Laws, Policies & Ordinances Involving Alcohol & Other Drugs

The University of Michigan seeks to provide an environment free of the adverse effects of alcohol and other drug abuse. Alcohol abuse is a major national public health issue on college campuses. Behaviors related to alcohol and other drug use can lead to life-altering consequences such as regretted decisions, lost academic potential, discipline, arrest and serious harm to self and others.

Members of the University community can be held accountable for violations of federal, state and local laws and ordinances, as well as the University Policy on Alcohol and Other Drug Use under the Statement of Students Rights and Responsibilities.

**Under 21**

- **Public Urination** It is illegal to urinate where someone else may see you or on any public property including alleys.
- **Open Containers** It is illegal to be on public property with open containers of alcohol. Public property includes sidewalks, streets and public buildings.
- **Fake IDs** It is illegal to possess, use or make a false ID.
- **Prescription Drug Misuse** It is illegal to misuse prescription medication, i.e. continue to use medication when the prescription is no longer valid, use prescribed drugs contrary to the prescription, and give or sell prescribed drugs to another person. Misusing prescription drugs can result in conviction with jail time.
- **Marijuana** It is illegal to possess marijuana.
- **Disorderly Conduct** It is a violation of University policy for anyone to vomit, fight, urinate, defecate or engage in any behavior (yelling, jumping or throwing objects) in a University bus, passenger van or other vehicle which interferes with the safe operation of the vehicle or the safe enjoyment of the other passengers in the vehicle.
- **Smoke-Free Campus** U-M is smokefree on all grounds, parking structures and buildings.
- **Assault, Battery and Criminal Sexual Conduct** It is a violation of University policy and state and local law to physically harm, sexually assault or harass another person.
- **Enforcement**
  - Police officers from U-M Department of Public Safety and Security (DPSS) and the City of Ann Arbor cite students for alcohol and other drug-related offenses, both on and off-campus.
  - Police boost enforcement on weekends that are associated with increased activity. This increase is often before/after major athletic events, and the beginning and the end of the school year.
  - Medical personnel will not call the police when an undergraduate is at the hospital. However, if DPSS of Ann Arbor police are involved, an MIP can be issued.

**Medical Amnesty**

- People under 21 will be exempt from prosecution if they voluntarily present themselves or initiate contact with law enforcement or medical services for the purpose of obtaining medical assistance for an alcohol or prescription drug overdose.
- This law also provides amnesty from prosecution for alcohol possession or consumption for minors who report experiencing criminal sexual misconduct or who assist those who report experiencing such misconduct.

**Parent/Family Communication Program**

- Because of the health and safety risk inherent in alcohol and other drug misuse, U-M notifies parents/family members when first-year students under age 21 are involved in serious or repeated alcohol or other drug events.

**Drinking and Driving**

- It is illegal to drive alcohol if you are under 21 and can result in a Minor in Possession (MIP) violation.
- It is illegal to purchase, provide or serve alcohol to anyone under 21.
- The body is considered a container. If someone under the age of 21 has consumed alcohol & police have a reasonable suspicion that they have been consuming alcohol, police can issue an MIP.

**Parties**

- It is illegal to serve alcohol to anyone under 21 at a private party.
- Hosts can be held responsible for injuries an intoxicated person causes or incurs at and after leaving a party.
- Police may issue noise violations if any unreasonable noise may be heard beyond the property line and/or is disturbing others. There is a specific city ordinance that covers the hours of 10pm-7am.
University Policy on Alcohol and Other Drug Use
alcohol-drug-policy.umich.edu

Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities
oscr.umich.edu/statement

Stay in the Blue: Download the App!
uh.s.umich.edu/stayintheblue

City of Ann Arbor Ordinances
www.municode.com/library/mi/ann_arbor/codes/code_of_ordinances

State of Michigan Laws
legislature.mi.gov

U-M offers resources to educate campus and community members about the consequences of illegal or excessive alcohol and other drug use, and to assist them with making informed choices.

UHS, Wolverine Wellness, Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention
uhs.umich.edu/aodpp
734-763-1320

Parent/Family Communication Program
uhs.umich.edu/parent-communication
734-763-1320

Office of Student Conflict Resolution
oscr.umich.edu
734-936-6308

University Housing
Student Conflict Resolution
housing.umich.edu/undergrad/hscr
734-647-4718

Department of Public Safety and Security
police.umich.edu
911 (Emergency)
734-763-1131 (Non-Emergency)
Tip Line: 734-763-9180

Student Legal Services
studentlegalservices.umich.edu
734-763-9920

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)
caps.umich.edu
734-764-8312

Ann Arbor Police Department
a2gov.org/departments/police
911 (Emergency)
734-994-2911 (Non-Emergency)