

# Western Connecticut State University

## University-wide Alcohol Beverage Policy

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Western Connecticut State University is concerned about the health and welfare of its academic community. We recognize our responsibility in establishing policies and setting guidelines that foster a safe and healthy environment where our students and employees can learn and work to their fullest potential. The University also recognizes that the misuse of alcohol represents a serious threat to the physical, intellectual, spiritual and emotional well being of our students, employees and society as a whole. The health and risks associated with abuse include: alcohol poisoning, severe intoxication, injury, assault, sexual assault, unsafe sex practices, academic problems, lowered self esteem, drunk driving, blackouts, vandalism, property damage, problems with authority and lowered grades and attendance. Our common goal is to foster a University community where the intellectual development of our students and job satisfaction of our employees is free from the harmful effects of alcohol misuse.

It is our responsibility to address these matters in a comprehensive and proactive manner. Further, it is our intent to continue to revisit these issues on an annual basis and to examine our progress. To that end the following is intended to provide clear guidelines for members of the Western Connecticut State University community if they chose to use alcohol or sponsor events where alcohol is available.

### **SECTION 1. PREFACE**

- a. The alcohol beverage policy at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) is guided by resolution BR#84-46 regarding consumption of alcoholic beverages on the Connecticut State University (CSU) campuses. The resolution states the following:
  - i. “The sale of alcoholic beverages and possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages shall be permitted on the campuses of the Connecticut State University in accordance with State Laws and Regulations and within the conditions established by the authorities of each campus.
- b. The Alcohol Beverage Policy at WCSU is also guided by Public Act 06-112 of the Connecticut General Statutes, “An Act Concerning Underage Drinking in the State of Connecticut”. *Updated 7/2010 PA 10-110*. This law pertains to the States liquor control and alcohol regulations and changes the penalties related to underage drinking.
- c. The Alcohol Policy applies to all individual students, staff and faculty, alumni, outside organizations and visitors.
- d. Matters related to the use of alcohol on the WCSU campus must be viewed as a total University concern and re-evaluated by the President of the University in consultation with the University Senate, the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Coordinator of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Programs.
- e. Alternative beverages must be available and well advertised at an event where alcohol has been permitted.

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### SECTION 2. GENERAL

- a. **Possession:** The possession, consumption, and sale of alcoholic beverages on property under the control of WCSU shall be in accord with provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes, provisions of the regulations of Connecticut State Liquor Control Commission, and policies established by the Board of Regents for the ConnSCU and for WCSU. All Alcohol service at campus events must be provided by University Dining services with prior written approvals secured.
- b. **Discipline:** Any public or private use of alcohol that leads to prohibited conduct on any University controlled property is unacceptable and will be treated as a disciplinary matter either through Human Resources or through the University Judicial Process covered under the Student Code of Conduct. The disciplinary process may include, but is not limited to, referral for professional assessment and evaluation.
- c. **Public Display of Intoxication:** of any persons on University property will be handled by University police in accordance with Sec. 17a-683 of the CGS. Police will respond to calls regarding public displays of intoxication under this statute and in accordance with University policies to ensure the health and safety of the university population.
- d. **Alcohol and Public Areas:** Public display and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages on University controlled property is prohibited except as defined in this document
- e. **Enforcement:** Responsibility for enforcement of provisions in this document is delegated by the following departments:
  - i. Campus and Student Centers – The Department of Campus & Student Centers, and Auxiliary Services, and the University Police when called to handle a violation.
  - ii. Residence Halls – The Housing and Residence Life Department and University Police when called to handle a violation.
  - iii. All University controlled grounds and buildings –University Police
  - iv. Ives Concert Park –University Police and The Charles Ives Authority for the Performing Arts Board of Directors
- f. **Guests:** Members of the University community are responsible for informing their guests of campus policies. Guests are subject to University policies and regulations. If they fail to abide by these regulations, they will be asked to leave the event. In addition to any action the University must take with the guest, the person who invited and took responsibility for this person or persons may also be held accountable through Human Resources or the University Judicial process under the Student Code of Conduct, whichever is appropriate, for the actions of their guest or guests.
- g. **Violations:** Violations of the Alcohol Beverage Policy will be handled as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct or referred to Human Resources, whichever is appropriate. All persons on campus are subject to CGS Sec. 17a-683 as described above in C. “Public Display of Intoxication”.

