement of, and compliance with, this Policy is the responsibility of the sponsoring recognized group, subject to compliance review, in its sole discretion, by the University's Office of Campus Activities and Engagement.
4. Recognized groups, and their members, will be responsible for compliance with this Policy by their guests (i.e., persons present at an activity, but not a member of a participating recognized group).
5. The elected officers and corporate officers of each Recognized Group are responsible for formulating and implementing internal rules and procedures specific to their own Recognized Group, which shall ensure conformity with this Policy.
6. The officers of all student organizations shall be required to attend a workshop. Failure to do so will result in not being able to register until the workshop is completed. The workshop will educate students

about state laws, alcohol use and abuse, and emphasize responsible drinking, and social event management

7. Cleanup of the registered event should be completed by 10:00a.m. the following morning.

E: SOCIAL EVENT POLICY

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE

1. It is the intention of registered student organizations to provide the safest possible social atmosphere for the members and their guests while allowing those individuals to exercise personal responsibility given to them by the law. The following objectives are essential to achieving this goal:
 - a. To encourage social responsibility for all members;
 - b. To encourage responsible consumption of alcohol by individuals of legal drinking age and thereby reduce the problems related with the misuse of alcohol;
 - c. To increase the safety of everyone in attendance at registered student organization-sponsored events;
 - d. To decrease liability for fraternity/sorority chapters and registered student organizations.
 - e. To support the ideals and values on which our fraternities and sororities are based;
 - f. To promote self-governance.

Article II: Definition of a Social Event with Alcohol

1. A Social Event with Alcohol is defined as:
 - a. Any activity sponsored by chapter of IFC, Panhellenic, NPHC, Greek Council, or registered student organization on or off university property, where alcohol is present, or;
 - b. Any activity where the people in attendance from any chapter/organization leads people to believe that it is a function of that fraternity or sorority or organization
 - c. For the avoidance of doubt, any event hosted or sponsored by a chapter or student organization which includes alcohol, must be either at an approved-on campus facility or at a third-party vendor

ARTICLE III: SOCIAL EVENTS WITH ALCOHOL CLASSIFICATIONS

1. **Third (3rd) Party Vendors** – An event held at a vendor, which distributes and manages the alcohol and risk management policies. The vendor must be appropriately licensed.
2. **ON-Campus Events**
 - a. **Date Event** – An event where each member of the organization roster may invite one guest. The guest list may not exceed twice the size of the organization roster.
 - b. **List Event** – An event where the guest list is not to exceed the building occupancy.
 - c. **Closed Event** – An event where a University-recognized organization co-sponsors an event with one or more other University-recognized organizations. The guest list may not exceed the maximum capacity of the space in which the event is held.
 - d. **Guest** - is considered any non-member

ARTICLE IV: SOCIAL/RESTRICTED EVENT REGISTRATION

1. All organizations are required to register social events with alcohol, events with non-members, and events occurring at third-party vendors. Event registration needs to occur before the event through the Office of Campus Activities and Engagement.
2. Every organization contributing to the planning of the event, assisting in the promotion of the event, or financially supporting the event is required to individually register the event. This includes events at third-party vendors or events held on University property.
3. Social events with alcohol may only be held on a Friday or Saturday between the hours of 10:00pm until 2:00am (unless an exception was previously approved in writing by the Office of Campus Activities and Engagement).
4. Registration forms must be submitted by Noon on the Thursday before the event.
5. A finalized guest list must be submitted by Noon on the Friday before the event.
6. For on campus fraternity houses, the maximum number of persons present at the event shall not exceed the occupancy limit as set by the University of Pittsburgh. For any off-campus event the maximum number of persons present at the event shall not exceed the occupancy limits that have been set by the fire code, or other entity with jurisdiction there over.
7. Upon registration of a Restricted Event the chapter advisor may be notified.
8. Failure to register an event may jeopardize the opportunity to have the event and will result in judicial proceedings as described in the Student Code of Conduct.
9. All advertisements or announcements for the event must indicate compliance with University policies. Advertisements for social events with alcohol need approval from the Office of Campus Activities and Engagement.
10. No Restricted Events may be held at a private residence.

