

Two of the biggest concerns parents have when they send their sons and daughters to college are whether they will be safe, and how well they will do academically.

Both of those concerns are legitimate, and both are closely related to alcohol and other drugs, whether used by the student or by their fellow students. Roger Williams University uses a science-based, best practices, approach to reduce high risk drinking and its consequences. It is called the Environmental Management Prevention Model targeting individual students, student groups, and the community. Strategies include:

- Research-driven programs using national and RWU student alcohol use statistics.
- Reduce Alcohol Availability
- Consistent Policy Enforcement
- Provide Alcohol Free Options
- Population Prevention through the AlcoholEdu requirement
- Social Norming messages and campaigns
- Parental notification
- Education and prevention programs
- Elective and mandated Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS)
- An active Alcohol and Other Drug Task Force that meets regularly to evaluate strategies

## EARLY WEEKS ARE CRITICAL

As the fall semester begins, parents can use this important time to help prepare their college-age sons and daughters by talking with them about the consequences of excessive drinking.

A rapid increase in heavy drinking over a relatively short period of time can contribute to serious difficulties with the transition to college. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the first 6 weeks of the first semester are critical to a first-year student's academic success. Because many students initiate heavy drinking during these early days of college, the potential exists for excessive alcohol consumption to interfere with successful adaptation to campus life. The transition to college is often difficult and about one-third of first-year students fail to enroll for their second year.

## PARENTS CAN HELP

During these crucial early weeks, parents can do a variety of things to stay involved. They can inquire about campus alcohol policies, call their sons and daughters frequently, and ask about roommates and living arrangements.

They should also discuss the penalties for underage drinking as well as how alcohol use can lead to date rape, violence, and academic failure.

Campus climate is important, but ultimately it is up to your son or daughter to make responsible choices. Studies show that parents remain a key influence on college students. Your opinions and guidance can make a difference!

- Listen
- Make your expectations clear
- Offer information
- Help them take a stand
- Get and share the facts
- Encourage community service
- Be a good role model

## RESOURCES

### On-campus:

RWU Health Education/Alcohol Prevention Office .....254-3413  
 RWU Health Services .....254-3156  
 RWU Counseling .....254-3124  
 RWU Public Safety (on campus) .....#HELP or  
 ext 4357 (emergencies) ext 4358 (non-emergencies)  
 RWU Public Safety (off campus) ..... 254-3611  
 Office of Student Conduct Affairs  
 & Community Standards .....254-3042

### Off-campus:

Butler Hospital .....456-3700  
 Local AA .....438-8860  
 Roger Williams Hospital .....456-2000  
 CODAC Treatment Centers .....846-4150  
 Bristol Police Department .....253-6900

The AOD Task Force is a collaboration  
 of Student Programs and Leadership,  
 Residence Life and Housing, Health Education Office,  
 Dean of Students Office, Student Conduct and  
 Community Standards, Counseling Center  
 and student representatives.



AOD Task Force  
 Division of Student Affairs  
 Center for Student Development  
 One Old Ferry Road  
 Bristol, Rhode Island  
 (401) 254-3042

Roger Williams University

# PARENT GUIDE TO ALCOHOL

Philosophy

Education

Prevention

Developed by the  
 Alcohol and Other Drug Task Force

Dear Parent,

College students receive dozens of *important* messages from administrators, parents and faculty when they arrive on campus. All are well-intentioned, informed by knowledge and delivered with best intentions and genuine care. At Roger Williams, we want to spend some extra time and attention on an issue that has consistently challenged the successful interpersonal and academic careers of college students for generations.

Almost every campus in the nation is challenged by the use of alcohol by underage and legal aged students, the associated negative consequences, and second-hand effects experienced by community members on and off campus. We are no different in this regard but want you to know that we are proactively addressing this issue through a variety of approaches and believe that campus wide awareness and student leadership on this matter continues to increase as a result.

As a parent you can make a difference while helping your student and the University community at the same time. Reinforce our values, understand our policies, and support the consequences both proactively and reactively before and after orientation. Let your student know your own expectations regarding their decision-making, academics, personal development and positive student involvement experiences.

Our Alcohol and Other Drug Task Force, co-chaired by Dr. Kathleen McMahon (Dean of Students) and Dr. James Azar (Director of Counseling & Student Development) are working collaboratively with many community members in support of Donna Darmody (Coordinator of Wellness) and her prevention and education program. We realize that progress on this important issue is a University wide responsibility and offer this brochure as a resource for you as well as an invitation to support our efforts.

