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 and the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Under 21
• It is illegal to drink 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 they have been consuming alcohol, police can issue an MIP.

Drinking and Driving
• It is illegal for those under 21 to drive after drinking any amount of alcohol.
• It is illegal for those 21 and older to drive with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or higher, or any BAC if driver appears impaired.

Public Urination
• It is illegal to urinate in any public place not designated for that purpose including alley space.
• A person caught urinating in public may be charged with indecent exposure.

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.

Open Containers
• Open containers of alcohol are illegal to possess. Open containers of alcohol. Public property includes sidewalks, streets and public buildings.
• It is a violation of university policy for anyone to consume or possess alcohol inside any university athletic facility, including Michigan Stadium.

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• It is illegal to misuse prescription medication, i.e. continue to use medication when the prescription is no longer valid, use prescribed drugs contrary to the prescription, or give or sell prescribed drugs to another person.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.
• Possession of marijuana on U-M property is a misdemeanor with the consequences of fines and possible jail time.
• Possession of marijuana in the City of Ann Arbor (but not on U-M property) is a civil infraction with a fine.
• The Michigan Medical Marijuana Act of 2008 conflicts with federal laws, so the use, possession or cultivation of marijuana continues to violate U-M policies and is prohibited on U-M property.

Smoke-Free Campus
• U-M is smoke-free on all grounds, in parking structures and in buildings.

Assault, Battery, Criminal Sexual Conduct, and Hazing
• It is a violation of university policy and state and local law to physically harm, sexually assault or haze another person.
• Consent for a sexual activity means a clear and unambiguous agreement, expressed outwardly through mutually understandable words or actions. It is always freely given and both people must feel that they are able to express yes or no at any point during sexual activity. The partner escalating sexual activity is responsible for obtaining consent before proceeding.
• A person who is incapacitated is unable to give consent. Incapacitation means a person lacks the ability to make informed, rational judgments about whether or not to engage in sexual activity. When alcohol or other drugs are involved, incapacitation is a state beyond drunkenness or intoxication; the level of impairment must be significant enough to render a person unable to give consent.
• Students should be cautious before engaging in sexual activity when either person has been drinking alcohol or using other drugs.

Disorderly Conduct
• It is a violation of university policy 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.
• It is illegal to be intoxicated in a public place and endanger the safety of another person and/or damage property.

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 underage drinker is at the hospital. However, if DPSS or 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.

Fake IDs
• It is illegal to possess, use or make a false ID.
Resources

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.

University Health Service, Wolverine Wellness, Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention
uh.s.umich.edu/aodp
734-763-1320

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

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

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

Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC)
sapac.umich.edu
734-936-3333 [24-hour crisis line]
734-764-7771 [non-emergency]

Dean of Students Office
deanofstudents.umich.edu
734-764-7420

Information

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

Department of Public Safety and Security
dpss.umich.edu
911 (emergency)
734-763-1131 (non-emergency)
734-763-9180 (toll line)

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)

University Policy on Alcohol and Other Drug Use
alcohol-drug-policy.umich.edu

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

U-M Student Sexual Misconduct Policy
studentsexualmisconductpolicy.umich.edu

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

State of Michigan Laws
legislature.mi.gov