# UNA Alcohol Awareness and Education

The University of North Alabama recognizes that the use of alcohol and other drugs can significantly interfere with student success and may pose a serious threat to the health and well-being of the members of its community.

In an effort to address this issue and to maintain a safe and educational learning environment, all first-year students complete *AlcoholEdu for College*, an online alcohol education course. The course was designed for population-level, primary prevention. Its personalized approach provides an experience that impacts both individual behavior and campus culture. Research shows that the course:

* Motivates behavior change
* Resets unrealistic expectations about the effects of alcohol
* Links choices about drinking to academic and personal success
* Helps students practice safer decision-making
* Engages students to create a healthier campus community

The course includes three surveys that measure alcohol-related attitudes and behaviors. The results from the data collected in the course surveys are used in planning programs and services to better educate students about the effects of alcohol and how to make well-informed decisions about alcohol use. Course data also informs the annual Social Norms Campaign, “I Choose the Norm.”

## Expected Conduct for Students - Alcohol and Other Drugs

UNA’s Student Code of Conduct prohibits the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol and other drugs by students and student organizations. The regulations also prohibit other alcohol-related misconduct. Students under the age of 21 are prohibited from possession and consumption of alcohol. All students are prohibited from the use and possession of illegal drugs. In addition, student organizations sponsoring events where alcohol is present are subject to the requirements and guidelines outlined in the University’s Statement and Regulations Regarding Alcoholic Beverages at Social Functions.

**Specific Standards in the Student Code of Conduct**

**Standard #2** - Use, possession, manufacturing, or distribution of alcoholic beverages (except as expressly permitted by University regulations), or public intoxication. Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstance, be used by, possessed by or distributed to any person under twenty-one (21) years of age.

A "three strikes and you're out" rule will be applied upon the third violation and will result in suspension for a minimum of one academic year.

**Standard #6** - A. Use, possession, manufacturing, or distribution of illegal drugs including but not limited to marijuana, narcotics, methamphetamine, cocaine, opiates, LSD, mushrooms, heroin, designer drugs such as Ecstasy and GHB, or other controlled substances are prohibited. Use or possession of prescription drugs other than for the person prescribed, or for use other than the prescribed purpose are prohibited. Possession or use of drug paraphernalia including but not limited to equipment, products, and materials used to cultivate, manufacture, distribute, or use illegal drugs are prohibited.

B. Knowingly associating with a person while they are participating in the above-stated acts.

Sanctions for drug violations may include drug education, mandated evaluation and treatment, community service, suspension, and/or expulsion. Student organizations that knowingly permit illegal drug activity will be excluded from campus for a minimum of one year.

University owned, operated, and/or controlled housing facilities operate on a ‘no tolerance’” drug standard. As such, students found in drug violation who reside in these facilities will be removed and evicted from the residence.

**Social Policy for Organizations Regarding Alcoholic Beverages**

While the University’s role is to assist students to develop satisfying lifestyles to equip them for a better quality of life, it cannot and should not stand in the place of a parent. University students, as citizens of the community, of the state and of the nation are, like any other adults, expected to be aware of and to abide by pertinent laws and University regulations. The University expects students to conduct themselves at all times as responsible adults, and to realize that they may be subject to civil or criminal liability resulting from violation of alcohol and controlled substance laws. Such liability may exist independently of any disciplinary action taken by the University for violation of its regulations.

The following regulations regarding planned social functions held off campus and on the University of North Alabama campus or on property controlled, owned, or operated by the University shall apply to all student organizations, whether social, academic, honorary or otherwise, recognized by the University and all UNA Greek-letter social organizations, whether or not housed on university property:

Guests List

All social functions where alcoholic beverages shall be served or permitted to be consumed shall be by individual invitation only. Parties or other social functions where alcoholic beverages are served or permitted to be consumed cannot be open to non- members without a specific individual invitation. A typed guest list must be compiled prior to the event and be made available upon request by a university official. The guest list must be turned in to the Office of Student Life by noon on the next business day following the function. Open parties are prohibited.

﻿﻿Drinks and Beverages

1. The sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited. This restriction applies to all of the various methods of charging for drinks, including charging admission to parties, selling drink tickets, asking for donations, charging for food or other items while providing drinks free, or otherwise obtaining payment or reimbursement of any kind for alcoholic beverages.
2. Alternative beverages such as soft drinks, nonalcoholic punches and the like must be readily available at all times during parties or social functions at which alcoholic beverages are being consumed.
3. Ample quantities of snack foods, such as meats, brownies, cookies, cheeses, fruits, sandwiches and raw vegetables or hors d’oeuvres must be readily available in several locations at all times during a party at which alcoholic beverages may be consumed.
4. Glass container will be prohibited at all social events with alcohol.
5. No common source of alcohol should be provided such as but not limited to hunch punch, keg, etc.
6. Hard liquor should be prohibited from all “Bring Your Own Beverage” social events.
7. In the event that alcoholic beverages become present at a function that originated as a non-alcoholic function, it is the responsibility of the organization’s executive officers to see that all rules governing functions where alcoholic beverages are involved be enforced.