Sincerely,  
Dr. John J. King  
Vice President – Student Affairs

## ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG MISSION STATEMENT

The Roger Williams University mission encompasses a set of core values which are intended to create a respectful, diverse and intellectually vibrant community. In choosing to be a member of our community our expectation is that you act and make choices that help facilitate and enhance this mission. The university's alcohol policy supports this vision of creating a community of educated and responsible individuals. Because your choices impact your life as well as the lives of others we expect you to act in a manner that reflects an intrinsic desire to reach your full potential and that you strive to be a productive citizen within and beyond the campus community.

**The Roger Williams University Alcohol and Other Drug Policy has the following principles/goals that support our comprehensive strategy in dealing with substance use and abuse.**

1) Our alcohol and other drug philosophy and approach is a holistic one that is based on the principle that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

2) Any student, whether they are of legal drinking age or not, who drinks alcohol realizes that this is a personal choice and accepts the responsibility of that choice as well as respects the rights of others who choose not to drink.

3) Students are responsible for the choices they make and are held accountable for the consequences. Individual behavior within a community should not infringe on the health and well being of others. The Student Conduct Process is designed with student rights in mind and to promote learning and growth for all community members.

4) The Roger Williams University community strives to offer a vibrant campus life with a variety of student involvement opportunities, and alternatives to alcohol use. We expect our students to take leadership in the development of this stimulating environment.

5) We provide education for both individuals and the campus community on alcohol and other drug issues, so that each individual can make safe and healthy choices with accurate information. This involves awareness and understanding of the RWU policies and procedures related to alcohol and other drug use and enforcement.

6) All members of the Roger Williams University community represent the University even when they are off campus.

7) We support all students in their growth and development, and students who seek assistance in dealing with their substance use and abuse are assured confidentiality and respect

8) All of our policies and regulations regarding alcohol and other drugs are in compliance with Rhode Island State Law and federal laws.

9) Through an ongoing Alcohol and Drug Task Force that includes student representation we continually assess our efforts in education and prevention and stay current with research in the field of alcohol and drug related issues.

## SNAPSHOT OF ANNUAL HIGH-RISK COLLEGE DRINKING CONSEQUENCES

**Deaths 1,400 / Assault: 600,000 / Injury 500,000  
Sexual Abuse: 700,000 / Drunk Driving: 2.1 Million**

**Academic Problems:** About 25 percent of college students report academic consequences of their drinking including missing class, falling behind, doing poorly on exams or papers, and receiving lower grades overall.

*(Hingson et al, 2002)*

## STUDENT CONDUCT & COMMUNITY STANDARDS SANCTIONING POLICY

Roger Williams University follows a set of minimum sanctions for violations of the University Code of Student Conduct pertaining to the alcohol and drug policy. The University reserves the discretion to determine appropriate sanctions for any infraction of the Code of Student Conduct. The sanctions are designed to be progressive, though no sanction need be exhausted before any other sanction may be imposed. Sanctions may be tailored to specific situations.

***Students found responsible for three alcohol violations within a 12-month period will be removed from university housing for at least one semester. Hearing officers may look beyond the 12-month period and/or increase the severity of sanctions depending upon the severity of the behavior, a student's past disciplinary record, or the specific incident's impact upon the campus community.***

To view the RWU minimum alcohol sanctions in detail, please visit the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards website at <http://www.rwu.edu/studentlife/studentconduct> or view them in the RWU Student Handbook.

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS

14. The laws of the State of Rhode Island prohibit the possession, use, and/or transfer of alcohol by anyone under the age of twenty-one (21). Alcohol or alcohol related material shall not be consumed or displayed in any public area of the University (including room/ apartment windows). No student, regardless of age, shall act in a disorderly or disruptive manner while under the influence of alcohol. Large volume containers and excessive amounts of alcohol are prohibited on campus (see quantity policy). Objects used as drinking apparatuses and activities that promote rapid consumption of alcohol are prohibited. Refer to the alcohol sanction guidelines section of the student handbook.

- Cedar Hall is an alcohol free community, thus all alcohol, including empty containers, is prohibited anywhere in the building regardless of a person's age.
- The University prohibits students or their guests, regardless of age, from distributing a quantity of alcohol on University property.
- The operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is prohibited.