

# ALCOHOL

## **GENERAL PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT**

Roger Williams University seeks to maintain safe and healthy living conditions and to protect the rights of individuals. The University alcohol policies, procedures and regulations are designed to reflect the goals of this institution, to recognize and facilitate compliance with local and state laws and to provide alcohol education to all members of the community. Each member of the community is expected to honor the educational purpose of the University and assume personal responsibility for his/her actions while learning to live, work and play in thoughtful interaction with others. Alcohol and other drug related behavior which is abusive, disruptive, offensive, or illegal is not acceptable.

The University has established regulations for the use of alcohol by students of legal drinking age and guidelines for the serving of alcohol at University sponsored student social events both on and off campus. Students engaged in illegal alcohol and drug use or abusive legal use may be held accountable under Roger Williams University Conduct Codes. The State of Rhode Island also has strict penalties for the illegal possession, use, sale, and distribution of alcohol and other drugs.

Roger Williams University believes that a person's abuse of alcohol and other drugs can lead to the illness of chemical dependency and addiction. Recovery is possible only when the illness is identified and treated appropriately. It is also recognized that others are affected by the abuse. Based on these beliefs, the University will provide education and needed assistance in a positive, supportive manner.

Educational efforts are intended to promote the following:

- Awareness of the dangers and risks involved in use of alcohol and drugs
- Abstinence from the use of tobacco and illegal drugs
- Elimination of the drinking/driving combination
- Responsible use of alcohol and other legal drug use
- Current information on popular drugs (e.g. ecstasy, other club drugs)
- Reduction of binge drinking, drinking games and "pre-gaming"
- Reduce the risk of accidental alcohol poisoning
- Early intervention when abuse is suspected

## **ALCOHOL AND YOUR BODY**

Alcohol is a drug. It is a depressant that is absorbed into the bloodstream and transmitted to virtually all parts of the body.

Even moderate doses of alcohol reduce physical coordination and mental alertness, making certain activities, such as sports or driving, dangerous. Larger doses of alcohol cause staggering, slurred speech, double vision, sudden mood swings, and unconsciousness. An evening of heavy drinking follows you into the next day. Alcohol leaves the system at a rate of .015 percent per hour (a little less than one standard drink per hour). Drinking coffee, taking showers and other activities have no effect on the speed with which you 'sober up'.

In addition, long-term heavy drinking and frequent binge drinking may result in alcoholism. Long-term heavy drinkers increase their risk of developing liver and heart disease, circulatory problems, peptic ulcers, various forms of cancer, and irreversible brain damage.

Drinking games played by students are particularly dangerous because a large volume of alcohol is consumed in a short period of time. When blood alcohol level rises rapidly a blackout can occur. This is when the person remains conscious but

experiences memory loss. Because of this, one's ability to recognize the level of intoxication is impaired and alcohol poisoning can result. Students need to know the signs of alcohol poisoning:

- Person is unconscious or semi-conscious and cannot be woken (Give the Pinch Test).
- Cold, clammy, pale or bluish skin.
- Shallow breathing, less than eight times per minute, or irregular with ten seconds or more between breaths.
- Vomiting while sleeping or passed out, and not waking up after vomiting.  
This is a **MEDICAL EMERGENCY!**
- On Campus: call Public Safety at ext. 4357 (H.E.L.P.).
- You can also seek assistance from the R.A. or C.O.R.E.
- Off Campus: call 911.
- Roll person onto their side to keep them from choking in case of vomiting.
- Do not leave the person alone. Wait until help arrives.

## **RESOURCES**

### **Prevention:**

RWU Wellness Office:  
Alcohol/Drug Education,  
Alcohol Incident Referral Program 254-3413

### **Intervention:**

RWU Health Services 254-3156  
Roger Williams Hospital 456-2000  
Butler Hospital 456-3700  
RWU Center for Counseling & Student Development:  
Individual Counseling 254-3124  
CODAC Treatment Centers 401-846-4150  
Alcohol Anonymous (AA) 401-438-8860

### **Student Conduct:**

RWU Public Safety (on campus) #HELP  
x4357 (emergencies)  
x4358 (non-emergencies)  
RWU Public Safety (off campus) 254-3611  
Bristol Police Department 253-6900  
Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards 254-3042

## **UNIVERSITY POLICY ON THE USE OF ALCOHOL & ILLICIT DRUGS**

The University's Policy on the Use of Alcohol & Illicit Drugs has been established in response to and in conformity with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989.

