

Note: This pdf document is an excerpt from the 2010-11 SU Student Handbook. If you'd like to see the entire Handbook, please visit - <http://www.southwestern.edu/studentlife/handbook/>

VII. University Policies

Personal Conduct Policies

A student who enrolls at Southwestern University voluntarily becomes part of a community where respect for others is the norm. Rational, mature, honest behavior is expected. This voluntary entrance into the community implies acceptance by the student of University regulations. Failure to observe these standards will subject the student to disciplinary action through an established procedure.

Many University regulations are simply a formal statement of those principles of conduct accepted in our society as necessary if the fabric of society is to hold together. Other regulations are statements of additional principles necessary to the successful functioning of a residential academic community. Thus, in some instances, University standards may go beyond those of the general society.

Southwestern University students are expected to adhere to levels of mature conduct away from campus. As students, they lose neither the rights nor responsibilities of citizenship. They will be responsible to civil authorities for any violations of civil/criminal law. As a general rule no additional penalty will be imposed by the University. However, in some cases the interest of the University might be affected, and when this is judged by University authorities to be the case, disciplinary action might also be taken by the University. This is in keeping with the students' dual citizenship in general society and in the academic community.

When a student commits a felony on campus, the University reserves the right to take disciplinary action if its own interests are affected. The institution will not, however, protect the student from the law by attempting to substitute its own action for that of the state. Proper authorities may be notified immediately when evidence of a possible violation is found to exist so that law enforcement officials may discharge their duty.

The following are guidelines and regulations concerning various aspects of appropriate behavior on the Southwestern campus. Failure on the part of students to abide by these may result in on-campus disciplinary action, notwithstanding any action taken by local or civil authorities:

Alcohol: Policy on Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages— Introductory Statement:

- Consistent with its commitment to the health and well-being of the University community, the University complies with and upholds all federal, state, and local laws and regulations that regulate or prohibit the possession, use, and/or distribution of alcoholic beverages.

- Consistent with the University's heritage as an institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church, the University supports abstinence from alcoholic beverage use. Like the United Methodist Church, the University recognizes the freedom of persons to make decisions in this regard and, in the event members of the University community consider alcoholic beverage use, the University urges responsibility, prudence, and moderation.

- Consistent with its mission as an educational institution, the University encourages the free exchange of information so that members of the University community can make informed choices relating to alcohol.

- Consistent with its civic and social responsibilities, the University expects members of the University community to engage in responsible social behavior, including behavior relating to the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Accordingly, all members of the Southwestern University community—including faculty, staff, students, and campus visitors—are required to comply with

the following policy regarding alcoholic beverages.

Statement of Policy

1. The University expects that each individual and group within the Southwestern University community will comply with all applicable laws and regulations pertaining to the possession, use, and distribution of alcoholic beverages. All persons are expected to know and comply with such laws and regulations. The following summary lists some of the prohibitions:

- No person under the age of 21 may possess, use, purchase, or consume alcoholic beverages.
- No person may possess an open container and/or consume alcohol in an alcohol free zone (first-year hall, public areas of campus, etc.).
- No person may use or possess any form of false identification.
- No person may serve, provide, or make alcoholic beverages available to a minor or any person who is intoxicated.
- No person may host a party involving the illegal use of alcohol or making alcohol available to a minor.
- Public intoxication is prohibited.
- Driving while intoxicated is prohibited.
- No person may sell alcoholic beverages without an appropriate license.

2. The consumption, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages on University grounds is prohibited except as otherwise provided in this policy.

3. When the use of alcoholic beverages is permitted, prudence, temperance, and moderation are required. Intoxication and the abuse of alcohol are expressly prohibited and will subject offending parties to appropriate disciplinary action.

University Regulations

1. The University complies with all applicable laws and regulations pertaining to alcoholic beverages. Violation of any law or regulation relating to alcoholic beverages constitutes a violation of University policy and will subject the offender to University disciplinary action irrespective of whether the offender is subjected to criminal penalties.

2. The University generally prohibits the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus, with the exception of the limited circumstances below:

A. The private, temperate consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted for persons of legal drinking age in the individual University residential rooms of persons 21 years of age and older.

B. Alcoholic beverages may be served and consumed on designated University grounds at student special events specifically approved in advance by the Associate Vice President and Dean of Students, subject to all applicable University guidelines and state and local laws and regulations. Such special events shall be for limited social and other special campus events.

