



PRINCETON  
UNIVERSITY

**What every student  
should know about**

# **Alcohol & Other Drug Policies**

**2020–21**

# Princeton University Alcohol and Drug Policies

## Alcohol Policy

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**Students at Princeton University are responsible for knowing and abiding by both state and University regulations regarding the consumption of alcohol.**

The University provides educational programs and information on alcohol and drug abuse as well as counseling services related to alcohol and other drug use. Students are expected and encouraged to be aware of the social, physiological, and psychological consequences and personal risks of excessive drinking in order to make responsible and informed decisions about the serving and consumption of alcohol. Students who take prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, or herbal or other supplements are expected to be aware of the consequences of drinking alcohol in combination with those medications.

The University alcoholic beverage policy is consistent with the laws of the state of New Jersey that, in general, prohibit the consumption and serving of alcoholic beverages by and to persons under 21 years of age. Students will be deemed to have served alcohol when they have made alcohol available to others, regardless of whether any alcohol is actually consumed. Students' responsibility for violations of University policy that take place within their assigned room or suite is described in section 2.2.1 of *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities*. **Students are responsible for their behavior, whether or not they are under the influence of alcohol.** The consumption of alcohol does not constitute a mitigating circumstance when it contributes to the violation of University regulations. The policy affirms the need for mutual respect and personal responsibility within a diverse community.

The University respects the right to privacy, and its representatives will not enter dormitory rooms without substantive cause (e.g., without reasonable suspicion that University policies or regulations have been violated, or that someone's safety is in jeopardy). **However, those whose behavior infringes on the rights of others have, in essence, forfeited that privacy.**

## **What are the responsibilities of Princeton University students?**

Alcoholic beverages normally will not be provided at events where persons under the legal drinking age for consumption of alcoholic beverages are present, including those sponsored by the University, the residential colleges, the University centers, the Undergraduate Student Government, and the classes. Those who are of legal drinking age and who wish to host a gathering with alcohol **must obtain approval from and comply with** the guidelines established by the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students (see <http://odusapps.princeton.edu/Alcohol>) or the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School.

Availability of alcoholic beverages shall not be the primary focus of advertising for campus social events. Those given approval to serve alcoholic beverages are responsible for ensuring that **only those of legal drinking age are served, that alcohol is consumed—if at all—in a legal, healthy, and responsible way, and that no intoxicated individuals are served.**

It is the immediate obligation of those in the presence of a severely intoxicated person to contact appropriate University or local medical or safety personnel (such as the Department of Public Safety, University Health Services (UHS) staff, local hospital staff, or local police or members of the rescue squad). Neither intoxication nor admission to UHS for intoxication will be grounds for disciplinary action. Contacting the Department of Public Safety for assistance in transporting a student in need of medical attention will not, in itself, lead to disciplinary action. Disciplinary action will occur only if other circumstances indicating a violation of University policy are observed. In such an instance, failure to call for assistance will be considered an especially serious violation of policy. In order to encourage calls for assistance, the University may offer leniency with respect to other violations which may come to light as a result of such calls, depending on the circumstances involved.

## **When will the Department of Public Safety or other University administrators intervene?**

Public Safety (or another University administrator) may enter a room whenever there is reasonable cause to believe that someone's safety may be in jeopardy or that a violation of the alcohol policy is taking place.

Public Safety will investigate possible alcohol violations when indicators of alcohol provision are observed. Such indicators may include—but are not limited to—kegs,

bottles, cans, spilled alcohol, an individual leaving a room in possession of alcohol, or intoxicated behavior.

In the event of a noise complaint, Public Safety will go to the room and knock on the door. If no one answers, Public Safety may enter the room and instruct the residents of the room to control the noise. Regardless, Public Safety may enter the room where there is cause to investigate further, as described above.

## **When are Princeton University students in violation of the alcohol policy?**

1. On campus and in the local vicinity, students are in violation of the University alcohol policy under any or all of the following circumstances:

a) When participating in or organizing an activity that encourages excessive drinking (e.g., drinking games, pre-gaming with hard alcohol, initiation activities, hazing), as these acts can endanger the individual being served. These are **especially serious** violations.

b) When **the serving or consumption** of alcohol contributes to behavior that (i) intimidates or harasses others; (ii) injures or threatens to injure others (e.g., driving under the influence of alcohol, assault); (iii) leads to the destruction of property; or (iv) infringes on the peace and privacy of others. These are especially serious violations. In keeping with state law, when a student has been detained by Public Safety or local law enforcement officials on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol, the refusal to submit to the taking of breath samples for the purpose of determining blood alcohol content will be taken as conclusive evidence that the student was driving under the influence of alcohol.

c) Violations of local ordinances or state laws by students may also be grounds for University disciplinary action, regardless of where such violations occur, if they clearly violate University standards of conduct. See the section on Federal and State Laws (pages 8–11).

d) Failure to immediately contact appropriate University or local medical or safety personnel (such as the Department of Public Safety, University Health Services (UHS) staff, local hospital staff, local police or members of the local rescue squad) on behalf of a severely intoxicated person.