Significant health risks are associated with the use of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol (see Appendix A attached). The University recognizes alcohol and drug abuse as an illness requiring medical treatment. Students and employees are encouraged to seek the advice and help of the University's Health Services, a private physician, or any agency specializing in the field. An employee whose job performance is impaired due to substance abuse will be responsible for obtaining treatment and correcting problems in job performance. An employee who fails to perform on the job will be subject to the University's usual administrative actions which include sanctions up to and including dismissal. Confidential counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation programs are available to both students and employees. University faculty, staff, and

students can learn about the dangers of substance abuse and get information about treatment and counseling options available to the University community through the University's Counseling Center at (401) 254-3124; the University's Health Services at (401)254-3156; and/or the University's Department of Public Safety at (401) 254-3611. A list of emergency phone numbers can be found on in the front of this handbook.

Consistent with federal, state and local laws, the unlawful manufacture, possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs (including inhalants) and alcohol by any person is prohibited in or on University premises, in vehicles owned by the University, at any work site or location at which University duties are being performed by University faculty, staff, or students, or as part of any University activities. Off-campus activities of student groups recognized by the University are included in this statement. Serious legal sanctions may be invoked under local, state, and federal laws for the unlawful manufacturing, possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs and alcohol.

These sanctions include fines and incarceration commensurate with the offense. Under federal law, unauthorized distribution of controlled substances to persons under age 21 is punishable by twice the normal penalty with a mandatory one year in prison; a third conviction is punishable by mandatory life imprisonment. These penalties apply to unauthorized distribution of such drugs in or within 1,000 feet of a college or school. More information on penalties is available at websites for the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration. Please refer to [www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/csa.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/csa.html); and [www.usdoj.gov/dea/agency/penalties.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/agency/penalties.htm).

The Uniform Controlled Substances Act, under Rhode Island General Laws, Chapter 21-28, regulates substances which may pose a danger to the public health; classifies substances relative to their abuse potential, their medical utility, and their likelihood of creating dependency; fixes penalties for the sale, possession, or manufacture of substances which are in proportion to their danger to the public health; traces the flow of substances in commerce and in health as to prevent their improper diversion; establishes and defines the powers of investigation, enforcement, and adjudication required to implement the above purposes; and establishes a system of substances control which is, to the extent possible, uniform with the laws of the United States and of its states.

Further, under Rhode Island General Laws § 11-21-1, the crime of hazing is illegal and punishable. "Hazing" includes but is not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, *forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or other substance*, or any brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student or any other person, or which subjects the student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation. The laws of the State of Rhode Island contain the following provision regarding alcoholic beverages:

**3-8-6. Unlawful drinking and misrepresentation by underage persons - Identification Cards. It is unlawful for:**

A person who has not reached his or her twenty-first (21st) birthday to enter any premises licensed for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages for the purpose of purchasing or having served or delivered to him or her alcoholic beverages; or

A person who has not reached his or her twenty-first (21st) birthday to consume any alcoholic beverage on premises licensed for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages or to purchase, attempt to purchase, or have another purchase for him or her any alcoholic beverage, or

A person to misrepresent or misstate his or her age, or the age of any other persons, or to misrepresent his or her age through the presentation of an armed service identification card, a motor vehicle operator's license, a R.I. identification card or any other document used for identification purposes. (Fine: up to \$1000-license suspensions: up to 1 year.)

**3-8-6.2. Unlawful use of identification cards. It is unlawful for any person:**

To display or cause or permit to be displayed or have in his or her possession any cancelled, revoked, suspended, fictitious, or fraudulently altered official Rhode Island identification card;

To lend his or her Rhode Island identification card to any other person or knowingly permit the use of the card by another person;

To display or represent as one's own the Rhode Island identification card of another. (Fine: up to \$1000-Confinement: up to 1 year in prison)

**3-8-9. Transportation of alcoholic beverages by underage persons. It is unlawful for any person:**

Who has not reached his or her twenty-first (21st) birthday to operate a motor vehicle upon the public highways, except when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, and, knowingly have liquor or intoxicating beverages in any form in containers, opened or unopened, in any part of the vehicle. (Penalty: 30 day license suspension)

**3-8-10. Possession of beverage by underage persons:**

Any person who has not reached his or her twenty-first (21st) birthday and has in his or her possession any alcoholic beverages shall be fined one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for the first offense, two hundred dollars (\$200.00) to five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for the second offense, and three hundred dollars (\$300.00) to five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for the third or subsequent offense.