C. Alcoholic beverages may be served and consumed on University grounds at special University events specifically approved in advance by the chief Univer-

sity Relations officer, subject to all applicable University guidelines and state and local laws and regulations. Such special events shall be for the purpose of hosting alumni, parents, other visitors to campus, faculty, staff, and students 21 years of age or older at receptions related to special campus or organizational events.

Guidelines for Permitted Possession & Consumption of Alcohol

1. Restrictions on Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages in Individual University Residential Rooms:

A. Kegs and other common containers of alcohol (including 1/2 kegs, party balls, pony kegs, “trash can punch,” frozen alcoholic beverage service machines or any similar container) are prohibited.

B. The resident of the particular residential room is responsible for complying with all applicable laws and University policy.

C. There shall be no public display of alcohol or alcoholic beverage containers.

D. There shall be no alcohol containers--empty, filled with colored water, etc. in individual student rooms in first-year halls.

E. Measures must be in place to prevent use or consumption by underage persons.

F. Nonalcoholic beverages must be available when alcoholic beverages are served or consumed.

G. No person may sell alcoholic beverages. This includes charging an admission fee or otherwise imposing costs or expenses on other persons for the purposes of providing alcoholic beverages.

2. Restrictions on Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at Student Special Events

A. Any special event in which alcohol may be served or consumed requires prior registration with the Office of Residence Life and approval of the Associate Vice President and Dean of Students. Information regarding the procedure for registration and approval of such special events can be obtained through the Office of Residence Life. Such approval shall only be granted on a single-event basis.

B. Approval may only be granted for events at the Sharon Lord Caskey Community Center, the Julie Puett Howry Center, or the fraternity houses. The Associate Vice President and Dean of Students also may approve student-organization sponsored events where alcohol is served in the Red and Charline McCombs Ballrooms, on the Roy H. Cullen Academic Mall, or the J.N.R. Score Quadrangle, where such events are expected to draw a larger group or a wider audience than can be accommodated in the aforementioned locations.

C. Any organization or group seeking to obtain approval for a special event where alcohol is present must designate a responsible individual or individuals who will ensure compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and University policy, and prevent consumption of alcoholic beverages by or distribution of alcoholic beverages to intoxicated persons or persons under 21 years of age.

D. Open Parties, with unrestricted access to the event, are prohibited. Only Closed Parties, those events with guests invited by invitation only, will be allowed. The sponsoring organization is responsible for the action(s) of its guests

at all times. An invitation is defined as a personally addressed request. Voice mail is allowed only if the voice mail is addressed personally and originates from the sponsoring organization (i.e., no campus wide voice mail).

E. There may be only one accessible entrance to the event. The organization hosting the function must have door monitors present at this entrance at all times. The monitors shall ensure that all guests are identified, registered, and marked as 21 and over or under 21 and shall inspect the property to ensure that the event is secured against unwanted entry and that one entrance is maintained. All other entrances must be secured from entry, but available for exit.

F. A guest list must be kept of all guests invited and in attendance. All persons wishing to consume alcoholic beverages must be identified as 21 or older and must present identification at the time of checking in to the function.

G. The presence of alcoholic beverages must be in compliance with applicable law, University policy, and the particular rules for the special event as provided by the Associate Vice President and Dean of Students. The sponsoring organization is responsible for ensuring compliance with such rules and legal restrictions and for obtaining any necessary licenses or permits.

H. Hard liquor is prohibited. Kegs and other common containers of alcohol (including 1/2 kegs, party balls, pony kegs, "trash can punch," frozen alcoholic beverage service machines or any similar container) are prohibited.

I. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted only in the public area designated for the special event. The number of persons attending the event may not exceed the space available for the event.

J. No person or organization may sell alcoholic beverages. This includes charging an admission fee or otherwise imposing costs or expenses on other persons for the purposes of providing alcoholic beverages. Alcoholic beverages may not be provided by the sponsoring organization or purchased with student organization or University funds. The University expects each national organization to uphold its national policy.

K. Nonalcoholic beverages and food must be provided and available.

L. No promotion or invitation to the events may publicize the availability of alcoholic beverages.

M. The presence of University-approved security personnel is required at any special event where alcoholic beverages are present.

N. Public intoxication is prohibited.

Commitment to Alcohol Education

1. The University is concerned that students be fully informed about the consequences of alcohol and drug consumption. An important aspect of policy implementation is that students who sponsor or attend events where alcohol is served participate in programs of alcohol education. These programs will describe the risks involved in alcohol consumption and encourage students to make informed choices about consumption or abstinence. Representatives of sponsoring organizations must attend a program on alcohol education before an event will be approved.