ARTICLE V: NUMBER OF SOCIAL EVENTS WITH ALCOHOL ALLOWED

1. Organizations are allowed one (1) list event per weekend.
2. Date Events do not have a restricted number of allotted events.
3. 3rd Party Vendor events do not have a restricted number of allotted events.
4. Closed events do not have a restricted number of allotted events

ARTICLE VI: EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EVENTS

1. To be eligible to host social events with alcohol, recognized organization must have the current chapter president, social chair and risk manager (or equivalent positions) trained by Campus Activities and Engagement.
2. Organizations need to fulfill the attendance requirement for the Bystander Intervention Training set by the Office of Campus Activities and Engagement within the fall semester to continue host any type of chapter event.
3. This program will be offered by the Office of Campus Activities and Engagement during a variety of times in the beginning of the fall and spring semesters.

ARTICLE VII: SOCIAL EVENT WITH ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT

Any event held at an on-campus recognized organization house where alcohol will be present/served must abide by the following guidelines:

1. Event Monitor Policy
 - a. At any social event with alcohol, each hosting chapter must have one member of each chapter's executive board acting as Event Monitors in addition to one Event Monitor for every 25 people attending the event. (Example: 75 attendees = one executive board members and three event monitors). Chapters may have more Event Monitors, but these are the minimum expectations. At social events with alcohol with two or more sponsoring chapters, all chapters must have Event Monitor present at the event with the total amount of Event Monitors for all chapters equally the one Event Monitor for 25 people, plus an executive board member from each chapter.
 - b. Event Monitors must wear something to make them easily identifiable.
 - c. Event Monitors should begin at the time indicated on the event registration form and remain on duty until the event has come to its conclusion.
 - d. Names of the Event Monitors will be submitted at registration.
 - e. Here is suggested placement of Event Monitors at an on-campus facility:
 - i. Each sponsoring organization must provide at least two non-drinking members at the door;
 - ii. One non-drinking member roaming the entrance/exit areas (risk manager);
 - f. The Event Monitors shall deny access to the event to any person who is visibly intoxicated or disorderly. That person should also provide reasonable assistance for those guests leaving the function who are visibly intoxicated. If assistance takes this person away from the door, the risk manager must take his/her place. Reasonable care should be provided to all guests leaving the function at all times. Chapters should call the University Police and/or dial 911 to report any emergency, criminal incident and/or for assistance.
2. At any event, if a member or guest needs medical attention, if law enforcement officers and/or first responders respond to an event, or if serious structural damage occur during the event the

Office of Campus Activities and Engagement, facilities, chapter advisors, and international/national organization should be notified by noon of the next day.

3. In order to be admitted to a social event with alcohol, attendees must present their University of Pittsburgh ID and government photo ID. The Event Monitors at the front door must have guest sign into the party as well as check both IDs.
4. A guest list is required for each social event with alcohol. In admitting guests on the guest list, the Event Monitor must follow the standard sign-in procedure as stated.
5. Substantial Food (i.e., pizza, pretzels, fruit, cheese, etc.) and non-alcoholic beverages must be available to guests at all times.
6. Rules of the event must be posted and visible to all guests attending the event at a chapter house. Rules must include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Members of sponsoring organization and invited Guests Only.
 - b. Must follow "BYOB" Policy. All beverages must be in factory sealed containers no personal containers allowed. All alcohol must be checked at the front door (entrance).
 - c. No one under 21 is allowed to consume alcohol.
 - d. No glass bottles of any kind.
 - e. Unruly guests may be asked to leave at any time.
 - f. Unscheduled checks may be made by any authorized University representative for health and safety reasons and to otherwise ensure compliance with University policies.

ARTICLE VIII: ALCOHOL BEVERAGE MANAGEMENT

1. The possession, use, and/or consumption of alcohol at an event shall be in full compliance with any and all applicable laws or regulations of the federal, state, and county governments; Richland Township; University of Pittsburgh; the Student Code of Conduct; the Inter-fraternity Council; Greek Council; the Collegiate Panhellenic Council; and the National Pan-Hellenic Council.
2. All alcohol must be distributed from one location.
3. All events must be "Bring Your Own Beverage" (BYOB) or located at a third-party vendor.
 - a. No alcoholic beverage(s) may be purchased through the chapter treasury, nor may the purchase of alcoholic beverage(s) for members or guests be undertaken or coordinated by any member in the name of, or on behalf of, the chapter.
 - b. The purchase and/or use of bulk quantity alcohol is prohibited, including but not limited to kegs, liquor, hard alcohol, and greater than six 12-oz cans of beer per person of legal drinking age in attendance.
 - c. No liquor, wine or alcoholic beverages may be checked/consumed at the party with the exception of beer.
 - d. The maximum amount of alcohol allowed is six 12-oz. cans of beer per person (of legal drinking age) per Restricted Event.