2. On campus, students are in violation of the University alcohol policy under any or all of the following circumstances.

- a) When carrying or possessing an open container of alcohol (defined as any container not sealed by the manufacturer) in or across common spaces (lounges, game rooms, courtyards, dining areas, hallways, etc.).
- b) When in possession of a keg and/or tap or other evidence of intent to serve alcohol, including alcohol delivered in large quantities to the University Mailroom (unless permission has been granted by the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students or the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School).
- c) When, under the age of 21, in possession of any container of alcohol in common spaces of the University, including alcohol delivered to the University Mailroom.
- d) When alcohol is served, provided, or made available by or to persons under the age of 21. Violations involving juveniles, such as high school applicants or visitors to the University, will be deemed particularly serious.
- e) When alcohol is served, provided, or made available to any person, regardless of his or her age, without prior approval from the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students or the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School.
- f) When procuring alcohol for persons under the age of 21 or by using or falsifying identification.

## **What are the consequences of violating the alcohol policy?**

Students who are in violation of the alcohol policy are subject to a range of **University sanctions**: warning, disciplinary probation (including housing, and/or campus service sanctions), withholding of degree, suspension, suspension with conditions, expulsion, and censure. In keeping with the University's particular concern about high-risk alcohol use, the consequences for violations of the alcohol policy will reflect the level of risk represented by the behavior as well as the impact of the behavior upon the community.

In general, first instance lower-risk violations will result in a dean's warning; subsequent violations will result in, at a minimum, disciplinary probation. Examples of lower-risk alcohol violations include, but are not necessarily limited to, situations where:

- Only low-proof alcohol (under 30 proof) is present;
- A modest amount of alcohol is available, appropriate to the number of persons present;
- No high-risk drinking, including drinking games, is occurring;

- No “common sources” of alcohol, such as kegs or alcoholic punch, are present;
- Neither the serving nor the consumption of alcohol has contributed to behavior that infringes on the peace and privacy of others (e.g., disorderly conduct, harassment, vandalism or property damage, injuring or threatening to injure others, or driving under the influence of alcohol).

The University regards higher-risk violations of the alcohol policy as more serious than lower-risk violations. In general, a student who commits a first higher-risk alcohol violation is placed on disciplinary probation.

Discipline for a second higher-risk offense will be more serious and may involve a long term of disciplinary probation, campus service, and/or revocation of on-campus residential privileges. Students should expect to be suspended for a third higher-risk alcohol or alcohol-related offense or for any particularly egregious first or second offense. Higher-risk alcohol violations include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- The serving, providing, or making available of hard alcohol (in any quantity);
- The possession of hard alcohol by underage persons in common spaces of the University;
- The possession of kegs or other common sources of alcohol;
- Drinking games;
- The possession of any large quantity of alcohol (of any kind) relative to the number of people present;
- Violations that result from intoxication, such as assault, harassment, disorderly conduct, vandalism, or property damage.
- Failing to immediately contact appropriate University or local medical or safety personnel on behalf of a severely intoxicated person.

Deans and directors of student life may notify a student’s parents following any significant incident of drug/alcohol-related misconduct. Alcohol, kegs, and/or taps used in violation of the above regulations will be confiscated.

Students who violate the University’s alcohol or drug policies are encouraged to avail themselves of the services of the Alcohol and Other Drug Program offered by the University Office of Counseling and Psychological Services. When appropriate, deans and directors of student life may require an alcohol/drug evaluation by University Health Services staff.

# Drug Policy

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Princeton University does not condone the possession, use, manufacture, or distribution of illegal substances or drug paraphernalia of any kind in any amount, or the possession, use, manufacture, or distribution of prescription drugs without a prescription. **Students in violation of this policy may be jeopardizing their own well-being as well as the well-being of the University community.**

In general, a student who violates this policy for the first time will be placed on probation. Discipline for a second offense will be more serious and may involve lengthening the probation, campus service, and/or revocation of on-campus residential privileges. **Students should expect to be suspended for a third offense. Students involved in such cases, when their conduct is in violation of the law, cannot be guaranteed immunity from either arrest or prosecution.**

Among those violations considered to be most serious are the manufacture, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs or prescription drugs without a prescription; any involvement in illegal drug use or traffic with minors, particularly from the local area; and possession or use of the more dangerous or highly addictive drugs. Students engaged in activities described in this paragraph should expect a lengthy separation or expulsion from the University.