**3-8-11.1. Purchase or procurement of alcoholic beverages for underage persons by adults:**

- It is unlawful for any adult to purchase from any licensee or any employee of any licensee for the sale, delivery, service of or giving away to, or causing, or permitting or procuring to be sold, delivered, served, or given away any alcoholic beverage to any person who has not reached his or her twenty-first (21st) birthday.

- The purchase or procurement of alcohol for a minor is a felony. The fine is up to \$1000.00 and imprisonment up to 6 months.

**31-27-2. Driving under the influence of liquor or drugs:**

A person is guilty of driving under the influence of liquor or drugs if his/her blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is .08% as shown by a chemical analysis of a blood, breath or urine sample. The sanctions range from a \$100 fine, 10 hours of community service and driver's license suspension up to a mandatory imprisonment of not less than three years, a mandatory fine of not less than \$1000.00 and a driver's license suspension of 3 years beginning after completion of the prison sentence. The variation in sentence is determined by BAC count and number of violations.

**31-27-2.1 Refusal to submit a chemical test:**

Any person who operates a motor vehicle in this state is deemed to have given consent to the chemical testing of his/her breath, blood and urine. When there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person operated a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor or drugs and that person refuses to submit to a chemical test the following sanctions may be imposed:

A fine of not less than \$200.00 nor more than \$500.00, not less than 10 hours nor more than 60 hours of public community service, driver's license suspension of not

less than 3 months nor more than 3 years and alcohol and/or drug treatment.

**31-27-2.2. Driving under the influence of liquor or drugs, resulting in death:**

When a drunk driver causes a death, the following sanctions may be imposed: A prison term of not less than 5 years nor more than 20 years, a fine of not less than \$5000.00 nor more than \$20,000.00 and a license revocation of not less than 5 years.

**31-27-2.7. Driving while impaired:**

A person under the age of twenty-one (21) but at least (18) years of age who takes a chemical test, at the request of a law enforcement officer who believes the person to be driving under the influence of alcohol, shall be determined to have been driving while impaired if the test determines the person's blood alcohol concentration to be at least two-hundredths of one percent (.02%) but less than one-tenth of one percent (.1%) by weight. The sanctions range from a fine of \$250.00 and 30 hours of community service to a fine of \$300.00 and 60 hours of community service. Attendance at a special course in driving while intoxicated as well as alcohol and/or a drug treatment program may be ordered.

**UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS**

**1. Locations where alcohol may be consumed by students of legal drinking age**

- a. Students twenty-one years of age or older may consume alcoholic beverages in their University Residence Hall rooms\* or apartments, and at designated events. \*(**Except** students living in Cedar Hall, who are prohibited, regardless of age, from consuming or possessing alcohol while in Cedar Hall.)
- b. Students under the age of twenty-one may not consume alcohol anywhere on University property or at University property events.
- c. Drinking or open containers of alcohol are prohibited in public areas (public areas are defined as any area on University property exclusive of those mentioned in #1.a.)

**2. Serving alcohol at student social events**

Alcohol may be served to students at student sponsored events only when under the supervision of the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs/Director of Student Programs and Leadership, or his/her designee; and the following conditions apply:

- a. The Assistant Dean of Student Affairs/Director of Student Programs and Leadership, or his/her designee, will ensure that a non-student University employee be hired as the server of alcohol. All servers of alcoholic beverages must be trained in alcohol education to insure against possible student injury.
- b. The Assistant Dean of Student Affairs/Director of Student Programs and Leadership, or his/her designee will hire a police officer, who will check identification and generally monitor students under legal drinking age and students who appear to be intoxicated, to insure they are not served.
- c. Police officers will arrive prior to the start of the serving of alcohol and will not leave until the serving of alcohol has stopped.
- d. The Assistant Dean of Student Affairs/Director of Student Programs and Leadership, or his/her designee, will employ an individual assigned to monitor that alcoholic beverages are not taken out of the area designated on the liquor license.
- e. The Assistant Dean of Student Affairs/Director of Student Programs and Leadership, or his/her designee, will arrange for provision of non- alcoholic beverages and feature the same as prominently as alcoholic beverages.

