What’s the deal with...  

**ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS?**

According to the Alcoholic Beverage Consumption and Distribution Policy, “The George Washington University is committed to promoting the health and safety of its campus community through a program of alcohol education...and is further obligated under the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 to enforce compliance with local District of Columbia alcoholic beverage laws.”

But what does that mean?

The University’s rules and policies regarding alcohol are in place for a reason, not the least of which is compliance with federal law. Congress says the University must ensure its students obey the law and stay safe.

How does that affect life at GW?

Students under 21 years of age are prohibited by Federal and/or local law from purchasing, possessing, or consuming alcohol, as well as providing alcohol to others, and drinking in a public space. Students 21 years of age or older are also prohibited from drinking in public spaces and providing alcohol to minors. The University’s “Code of Student Conduct” contains similar restrictions. But students must choose for themselves whether or not to drink alcohol. GW provides educational resources to give students all the facts so they can make an informed decision.

Did you know...

...alcohol affects your judgment, coordination, vision, and may lead to aggressive behavior?
...studies show that as alcohol usage increases, students’ grade point averages decrease?
...alcohol is a powerful drug that should never be mixed with other drugs or medications?
...the Metropolitan Police Department routinely arrests underage students for alcohol offenses?
...alcohol is the most commonly used and abused drug in the United States?
...the body develops a tolerance to alcohol, causing students to drink increasing amounts?
...alcohol affects women and men differently, with women feeling the effects to a greater extent?
...studies show alcohol use contributes to more than 70,000 sexual assaults annually nationwide?
...alcohol consumed in large quantities can become toxic and lead to coma or even death?

What if I choose to use alcohol?

Be prepared to accept the consequences of your decision. A student’s disciplinary/administrative history will be considered by the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities when making decisions about your case. In some instances, students are arrested due to alcohol violations. Subsequently, you may face a court process in addition to the disciplinary action taken by the University. Students found in violation of an alcohol violation at a Disciplinary Conference or University Hearing Board are at a minimum placed on Disciplinary Probation, are required to complete an online alcohol education module or alcohol assessment, and pay a fine. Some students Lose their Housing or are Suspended or Expelled for serious or repeat violations.

The over-consumption of alcohol is prohibited regardless of age. It is a violation of University policy to be intoxicated either on or off University premises. This behavior may lead to the student being transported to the hospital and a steep medical bill. Additionally, GW may inform the parents of students who violate the University’s alcohol policies, provided that the student is under the age of 21 at the time of notification.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING ALCOHOL USE AND ABUSE, PLEASE CONTACT

The Colonial Health Center – Health Promotion & Prevention Services
AT (202) 994-2599 OR VIA E-MAIL AT PREVENTION@GWU.EDU.

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