Students possessing, using, selling, or manufacturing illegal substances may also be subject to **mandatory penalties prescribed by the state.**

It is the immediate obligation of those in the presence of a person suffering adverse consequences of using drugs to contact appropriate University or local medical or safety personnel (such as the Department of Public Safety, University Health Services (UHS) staff, local hospital staff, or local police or members of the rescue squad).

In order to encourage calls for assistance, the University may offer leniency with respect to violations which may come to light as a result of such calls, depending on the circumstances involved.

## **When will the Department of Public Safety or other University administrators intervene?**

Public Safety (or another University administrator) may enter a room whenever there is reasonable cause to believe that someone's safety may be in jeopardy or that a violation of the drug policy is taking place.

# State and Federal Laws\*

## Alcohol Use

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The legal age to purchase and consume alcoholic beverages in the state of New Jersey is 21.

(N.J.S.A. 33:1–81)

### **Purchase of Alcohol by/for the Underaged**

An underaged person who purchases or attempts to purchase alcohol, or who misstates his/her/their age, or a person of legal age who purchases alcohol for an underaged person, faces a conviction of a disorderly person's offense, which incurs a fine of not less than \$500 and loss of license for six months. In addition, the judge may revoke a driver's license for six months from the date of conviction.

### **Operating Motor Vehicles While Under the Influence of Intoxicants** (N.J.S.A. 39:4–50)

Definition. A person is said to be legally drunk in New Jersey if his/her/their blood alcohol concentration is at or above 0.08%.

A person may also be arrested when his/her/their blood alcohol concentration is below 0.08% if the individual's driving ability is considered to be unsafe.

In either case the person is charged with Driving While Intoxicated (DWI). If a person under the age of 21 operates a motor vehicle while his/her/their blood alcohol concentration is at or above 0.01% and less than 0.08%, he/she/they are automatically punishable by 90 days driver's license suspension, plus 15 to 30 days of community service, plus attendance at an Intoxicated Driver Resource Center plus fees.

### **Penalties**

All persons convicted of DWI must pay an insurance surcharge of \$1,000 per year for three years, and face a loss of license for 3 months (7–12 months if their blood alcohol concentration is above 0.1%).

A first-time offender also faces a possible 30-day jail term, a requirement to spend a minimum of 12 hours in an Intoxicated Driver Resource Center, plus a fine of not less than \$250 nor more than \$400.

\* Note: The information provided above consists of summaries of New Jersey laws relevant to alcohol and drug use. The University makes no representation regarding its accuracy or its completeness. If any student has a need to obtain specific and current details regarding applicable laws, the student should consult an attorney.



Increased penalties apply to anyone below the legal drinking age and anyone who has subsequent offenses.

## **Alcoholic Beverage in the Car**

(N.J.S.A. 39:4-51a – b)

A motorist or passenger found to have consumed an alcoholic beverage while in a car faces a fine of \$200 for a first offense and a fine of \$250 or 10 days of community service for each subsequent offense.

A motorist or passenger found to possess an open, unsealed alcoholic beverage container in a car faces a fine of \$200 for a first offense and a fine of \$250 or 10 days of community service for each subsequent offense.

## **Possession/Transfer of ID**

(N.J.S.A. 33:1–81.7)

Someone who is underaged and possesses a false ID or uses another person's ID card to obtain alcohol, or someone of legal age who gives his/her/their ID card to an underaged person so that he/she/they can obtain or purchase alcohol, faces a fine of up to \$300 or up to 60 days in jail.

Use of a false government document, such as a driver's license, is a particularly serious offense and may result in forfeiting one's right to operate a motor vehicle in New Jersey. (N.J.S.A. 2C:21–2.1)

## **Penalties for Serving Alcoholic Beverages to Minors** (N.J.S.A. 2C:33–17)

It is a disorderly person's offense to offer, serve, or make available alcohol to persons under 21 or to entice persons under 21 to drink alcohol. This offense is punishable by up to six months in prison or a \$1,000 fine, or both. This law does not apply where

- 1) a parent or guardian over 21 offers, serves, or makes available the alcohol;
- 2) the alcohol is consumed in a religious ceremony or rite; or
- 3) a person over 21 serves alcohol in his or her home to someone under 21 with the permission of and in the presence of the minor's parent or guardian who is over 21 years of age.

