What’s the deal with...

Possession/Distribution/Manufacture of Drugs, Alcohol, False IDs and Other Prohibited Items?

The standard definition of **possession** is “having or controlling property, regardless of ownership.” The “Code of Student Conduct” defines **distribution** as any form of sale, exchange or transfer. The standard definition of **manufacture** is “the act or process of producing something.” These definitions are utilized in the University’s response to drugs, alcohol, false identification cards and other **prohibited items**.

But what does that mean?

Maybe a prohibited item in your dresser was purchased by a friend from home. He/She owns the item, but you have **control of it**. Therefore, it’s in your **possession** and that is a violation of GW policy. Possession of alcohol or false identification cards will likely lead to a Disciplinary Probation period along with other educational sanctions, while possession of drugs (depending upon the type of substance) will likely result in at least a student’s Loss of Housing along with other educational sanctions but can lead to Suspension or Expulsion depending on the type and quantity of drugs.

Distribution works in a similar way; it is a much broader concept than “selling drugs,” “selling false ID cards” or other prohibited items. If you obtain drugs or a false ID card on behalf of someone else or in any way **transfer** a prohibited item to someone else you can be held **accountable** for distribution. Additionally, if you **exchange** drugs, false IDs or other prohibited items with another individual for something else, you can be held accountable for distribution.

The **distribution and/or manufacturing** of drugs, controlled substances, or false identification cards is something the University takes very seriously and will likely lead to **Suspension** or **Expulsion** from the University.

How does that affect life at GW?

You are **responsible** for alcohol, drugs, false identification cards or other prohibited items found in your possession. This may extend to anything your visitors may bring into the room. You should be **aware** of all items in your room, and you should **report** to a University official – including Center for Student Engagement Staff and GWPD officers – any prohibited items. Because you are responsible for your visitors’ behavior, be sure any visitors know to leave prohibited items, like weapons or drugs, etc. at home.

The Metropolitan Police Department deals with possession or distribution in a very similar manner. Simply giving alcohol, drugs, or a false ID card to another person, friend or not, constitutes **distribution**, regardless of whether money changes hands.

What if I am found responsible for distributing prohibited items?

Be prepared to accept the consequences of your behavior. You **may be arrested** by Metropolitan Police Department and/or face **disciplinary action** by the University. Students found in violation for the **possession of alcohol or a false ID card**, face minimum sanctions which include, but are not limited to: **Disciplinary Probation** and other University sanctions. Student found in violation for the **possession of drugs or controlled substances** face minimum sanctions of **Loss of Housing, Disciplinary Probation** and other University sanctions. Students found in violation of distribution or manufacturing violations face **sanctions** up to and including **Suspension or Expulsion**.