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- h. **University Shuttle Bus:** Possession of an open container of alcohol or consumption of alcohol on a University Shuttle Bus is prohibited.
- i. **Advertising:** The Center for Student Involvement must approve in writing any form of advertising on University owned or controlled property which includes statements concerning alcohol products or advertising events at venues that serve alcohol. Housing and Residence Life does not allow any advertising which includes language about alcohol or the advertising of any venues that serve alcohol.
  - i. Any student(s) who advertise on behalf of establishments who serve alcohol is in violation of the student code of conduct.
  - ii. Advertising alcohol products or advertising events at venues that serve alcohol on University owned or University controlled property must be approved in writing by the Center for Student Involvement.
- j. **Student Travel Abroad or on Domestic Trips:** The WCSU student code of conduct continues to govern students' behavior at all times and applies to all students who participate in any WCSU sponsored travel opportunity including; study abroad programs, any academic programs taking students off campus, and Student Life or Student Club sponsored travel. No alcohol is permitted on bus or mode of transportation as well as in housing. Otherwise no alcohol may be purchased by, consumed by or distributed to persons under the legal drinking age as dictated by laws of the location of the program.

### SECTION 3. STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- a. **Advisor's role:** Faculty and/or staff members who serve as an organization advisor, or have been approved by the Center for Student Involvement to serve as a temporary advisor for a particular event, must be present where there are alcoholic beverages, as covered in the advisors handbook. All Advisors and temporary Advisors must be familiar with the Advisors Handbook.
- b. **Events Sponsored by Student Organizations:** The University encourages student-organized activities and insists that students plan events that do not depend on alcohol for their success. Special attention must be given to provisions of adequate University Police and other security protection at all events where alcoholic beverages are served. Student Organizations planning to serve alcoholic beverages at an event held either on or off campus must meet with the Center for Student Involvement, to discuss the event and obtain proper written approval(s) at least two weeks in advance of the planned activity. Forms may be found at [www.wcsu.edu/studentlife](http://www.wcsu.edu/studentlife) (organization forms)
  - i. **On Campus.** If the event is to be held on campus, an On-Campus Alcohol Agreement must be completed at least two weeks prior to event by the student organization. Final approval rests with the Center for Student Involvement, whose approval may not be arbitrarily withheld. Student organization sponsored events where alcohol is served are not permitted in the residence halls and Housing and Residence Life does not

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permit alcohol at any events sponsored by HRL student organizations. University Dining Services has the exclusive license to dispense/sell alcoholic beverages on University property. No one else is permitted to serve alcoholic beverages. University Police will be present at all student organization sponsored events where alcoholic beverages will be served. University Police in consultation with the Center for Student Involvement will determine the level of protection required. Payment for police protection and/or security beyond that normally assigned to the facility in question will be the responsibility of the sponsoring organization.