**Social Host Liability.** New Jersey has decided that social hosts may be directly liable to minors to whom alcohol is served. Social hosts may also be liable if they serve alcohol to a guest, knowing that the guest is intoxicated and may be driving, or to third persons injured in automobile accidents involving a guest of legal age to whom alcohol was served.

## **Lifeline Legislation** (N.J.S.A. 2C:33–15)

Grants statutory immunity when:

- An underage person calls 9-1-1 and reports that another underage person is in need of medical assistance due to alcoholic consumption;
- The underage person who called 9-1-1 provides their name to the 9-1-1 operator;
- The underage person is the first person to make the 9-1-1 report;
- The underage person who made the 9-1-1 call remains at the scene with the person under the legal age in need of medical assistance until assistance arrives and cooperates with medical assistance and law enforcement personnel on the scene.

The underage person who received medical assistance also shall be immune from prosecution under N.J.S.A. 2C:33–15.

## **Overdose Prevention Act** (N.J.S.A. 24:6J–1)

New Jersey's Overdose Prevention Act, also referred to as the Good Samaritan Law, is intended to encourage witnesses and victims of drug overdoses to seek medical assistance by providing certain protections from criminal or civil liability, in an effort to decrease overdose-related fatalities.

## **Possession and Consumption in Public Places** (N.J.S.A. 2C:33–15)

It is a disorderly person's offense for a person under 21 to possess or consume alcohol in public places, motor vehicles, schools, and places of public assembly. If convicted for possessing or consuming in a motor vehicle, there will be a six-month suspension of an individual's driver's license. The fine for such an offense shall be not less than \$500.

The municipality of Princeton prohibits the possession of open containers of alcohol while in any public roadway, walkways, or thoroughfares within Princeton. Individuals are subject to a summons and subsequent fine if found guilty of violating this ordinance.

## **Consent to Taking of Breath Samples** (N.J.S.A. 39:4–50.2)

Any person who operates a motor vehicle on any public road, street, or highway or quasi-public area in this State shall be deemed to have given consent to the taking of samples of their breath for the purpose of making chemical tests to determine the content of alcohol in their blood when requested by a police officer.

## **Penalties for Refusing to Give Breath Samples** (N.J.S.A. 39:4–50.4a)

The penalties for refusing to submit to give breath samples are in addition to any penalties for driving while intoxicated. For refusing to give breath samples, a person's driving privilege will be suspended for not less than seven months or more than one year. In addition to the license suspension, the person is subject to a fine of not less than \$300 or more than \$500 for a first offense. The revocation period and fines go up if the offense was within 1,000 feet of an elementary or secondary school.

## **Drug Use**

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### **Controlled Dangerous Substances Act** (N.J.S.A. 2C:35–10)

It is unlawful for any person to obtain or to possess a controlled dangerous substance or controlled substance analog, unless the substance was obtained directly, or pursuant to a valid prescription. Any person who violates this section with respect to any controlled dangerous substance, or its analog, is guilty of a crime of the third degree, and a fine of up to \$35,000.00 may be imposed.

Any person who violates this section with respect to possession of more than 50 grams of marijuana, including any adulterants or dilutants, or more than 5 grams of hashish is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree, and a fine of up to \$25,000.00 may be imposed. Any person who violates this section with respect to possession of 50 grams or less of marijuana, including any adulterants or dilutants, or 5 grams or less of hashish is a disorderly person. Incidents on school property can result in higher penalties.

### **Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989**

It is unlawful for any University employee, including work-study students, and assistants in research or instruction, to manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, or use controlled substances in the workplace. Violations of such prohibitions are subject to penalties ranging from warning to permanent separation from the University. In addition, any employee convicted under a criminal drug statute for a violation occurring at the workplace must notify the University within five (5) days of that conviction.

## For More Information

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University and local Princeton resources are available to students who need more information or assistance.

For questions concerning health education, counseling, or medical assistance, call:

Princeton University Health Services (medical)  
609-258-3141

Counseling and Psychological Services  
609-258-3285

Health Promotion and Prevention Services  
609-258-4842

For questions about University policies or social life, call:

Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students  
609-258-3055

Office of the Dean of the Graduate School (student life)  
609-258-3028

For questions about state and federal laws call:

Public Safety  
609-258-1000