2. The Residence Life Staff is charged with maintaining an atmosphere conducive to students' successful academic pursuit, and as such, will address both social and individual situations that contribute to the deterioration of the hall environment or to the impairment of an individual's health and welfare. In accordance with this responsibility, the Residence Life Staff shall enforce the restrictions and terms of this policy on possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

3. Students are encouraged to talk with the counselors in Counseling Services or with off-campus professionals if they think that they might have an alcohol problem. Conversations with these professionals are confidential.

4. Student Life deans, and the directors and counselors in Counseling Services, Health Services, Religious Life, and Residence Life stand ready to assist students, as individuals or in groups, with problems or discussions regarding choices about alcohol consumption or abstinence.

Editor's Notes:

#1 - *SU On-Campus Alcohol and Drug Guidelines for Sanctions* is presented on the next two pages (44 and 45) of this *Handbook*.

#2 - Additional information about alcohol and drug use including Texas State Law (e.g. offenses and punishments) and U.S. Department of Justice Information about Drug Abuse (e.g. physical and psychological dependence information) is presented in Section XXI. Drug-Free Workplace Policy of this *Handbook*, which begins on page 113.

SU On-Campus Alcohol and Drug Guidelines for Sanctions

INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOR(S)	FIRST OFFENSE	SECOND OFFENSE	THIRD OFFENSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under age 21 possession and/or consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Probation \$50 Fine Possible Legal Citation Alcohol Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended Contract Probation \$75 Fine Legal Citation Alcohol Assessment Parental Notification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disciplinary Probation Legal Citation Parental Notification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possession and/or consumption in alcohol-free zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Probation \$50 Fine Possible Legal Citation Alcohol Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended Contract Probation \$75 Fine Legal Citation Alcohol Assessment Parental Notification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disciplinary Probation Legal Citation Parental Notification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosting a party involving the illegal use of alcohol or making alcohol available to minors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Probation Alcohol Education \$100 Fine Parental Notification Possible Legal Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disciplinary Probation Alcohol Assessment \$150 Fine Parental Notification Legal Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation of Suspension or Expulsion to University Committee on Discipline Parental Notification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Intoxication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Probation Alcohol Education \$75 Fine Parental Notification Legal Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disciplinary Probation Alcohol Assessment \$100 Fine Parental Notification Legal Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation of Suspension or Expulsion to University Committee on Discipline Parental Notification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driving While Intoxicated & DUI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Probation Alcohol Education \$100 Fine Parental Notification Legal Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disciplinary Probation Alcohol Assessment \$200 Fine Parental Notification Legal Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation of Suspension or Expulsion to University Committee on Discipline Parental Notification

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property Damage while under the influence of alcohol. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Probation Alcohol Education \$75 Fine Full restitution for damages Parental Notification Possible Legal Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disciplinary Probation Alcohol Assessment \$150 Fine Full restitution for damages Parental Notification Legal Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation of Suspension or Expulsion to University Committee on Discipline Full restitution for damages Parental Notification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endangering self and/or others while under the influence of alcohol. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Probation Alcohol Education \$200 Fine Parental Notification Possible Legal Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disciplinary Probation Alcohol Assessment \$300 Fine Parental Notification Legal Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation of Suspension or Expulsion to University Committee on Discipline Parental Notification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violation of Other University Policies Involving Alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Probation Minimum \$50 Fine Alcohol Education Parental Notification Possible Legal Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disciplinary Probation Minimum \$75 Fine Alcohol Assessment Parental Notification Legal Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation of Suspension or Expulsion to University Committee on Discipline Parental Notification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possession and use of illegal drugs and/or drug paraphernalia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disciplinary Probation \$50 Fine Drug Education Parental Notification Legal Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended Disciplinary Probation \$100 Fine Drug Assessment Parental Notification Legal Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation of Suspension or Expulsion to University Committee on Discipline Parental Notification

All sanctions are cumulative; consequently, students who already have previous violations, either alcohol or drug related or violations of the Personal Conduct Policies as stated in the Student Handbook, may receive increased sanctions.

All fines will be used to cover the costs of individual alcohol and drug assessments and/or evaluations, as well as materials to be used in alcohol education and programming on campus.

The University reserves the right to communicate with parents at any time deemed appropriate in cases involving alcohol or drug use/abuse by their respective student/s.

Important Note: All violations of Texas law are also subject to appropriate police action (citation, arrest, fines, fees, etc.).