Publicity

No publicity on or off-campus concerning parties or social functions sponsored by a University-recognized organization shall include any reference, by words or pictures, to alcoholic beverages. Violation of this policy will result in an automatic fine of $150.00.

Risk Management Team

A group of not less than six (6) members of the organization will be responsible for monitoring the event. At least two members of the risk management team must be executive officers. At least two members of the risk management team must be 21 years of age. These individuals monitoring the event will not be allowed to consume any alcohol prior or during the event. Their duties will include:

1. Checking identification of members and guests.
2. Distributing wristbands to the individuals of drinking age.
3. Coordinating the transportation of members and guests leaving the event intoxicated.
4. Wearing distinctive clothing, such as brightly colored shirts or hats, to identify themselves at all times.
5. Introducing themselves to the Public Safety officer(s), if the event is held on campus and requiring Public Safety.

Registering the Event

To better ensure that organizations implement appropriate risk-management measures, any function sponsored by a student organization, at which alcohol is served or permitted to be consumed must be registered on the Student Organization Activity Registration form with the Office of Student Life no later than 12 noon five (5) business days prior to the function.

Activities held on or off campus, sponsored by a recognized University student organization, must be concluded no later than 12 midnight, except on Friday and Saturday when events may go on until 3 a.m., and must have the approval of the person(s) in charge of the facility where the function is to be held. On-campus activities will be limited to six hours.

No event is permitted without the knowledge and approval of the faculty/staff advisor of the sponsoring organization.

Each organization assumes full responsibility for the activities and behavior of all persons in attendance at its events. If situations should arise that prove damaging or embarrassing to person(s) in attendance, to the organization itself, or to the University, disciplinary procedures against the organization will be instituted by the appropriate judicial board or by the appropriate administrative officers of the University.

Sponsorship

Organizations shall not sponsor or co-sponsor any function with any beverage distributor or brewing company or lend the organization’s name to any such activity at which beverage alcohol is available, with or without charge or donation. This restriction applies to all activities, including, but not limited to, functions conducted for the benefit of charities and like causes.

**Parental Notification**

A Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) amendment adopted in the fall of 1998, permits colleges and universities to inform the family of a student under 21 years of age when their student has been found in violation of university alcohol or other drug policies and/or in the case of a health or safety emergency.

The University of North Alabama is concerned about the use of alcohol among minors and recognizes that parents are important partners in student success. As such, Student Conduct procedures include parental notification once a student under the age of 21 has been found in violation of an alcohol or other drug offense.

A letter of notification is sent by certified mail, generally within three business days of the determination that the student violated University alcohol or other drug policies.

**Medical Amnesty/Good Samaritan Policy**

The health and safety of students is a primary concern at UNA. As such, in cases of severe alcohol/drug intoxication and/or alcohol poisoning, the University encourages individuals to seek medical assistance for themselves or others. If an individual seeks medical attention due to his/her level of intoxication, the Office of Student Conduct will not pursue conduct sanctions against the student for the sole violation of using or possessing alcohol or drugs. Additionally, those students who assist in obtaining medical attention for individuals who are intoxicated will not receive student conduct sanctions for violations of the Alcohol Policy in the Code of Conduct. In lieu of student conduct sanctions, the intoxicated student (and possibly the referring student) will be required to meet with the Director of Student Conduct who may recommend educational components such as alcohol education, counseling, and/or an alcohol and substance abuse assessment.

Serious or repeated incidents will prompt a higher degree of concern/response which may include referral to the student conduct system. The Medical Amnesty Policy does not preclude student conduct sanctions due to any other violations of the Code of Conduct (not related to the Alcohol Policy). Likewise, the Medical Amnesty Policy does not prevent action by University Police or other law enforcement personnel. In circumstances where an organization is found to be hosting an event where medical assistance is sought for an intoxicated guest, the organization (depending upon the circumstances) may be held responsible for violations of the Alcohol Policy. However, the organization’s willingness to seek medical assistance for a member or guest will be viewed as a mitigating factor in determining a sanction for any violations of the Alcohol Policy.