- f. Food will be available at every event when alcohol is served.
- g. The University will not permit drinking contests at these activities or in the promotion of these activities.
- h. Non-alcoholic beverages must be mentioned in the advertising. Alcohol shall not be used as an inducement to participate in any event.
- i. When University sponsored events take place off campus and alcohol is served, the university will abide by the Alcohol Policies of the off campus establishment. The University will not serve alcohol at these events.

### **3. Serving of Alcohol at non-student functions**

In the event that alcohol is being served at non-student sponsored events on campus, such as alumni, faculty and administrative functions, the above stated guidelines must be implemented with the following exceptions:

- a. The appropriate administrative representative replaces the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs/Director of Student Programs and Leadership as the responsible agent.
- b. A police officer is not required.

### **4. Alcohol policy at athletic events**

Alcohol consumption will not be permitted at athletic events and will be applied equally to students, faculty, staff and alumni. Police officers may be employed to stop spectators from drinking at outside events. The athletic staff will be responsible for preventing drinking at indoor events. The coaches will be responsible for ensuring student athletes do not drink on team buses or at group meals on road trips.

### **5. Marketing**

For guidelines concerning marketing, advertising and promotion of alcoholic beverages on campus, refer to the University Advertising Policy (see: Advertising Policy).

### **6. Residence Hall Parties**

Parties serving alcohol are not permitted within the residence halls regardless of where the alcohol is obtained. At RWU, the Department of Residence Life and Housing staff is responsible for determining what constitutes a party. To help you understand how that determination is made, the following has been established: *Party- a group of persons gathered together to participate in an activity.* Any social gathering (party), which draws attention to itself in a negative manner within the residence halls and or apartments, will not be permitted. Any individuals involving themselves in a party will be held responsible for their actions and held accountable for conduct actions.

### **7. Off-Campus Parties**

Each student who lives in off-campus housing is expected to behave as a responsible citizen of that local community. Sponsoring and/or attending a party which is disruptive to the community or where laws are broken (e.g., serving minors, selling of alcohol without a license, etc.) can subject the student to University disciplinary action.

### **8. Violations of this Policy**

We expect that each member of the University community will take personal responsibility for her/his behavior. It is not the intent of this document that the University should police the personal lives of individuals or invade their privacy. If, however, individuals, regardless of age, draw the attention of the University to themselves by

violating University policy and/or federal, state and local laws, they may be addressed concerning their violation. If they are underage and are in possession or consuming alcohol, they will also be addressed concerning drinking via the University conduct system as administered by the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards or by the appropriate University official.

### **9. Policy Administration**

The Roger Williams University alcohol and other drug policy is created, annually reviewed and administered by the Division of Student Affairs.

## **THE WELLNESS PROGRAM**

Center for Student Development Room 210  
(401) 254-3413

### **Who to Know:**

Donna Darmody, M.S. Wellness Coordinator

The Wellness program is available to all members of the university community with emphasis on programming for students. It is a peer based program with ten student Health and Wellness Educators (H.A.W.E.'s) that create and deliver workshops and campus prevention campaigns on a variety of health topics.

### **Mission Statement:**

The Health and Wellness Educators (H.A.W.E.'s) work together to provide awareness, support, and education to motivate individuals to develop a healthier lifestyle thereby reducing harm to themselves, others, and their environment.

The H.A.W.E.'s and Wellness Coordinator offer a range of programs and services including:

- Workshops and presentations
- Individual Consultations and coaching
- Drug and Alcohol Use assessment
- Massage
- Nutrition assessments
- Wellness evaluation
- Smoking Cessation education and support
- Campus-wide prevention education campaigns (e.g. National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week)
- Resource Library

## **ALCOHOL/DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

The Wellness Office, x3413, located on the second floor #210 of the Center for Student Development is responsible for alcohol and other drug abuse education and referral. It is staffed by a full time professional and trained student health advocates.