- e. Beverages may not be consumed out of glass containers.
- 4. The participating recognized organizations shall require all those attending the event to present proof of legal age in order to consume alcoholic beverages.
- 5. Open containers of alcoholic beverages shall, in no case, be permitted to leave the event. They must be discarded in a trashcan before leaving the event.
- 6. No alcohol shall be present at any recruitment/intake, new member activity, or ritual of the chapter, nor should alcohol ever be given as a gift from Big Brother/Sister to Little Brother/Sister or vice versa.
- 7. Chapters must not permit pre-gaming or pre-partying and post-gaming or post-partying before chapter events. Activities that encourage rapid consumption of alcohol or funnels should not be permitted at social events with alcohol. Chapters should turn away and provide safe transportation home for members and/or guest who are under the influence.
- 8. No alcohol is to be present at philanthropic events.
 - a. A philanthropic/community service event is defined as a non-alcoholic event held for the charitable purpose of raising funds or awareness for an organization or cause. Alcohol found to be present at the site of the philanthropic/community service event will be the responsibility of the philanthropy's host as well as the chapter that brought the alcohol, both of whom will be subject to disciplinary proceedings.

ARTICLE IX: THIRD-PARTY VENDOR EVENTS

- 1. Chapters are responsible for complying with the Policies and Procedures Manual, the Student Code of Conduct, and all other applicable University policies including alcohol related policies at third-party vendor events. Chapters are required to comply with the third-party vendor expectations. Violations that occur at third-party vendors can also be adjudicated through local law enforcement and the Student Conduct Process.
- 2. All events with or without alcohol must be registered with the Office of Campus Activities and Engagement
- 3. Chapters are encouraged to comply with these recommendations below or the third vendor policies of their national organization in order to increase safety measures at their event:
 - a. Be properly licensed by the appropriate local and state authority. This might involve both a liquor license to sell on the premises where the function is to be held
 - b. Be properly insured with a minimum of \$1,000,000 of general liability insurance, evidence by a properly completed certificate of insurance prepared by the insurance provider. The above "certificate of insurance" must also show evidence that the vendor has, as part of his coverage, "off premise liquor liability coverage and non-owned and

hired coverage.” The certificate of insurance must name as additional insured (at a minimum) the local chapter of the fraternity hiring the vendor as well as the national fraternity with whom the local chapter is affiliated.

- c. Agree in writing to cash sales only, collected by the vendor, during the function.
- d. Assume in writing all responsibilities that any other purveyor of alcoholic beverages would assume in the normal course of business, including but not limited to:
 - i. Checking identification card upon entry
 - ii. Not serving minors
 - iii. Not serving individuals who appear to be intoxicated
 - iv. Maintaining absolute control of all alcoholic containers present o Collecting all remaining alcohol at the end of a function (no excess alcohol— opened or unopened—is to be given, sold or furnished to the chapter)
 - v. Removing all alcohol from the premises.

F: EVENT CAPACITY

Occupancy should not exceed capacity as outlined below:

Residential Facility	Capacity	Guest List Capacity
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Briar Lodge 1	25	100
Briar 4	50	100
Heather 2	50	100
Hawthorn 4	50	100
Heather 4	50	100
Larkspur 2	50	100
Larkspur 4	50	100
Larkspur 5	25	100
Buckhorn 4	50	100
Sunset 2	50	100
Sunset 4	50	100

G: RESTRICTED WEEKENDS

Below are the weekends that organizations are restricted from registering due to staffing levels and/or academic interests.

Month	Date	Reason
Fall Term		
August/September	8/19-9/13	Opening & First Weekend
October	9-11	Fall Break
November	20-29	Thanksgiving Recess
December	04 – End of Term	Finals
Spring Term		
January	15-17	First Weekend
March	5-14	Spring Recess
April	16 – End of Term	Finals