- ii. **Off Campus.** If the event is held off campus, the student organization and the establishment must complete an Off-Campus Alcohol Agreement where the event will take place. Final approval rests with the Center for Student Involvement whose approval may not be arbitrarily withheld. It is recommended that a designated driver system be established by the sponsoring organization for such off-campus activities. Advisors for that organization must be present as specified in the Advisors Handbook.
- c. **Responsibility:** All personnel involved with student organization sponsored events where alcohol will be served will be required to acknowledge in writing on the application that they understand that the responsibility for the enforcement of all state statutes including the Liquor Control Act and the regulations of the Liquor Control Commission are the shared responsibility of the license holder and the student organization, with ultimate responsibility resting with the license holder. Among the regulations of the Commission is the following:
  - i. Section 30-86. Any permittee or any servant or agent of any permittee who sells or delivers alcoholic liquor to any minor, or to any intoxicated person, or to any habitual ...[problem drinker], knowing the person to be such an habitual...[problem drinker], shall be subject to the penalties of the Connecticut General Statutes, section 30-113 of Chapter 545, the Liquor Control Act.
- d. **Alcohol and Transportation Vehicles:** Alcoholic beverages are specifically prohibited on buses, vans, limousines, or other forms of transportation used for student field trips, fan buses, team buses, club buses or student organization sponsored trips.
- e. **Alternative Beverages and Pricing:** Where alcoholic beverages are served, non-alcoholic beverages must also be available. If there is advertising which references alcoholic beverages, said advertising must reference the fact that non-alcoholic beverages i.e. soft drinks, water, juice, etc., will be available. If prices are mentioned, both beverage prices must be mentioned. "Open bars" are prohibited at functions where students will be in attendance.
- f. **Cost of Admission:** Drinks must be purchased separately from the cost of admission to any event. The cost of alcohol may not be included in the price of admission.

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### **SECTION 4. RESIDENCE HALLS**

- a. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under the legal drinking age is prohibited. Sale, purchase or possession of alcohol without liquid (alcohol vaporization) machines is prohibited. (Section 30-116)
- b. The manufacturing of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- c. Students of legal drinking age may not have alcohol in their room/apartment at any time if any of the students residing in the room/apartment are under the legal drinking age. No alcohol will be visible or consumed while anyone under the legal drinking age is in the room or apartment.
- d. It is never permitted to possess an open container of alcohol or consume alcohol in public areas in or around the residence halls. This includes but is not limited to hallways, practice or study rooms, computer rooms, lounges, bathrooms, and lawns or parking areas adjacent to the residence halls (including parking garages).
- e. Common source alcohol containers (such as, but not limited to, kegs, beer balls, punch bowls and wine boxes) are prohibited.
- f. Alcohol containers, full or empty, may not be used for decorative purposes. Paraphernalia associated with drinking or alcohol related games (such as, but not limited to, funnels, beer bong, shot glasses and taps) are not permitted in the residence halls. Possession of such implements or containers is a violation of University policy.
- g. The storing, displaying or collecting of empty alcohol containers in a room or apartment is prohibited. Failure to remove empty containers or storing empty containers can lead to health and safety violations.

### **SECTION 5. ATHLETICS**

- a. The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages at any intercollegiate athletic event, sports or intramural/recreation sponsored athletic activity is expressly prohibited. The only exception shall be when the University schedules an official tailgating area(s) at Home football games, at which time a picnic area(s) will be established where the legal and monitored consumption of alcohol shall be allowed.
- b. Outside organizations using athletic facilities are prohibited from having alcoholic beverages at their event(s), except as described in Item E below.
- c. Student organizations are prohibited from contracting with University Dining Services for events where alcohol will be available adjacent to or in conjunction with any athletic event.
- d. Outside organizations booking the O'Neill Conference and Convocation Center must discuss with the General Manager of the O'Neill Center what the restrictions will be on the serving and/or selling of alcoholic beverages in the facility during or in conjunction with any functions or events. The decision of the General Manager is final.

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## **SECTION 6. FACULTY, STAFF AND/OR UNIVERSITY FUNCTIONS**

Staff or Departmental functions where alcoholic beverages may be consumed require the advanced written approval of the President, Vice President, or appropriate Dean of the Department. Campus Alcohol Permit forms must be completed and signed by the appropriate approving authority prior to the event. The forms are available on line at [www.wcsu.edu/studentlife](http://www.wcsu.edu/studentlife) (organization forms).

## **SECTION 7. OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS**

Outside organizations or affiliates wishing to rent or use University facilities or property are subject to established policies and practices related to alcohol and food purchase and consumption. Scheduling and all necessary paperwork and approval forms must be done through the appropriate University scheduling office.

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Questions and/or concerns regarding Western Connecticut State University's Alcohol Policy may be directed to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs  
Old Main Building, Room 308 - Telephone: 203-837-8600