As a student at the University of Minnesota, it is important to remember that breaking state or local laws and violating University policy could affect your status as a student. You will be held accountable through the student discipline/conduct system when you are in violation of local and state alcohol laws and University policy. Educate yourself on the Student Conduct Code.

www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/academic/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf

Some individuals may decide to use substances in violation of the Student Conduct Code and state and federal laws. Making an informed decision about drinking is your personal responsibility. No one can make this decision for you. Since the choice you make about alcohol use could be among the most important decisions you make in college and throughout your life, please consider the factors that might impact your decision.

Decision Making

Some individuals may decide to use substances in violation of the Student Conduct Code and state and federal laws. Making an informed decision about drinking is your personal responsibility. No one can make this decision for you. Since the choice you make about alcohol use could be among the most important decisions you make in college and throughout your life, please consider the factors that might impact your decision.

Laws and Policies Related to Alcohol

What is the drinking age?
The legal drinking age in the United States is 21. It is against state law to consume, purchase, or possess alcohol if you are younger than 21. www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=340A.503

What is the Student Conduct Code policy?
Students should not engage in illegal or unauthorized possession or use of alcohol or, where applicable, without proper University authorization.

What is Housing & Residential Life's policy?
For all residence halls and apartments, possessing/consuming or being in the presence of alcohol is prohibited for all residents under the age of 21. See HRL guidebook for further details on the alcohol policy. www.housing.umn.edu/publications/pdfs/guidebook07.pdf

What are the laws about fake ID’s?
In Minnesota, it is illegal to obtain, transfer, or use any means of identification for the purpose of manufacturing or providing or selling a false identification card to a minor for the purpose of obtaining alcohol. Penalties for this misdemeanor offense include fines or possible prison sentence.

University Jurisdiction

The Student Conduct Code shall apply to student conduct that occurs on University premises or at University-sponsored activities. At the discretion of the president or delegate, the code also shall apply to off-campus student conduct when the conduct, as alleged, adversely affects a substantial University interest.

Off-Campus Parties
If you host an off-campus party with alcohol and charge admission, the person accepting the money could be charged with selling alcohol without a license. Sentences for this violation can involve fines and jail time. If alcohol is served to a minor, the server could be charged with supplying alcohol to a minor. Police respond to off-campus parties when there are noise complaints. IDs are checked if police have reason to suspect that minors have been drinking. You risk being arrested or given a citation if you are a minor.

University Housing
Residence halls and on-campus apartments are located on University property. Residents and guests must follow all Housing & Residential Life policies. Students that violate HRL, campus, state, or federal laws/policies are subject to sanctions through the HRL or the University conduct process. If you are in the presence of alcohol, even if you are not drinking, the incident will be documented and you will likely be charged with a violation of policy.

Sororities and Fraternities
All the sororities and fraternities are housed off-campus, and their policies are determined by their national headquarters. All the international sororities at the University have substance-free facilities, as well as several of the international fraternities. During the new member recruitment period, no alcohol may be present at any fraternity or sorority functions at which prospective members are in attendance. In addition, in accordance with federal and state laws, no persons under the age of 21 years may possess or consume alcohol on fraternity or sorority owned or operated property.

If You Choose to Drink

- Know and follow all Minnesota laws about alcohol.
- Respect the University's policies about alcohol.
- Watch how much your friends have had to drink. Help a friend if they appear to be in trouble, and don't be afraid to call for help.
- Know how much you drink and the effect it has on you. Always be in control of your drinking.
- Use a designated driver that is sober.
- Always watch your drink, never leave it unattended, and never accept drinks from strangers.
Consequences

Legal Issues and Your Degree: Is It Worth it?
Your degree may not be worth as much as you think if you’ve been convicted of an alcohol-related crime. Many employers and graduate programs perform background checks before making a final job offer or granting admission. This means if you have an alcohol-related misdemeanor or felony on your record, you may be denied an occupation despite your educational accomplishments.

For example, did you know that careers in nursing, engineering, medicine and health, veterinary medicine, education, and law include “good moral character” as a requirement for the licensure process? Certification boards may deny, revoke, or suspend licenses to practice, based on alcohol-related legal offenses.

Range of Sanctions
Sanctions can include but are not limited to educational papers, workshops, classes, community service, probation, restitution, suspension/expulsion from the University or University property.

Parental/Guardian Notification
The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) allows universities to notify parents/guardians when students violate student conduct codes pertaining to the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance. The University of Minnesota respects student rights to privacy. However, the University will reserve our right to notify parents/guardians when its policies in regard to use and possession of alcohol or other controlled substances are violated. Notification of parents/guardians will be considered when a student is hospitalized for alcohol/substance use, or is sent to detoxification, or has repeated alcohol/substance violations that may impact his/her success at the University. In most instances the student will be informed and consulted with prior to notification of the student’s parents/guardians.

Campus Resources

University of Minnesota Police Department
911 or 612-624-2677 (COPS)
www.umn.edu/police

Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity
612-624-6073
www.umn.edu/oscai

Housing & Residential Life
612-624-2994
www.housing.umn.edu

Boynton Health Service
612-624-1444
www.bhs.umn.edu

University Counseling and Consulting Services
612-624-3323
www.uccs.umn.edu

Student Legal Service
612-624-1001
www.umn.edu/usls

Student Conflict Resolution Center
612-624-7272
www.sos.umn.edu

This brochure is sponsored by
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Housing & Residential Life

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Direct requests to Housing & Residential Life, 612-624-2994.

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