The Alcohol Risk Appraisal (ARA) was designed by the Wellness Office and the Department of Residence Life and Housing to inform the University community about alcohol use - its misuse and abuse - and related problems, such as accidents, DWIs, violence and sexual assault. It is an individual, self-scoring assessment of knowledge about alcohol: personal and social risk factors, and RWU policy. The ARA is available to everyone, but is used primarily as part of the Alcohol Incident Referral Program for students violating University and residence hall alcohol policy. Individual one-on-one alcohol use assessment is also available by appointment. Students violating the drug policy must have an individual consultation with the Wellness Coordinator. A fine may be imposed for any student referred to the Wellness program for alcohol or other drug violations.

The Wellness Office also serves as a resource library for student use. Books, videos,

pamphlets, etc. are available for check-out. A student peer group called the Health and Wellness Educators design alcohol and other drug prevention programs and workshops available to the campus community.

In addition to any action taken by law enforcement authorities, the University will take disciplinary action against violators, including, but not limited to, referral for prosecution, mandatory participation in a substance abuse treatment, counseling or education program as a condition of reinstatement or continued employment, termination of employment, or dismissal of a student.

*In accordance with the requirement of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 as a condition of employment, any employee who is engaged in the performance of work under a federal grant or contract must notify the University if he or she is convicted of violating any criminal drug statute for activities done in the workplace not later than ten days after conviction; students who receive Pell and certain other federal grants are subject to similar conditions and must report any conviction of a drug-related offense to the U. S. Department of Education within ten days of the conviction if the offense occurred during the period covered by the grant.*

As required by law, the University will conduct biennial reviews to determine the effectiveness of this policy. A three-person committee appointed by the General Counsel will complete these reviews in odd- numbered years. Copies of the available programs and biennial reviews will be supplied to the federal Secretary of Education upon request.

## **UNIVERSITY SMOKING POLICY**

Roger Williams University takes pride in providing an atmosphere where students, employees and guests can *breathe easy*. In addition to outstanding academic programs, a beautiful scenic bayside campus, and pleasant environment for study and work, the University continues to enhance a healthful environment for all in the University community.

The University is committed to providing *wellness* opportunities for all students, faculty and staff. Whether it is cardiovascular, emotional or respiratory fitness, the total health of each student and employee is important to Roger Williams University. Part of the emphasis on wellness includes a clean, healthy respiratory environment for all in the University community. To insure a healthier atmosphere for everyone on campus, the University has become a smoke-free community.

Out of concern for each student and employee, a special University committee, with representatives from faculty, staff and students developed the current University

### **Smoking Policy:**

1. The smoking of any materials is prohibited in all University facilities, including University vehicles. It is the responsibility of all employees and students to observe and uphold this policy.
2. All residence hall rooms, including apartments are smoke-free. Students who are found smoking in the residence halls may be assessed a fine or conduct action.
3. In compliance with Rhode Island State Law R23-20.1, the outdoor area around the Residence Halls and other designated buildings is also a designated smoke free zone. The smoke free zone extends 25 feet from every Residence Hall, the Center for Student Development, the Union, the Dining Commons and the Campus Recreation Center. Smoking areas are designated in places to prevent migration of smoke into the buildings via doorways and windows.

4. It is the responsibility of every member of the University community to see that visitors are informed of the existence of the policy, and the requirements are upheld.

5. It is the responsibility of each particular administrative department to address policy violations with their respective areas of concern.

6. Incoming students and new personnel shall be informed of the smoking policy during orientation.

7. The Director of Human Resources shall oversee the implementation of this policy for staff, the Student Affairs Division for students, and Deans and administrative officers shall bear responsibility for implementing established policy over their buildings. A manager will be appointed for each building to supervise policy enforcement.

8. The policy shall be posted in all building entrances, the main entrance to campus, lavatories, and lobbies, and appropriate signage will be posted outdoors to designate the beginning of the smoke free zone.

The Roger Williams University Policy on Smoking has been developed in full accordance with the law, and applies to all University visitors as well as all students and employees. Anyone wishing a summary of Rhode Island law relating to smoking in the workplace may obtain information from the University Office of Human Resources.