**Legal Consequences – State of Alabama**

Alcohol-related violations can be costly, both financially and educationally. Following are some of the consequences related to alcohol and other drug violations:

1. DUI. The cost of a single DUI offense can run between $600 and $2,100, just if you get pulled over. If there's an accident, it can be much worse. DUI facts you should know:
   * You don't have to be driving to be convicted of DUI - being in physical control of the vehicle (sitting in the driver's seat with the keys in the ignition) is enough.
   * Even on a first DUI offense, jail time may be given, especially when there's an accident or a high blood-alcohol level.
2. PUBLIC INTOXICATION. Arrest is automatic for this offense, which covers any behavior in a public place that indicates intoxication, either alcohol- or drug-induced. The cost of a public-intoxication arrest is $336. Offenders must also attend a drug- or alcohol-abuse program and pay the program cost.
3. OPEN BEVERAGE CONTAINERS. It is illegal in Florence to carry an open alcoholic beverage in public, or to drive a car in which there is an open alcoholic beverage. This ordinance includes cups, bottles, and cans, and applies equally to party goers and patrons of bars. A violation could cost $236.
4. IMPROPER IDENTIFICATION BY A MINOR (Fake Id’s). Improperly identifying yourself can cost you $336 and possible suspension of your license for 90 days.
5. MINOR IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL. If you’re under 21 and you’ve got alcohol, it could cost you at least $336. If you’re over 21, read items 6 and 7 below.
6. SALE OF ALCOHOL TO MINORS. A first offense can cost $686; a second offense could include jail time plus a fine.
7. ADULT ALLOWING MINORS TO CONSUME OR POSSESS ALCOHOL AT AN OPEN HOUSE PARTY. If cited for this offense, you must appear in court and can be fined up to $661.
8. LITTERING. "Litter" in this case includes cigarettes, cups, beer cans and bottles, as well as anything else you might toss aside. If you are caught littering, you could pay up to $286 plus a fine set by the judge. You can be fined $400 for littering from a car.
9. NOISE ORDINANCE VIOLATION. If your neighbors can hear your TV, music, or voice, they can call the police. A citation could cost you a minimum of $286.
10. PARKING. You can't just park anywhere-especially on your own or anyone else's lawn, in front of a neighbor's driveway, too far away from the curb, or in a no-parking zone. Obtain any permits you need, both on and off campus, as early as possible.
11. FALSE OR NUISANCE FIRE ALARMS. False reports can result in community service hours and/or fines up to $500 plus restitution.
12. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE III. Including members of the same household or a dating relationship, this offense typically results in the arrest of one or both of the parties involved and requires a mandatory court appearance.
13. TRESPASSING. Some parks have specific opening and closing hours, and time spent in the park outside those hours is trespassing. Pay attention to warning signs at spillways and dams, too. Any trespassing offense could cost $286 or more.

### Effects of Alcohol on Health

Alcohol is a depressant which, used in any dose, reduces coordination and alertness, making activities such as driving, dangerous. Large doses of alcohol can cause unconsciousness, hypothermia, respiratory arrest, and death. Physical complications of chronic alcohol use include liver damage, hepatitis, altered brain cell functioning, gastritis, heart disease, circulatory problems, peptic ulcers, some forms of cancer, premature aging, impotence, infertility, reproductive disorders, neurological disorders, and high blood pressure. The consumption of alcohol by pregnant women may cause abnormalities, such as fetal alcohol syndrome, in their babies.

### Alcohol Counseling Services

Full and part-time students may use the services of Student Counseling Services. Individual counseling, assessment, and referral are available on a strictly confidential basis.

**Links to Things You Should Know**

* Alcohol and Other Drug
* Social Policy for Organizations
* Parental Notification
* Sexual Violence
* Medical Amnesty
* Values Statement
* The Bacchus Network
* Watch Your BAC
* Drug and Alcohol Resource Guide (Note: this one is new and will need to be added to the webpage as well - <http://www.steppingstonecenter.org/drug-alcohol-abuse-resource-guide/>
* Virtual Pamphlets (Note: this one is new and will need to be added to the webpage as well <http://www.dr-bob.org/vpc/virtulets.html>

**Campus Resources**

* Health Services
* Counseling Services
* Sexual Misconduct Information
* Student Health 101
* University Police
* Get Involved
* Leadership Opportunities
* Peer Educators - K4L

**Community Support**

Although there are numerous campus resources available to students, the community also offers support to UNA students. Please review the resources below to make sure you are knowledgeable about available community resources to help you or a friend that might need assistance.

* Shoals Alcoholics Anonymous
* Riverbend Center for Mental Health
* Bradford Health Services
* Shoals Crisis Center (Rape Response)

**What the Research Says**

Review the links below to make sure you are knowledgeable about the valuable, research-based information. What do you think about taking a look at your drinking habits and how they may affect your health? Rethinking Drinking can help you get started.

* Rethink Drinking: Calculators
* Rethink Drinking: Interactive Worksheets
* National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism