

COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

I. Introduction

Coastal Carolina University recognizes its responsibility for understanding how alcohol and other drug problems can present grave consequences to individuals and society. The University recognizes that substance use and abuse can adversely impact its greatest concerns: academic performance, student development and safety, and employee job performance.

This policy describes the boundaries regarding the possession, sale and consumption of alcohol by students, faculty, and staff on the Coastal campus and in or at any Coastal owned or managed facility, or at any Coastal Carolina University hosted, sponsored or registered event, either on or off campus. Parameters for alcohol and drug use are regulated by the University consistent with state, local, and federal laws, including the Drug-Free Workplace laws.

A. Philosophy

The University's commitment is that every student be provided the best possible opportunity to achieve academic excellence, that each student has a campus environment in which to develop and mature, and that the safety of students, faculty, and staff be promoted. Coastal Carolina University is concerned with the welfare of the entire campus community.

This policy, and the substance abuse programming for the entire campus which accompanies it, emphasizes that abstinence is a choice, that appropriate and legal use of alcohol is an option, but that alcohol and drug abuse are not options. Coastal Carolina University seeks to promote a safe and healthy environment free from the abuse of harmful substances; it seeks to maximize the potential of each campus community member to contribute to society and to achieve his or her full potential, while encouraging individual responsibility.

In summary, the purpose of this policy is to accomplish the following:

1. To promote a healthy and safe environment for students, faculty, and staff.
2. To maximize the opportunity for academic excellence and student development.
3. To define expectations regarding the appropriate use of alcohol at recognized Coastal events.
4. To discourage the illegal use of alcohol and other drugs and to identify appropriate disciplinary procedures for those who engage in such illegal activities.
5. To demonstrate the commitment of Coastal Carolina University to provide education and prevention services designed to prevent alcohol and other drug abuse.
6. To demonstrate the commitment of Coastal Carolina University to provide early intervention and referral services in connection with alcohol and drug abuse.
7. To encourage those who have an alcohol or other drug problem to seek treatment and support services.

B. Programs and Services: Education, Prevention, Intervention and Treatment

Coastal Carolina University recognizes its responsibility to educate the campus community about alcohol and drug abuse problems as well as low-risk legal alcohol use. This education takes place in formal and informal settings, through prevention and education programs and activities, individually and in groups.

Students are encouraged to participate in campus activities, which promote alcohol and drug free experiences. Abstinence from alcohol and other drugs is encouraged and viewed as a legitimate and socially acceptable choice for any member of the campus community.

Any student of the campus community has the opportunity to seek help for an alcohol or other drug problem and associated concerns. A diagnostic assessment will be made by either the Director of Counseling or the Alcohol and Drug Services Coordinator. Following initial counseling sessions, referral may be made to another agency, which may provide further treatment. University services available at no cost to the individual may include educational activities, structured groups, counseling, and self-help groups. The cost of off-campus services is the responsibility of the individual, not Coastal Carolina University. Any employee of the University who wishes to seek help for a possible alcohol or drug problem can contact the Office of Human Resources for a referral.

C. Office of Alcohol and Drug Prevention

The Office of Alcohol and Drug Services is located in the Office of Counseling Services. This office provides general information and referral, if necessary, for any type of alcohol or other drug issue or problems which arise within the campus community involving students.

The Office of Alcohol and Drug Services provides services in the following areas:

1. Information on Alcohol and Other Drug Use and Abuse

The Office of Alcohol and Drug Services maintains resource materials on alcohol and drug use and abuse, and related issues. Educational videos, books, and pamphlets are available for use, many free to take as needed. A computer is available for student use to access current information on the Web as well as to access Alcohol 101, the interactive computer “virtual party.”

2. Educational Services

Educational group meetings occur on a regular basis in response to residence hall students and others who are violators of the campus alcohol and drug policies. These group sessions are designed to provide each student an opportunity to examine alcohol use and related behavior, together with corrective action which may be necessary. This group introduces students to available services and information regarding alcohol use and abuse.

Other educational services for those who violate our campus Alcohol Policy may include individual assessment and/or the interactive computer program Alcohol 101. Other educational programs may be designed to meet special needs of faculty, staff and students.

3. Prevention Programs

Prevention activities are wide-ranging. They may include programs designed on an as-needed basis as well as assistance with event planning by other University services or departments. Student organizations may provide opportunities for alcohol and drug prevention programs through a variety of alternative social events, such as theme parties, movies, etc.

Greek organizations will participate in alcohol risk management programs, including TIPS in the University. The Office of Student Activities will designate those students/officers who must successfully complete the recommended educational programs per the Office of Alcohol and Drug Services as well as Greek Life.

4. Assessment, Counseling, and Referral Services

Students who are concerned about the use or abuse of alcohol and drugs – either their own or others – may receive assistance from the Alcohol and Drug Services Coordinator or the Director of Counseling, both located in the Office of Counseling Services.

Counseling services may include: problem assessment; educational/therapeutic counseling; intervention; or referral to other agencies such as Waccamaw Mental Health, the Horry County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, or private practitioners.

All counseling services are provided pursuant to all federal and state laws effecting the transfer of information including, but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, the South Carolina Code of Laws, and Federal confidentiality rules.

II. Campus Alcohol Policy

This policy governs the possession and consumption of alcohol by students, faculty, and staff on the Coastal campus and in or at any Coastal owned or managed facility, or at any Coastal Carolina University hosted or registered event, either on or off campus. Throughout this policy, alcohol is defined to include beer, wine, and distilled spirits. This policy is based on a concern for the welfare of all members of the campus community. As members of the community, students, faculty and staff are expected to comply with and abide by the policies and guidelines as stated below, as well as the laws of the State of South Carolina and the federal government.

Coastal Carolina University prohibits the possession of beer or wine by those under the age of 21, as defined in *South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 20-7-8920*. The University also prohibits the possession of liquor by those under the age of 21, as defined in *South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 20-7-8925*.

This policy prohibits lying or giving false information concerning age in order to purchase beer, wine, or in order to obtain liquor, as defined in the *South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 61-4-60, 61-4-80 61-4-90 and 61-4-10*.

Coastal Carolina University also prohibits giving beer, wine, or liquor to anyone who is under the age of 21 as defined in the *South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 61-4-90*.

Coastal’s Department of Public Safety will enforce all other laws governing alcohol use and abuse whenever necessary as defined in the *South Carolina Code of Laws*.

This policy is subject to change to comply with new local, state, or federal laws pertaining to the possession and consumption of alcohol (already defined to include beer, wine, or distilled spirits).

A. Alcoholic Beverage Possession and Consumption at Coastal Carolina University

Alcohol will not be purchased, sold, served, provided, or present at student social events or student organization hosted events, unless it is properly registered and subject to S.C. State Law, the Coastal Carolina Alcohol and Drug Policy, and all other regulations contained in the *Code of Student Conduct* and the *Student Handbook*.

B. Permitted Areas

Subject to the provisions of Section II.A. above, on-campus consumption of alcohol is permitted in the following areas:

1. Designated facilities of Wheelwright Auditorium, such as the Blue Room.
2. Designated facilities of the Student Center, such as Room 208 and the first floor lobby.
3. Designated areas of the Singleton Building.
4. The Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts atrium and gallery.
5. All private dining rooms on campus.
6. Spadoni Park, for designated events only.
7. Designated areas of the Atheneum Hall.
8. The stadium/field house.
9. Designated areas of the Wall College of Business Building, to include the Board Room and Wall Auditorium Lobby.
10. Inside University Place apartments by residents of legal drinking age.
11. Other areas as designated by the President.

C. Prohibited Areas

On-campus possession and/or consumption of alcohol by individuals or groups is prohibited at Coastal Carolina University facilities and grounds, including but not limited to:

1. Main campus residence hall facilities owned by Coastal Carolina University, either in a room or apartment of the residence halls, or in public halls or lounge areas of the residence halls; or grounds surrounding residence halls.
2. All academic facilities owned or managed by Coastal Carolina University, either in a faculty or staff member's office or in the halls or classrooms.
3. All other areas not expressly designated in Section B stated above.

D. Off-Campus Event Registration

Coastal Carolina University neither condones nor recognizes off-campus events of student organizations where alcohol is either served or consumed, unless such events are sponsored by Coastal Productions, the designated student programming board of Coastal Carolina University. Any other student organization that hosts an off-campus event where alcohol is served and consumed shall be deemed to be doing so without the permission of the University. Accordingly, the University shall assume no responsibility for any damages or injuries that might arise as a result of such an event.

Student organizations are not authorized to represent the University or to use the Coastal Carolina University name to enter into negotiations for contracts to gain goods or services without prior approval of the Office of Student Activities. Such organizations, its officers, members, and guests assume responsibility for complying with all University policies as well as local, state, and federal laws governing the use of alcoholic beverages.

E. Coastal Productions Registered Off-Campus Events

Coastal Productions, the designated student programming board of Coastal Carolina University, may host off-campus student events where alcohol is served, pending approval of the Director of Student Activities. When Coastal Productions registers an off-campus student event where alcohol is served, it must follow the procedures outlined below:

1. Coastal Productions must obtain registration approval from the Office of Student Activities before initiating negotiations with the host business establishment.
2. After Coastal Productions staff has made the necessary arrangements, it must obtain the final approval of the Office of Student Activities before monies can be disbursed in payment to the host business.
3. For events where deemed necessary by the Office of Student Activities, Coastal Productions officers are responsible for checking all individuals attending the event to assure they are students, faculty, or staff. Each person is permitted to bring one guest to such an event.
4. Coastal Productions and/or the Office of Student Activities will enter into a contract with the host business establishment to assure compliance

with conditions stated hereafter:

- a. The business establishment hosting the event is responsible for verifying the age of each individual in attendance. Those 21 and older must wear a wristband in order to consume alcohol. The business establishment's bartenders are responsible for checking wristbands prior to serving alcohol.
- b. The business establishment hosting the event is responsible for controlling illegal consumption of alcohol and is legally responsible for any consequence of illegal consumption.
- c. The hosting business establishment will provide security police to patrol the area, including the parking lot, to control the illegal consumption of alcohol, including use by students under the legal drinking age.
- d. Non-alcoholic beverages and food must be readily available at such an event.
- e. The hosting business establishment will stop serving alcohol sixty minutes prior to the closure of the event.

F. Coastal Productions and Other Student Organizations

Registered On-Campus Events

Student organizations may have alcohol served at properly registered on-campus events. Student organizations must use designated student officer(s) who will attend and oversee each organization-sponsored event. The designated officer(s) must have successfully completed alcohol education workshops as required by the Office of Alcohol and Drug Services.

1. Any student organization, including Coastal Productions, planning an on-campus event where alcohol will be served must obtain approval through the Office of Student Activities before registering any program and again before any monies can be dispersed to the business establishment providing the refreshments.
2. For events where deemed necessary by the Office of Student Activities, a representative of the student organization is responsible for checking all individuals attending the event to insure they are students, faculty, or staff. Each person is permitted to bring one guest to such an event.
3. The student organization sponsoring the event is responsible for insuring an approved process of verifying the age of each individual in attendance. Those 21 and older must wear a wristband in order to consume alcohol. The bartenders are responsible for checking wristbands prior to serving alcohol.
4. Appropriate amounts of non-alcoholic beverages and food must be provided at any event where alcohol is present.
5. The student organization will insure that the service of alcohol will stop 60 minutes prior to the scheduled closure of the event.

G. General Guidelines for Recognized University Activities Where Alcohol is Served, Consumed, or Present to Include Non-Student Registered Events

1. The sale and service of alcohol must conform to all federal, state, local, and University policies/laws.
2. Any containers of alcohol, which are being transported on Coastal Carolina University premises, must be sealed and covered.
3. All students and their guests attending an activity where alcohol is served, consumed, or present must possess appropriate proof of age. Students who alter their I.D. cards to falsify their age are in violation of S.C. state law as well as Coastal Carolina University regulations and subject to its disciplinary proceedings and sanctions.
4. Students will be held responsible for their or their guest's behavior while attending these events.
5. If an event is registered by a student organization, then student leadership within the organization must have successfully completed alcohol education workshops as specified by the Office of Alcohol and Drug Services in order to review and develop procedures for having a responsibly held event regarding the use of alcohol. The Office of Student Activities will designate the appropriate student organization representatives expected to be in attendance at these educational trainings.

H. Sanctions

Students and faculty organizations, individual students, faculty, and staff in violation of the Coastal Carolina policies, as well as of state or federal law, regarding the use of alcohol are subject to the proceedings and sanctions of not only Coastal Carolina University but may also be subject to the civil and criminal court system. Coastal Carolina University is not a sanctuary that relieves students, faculty and staff of their responsibilities as citizens to abide by local, state, and federal laws, or Coastal Carolina University policies and procedures. Student discipline will be conducted in accordance with this policy and due process as specified in the *Code of Student Conduct*.

1. Sanctions for possession of alcohol by students at the residence halls may include, but are not limited to: fines, required attendance at educational or prevention programs, disciplinary sanctions which may include termination of residence hall contract and summary suspension. See the *Residence Life Living Guide* and the *Code of Student Conduct*.

2. Drinking on campus is not permitted under any circumstances by students, faculty, and staff unless at an approved campus event and location. Drinking in public and public intoxication both represent non-compliance with the laws of South Carolina and are therefore under the jurisdiction of the Office of Public Safety and other police officials.

3. Violations of the alcohol policy by students at any recognized student organization or University sponsored event may include but are not limited to the following sanctions: fines, required attendance at educational or prevention programs, and disciplinary sanctions which may include summary suspension. See the *Code of Student Conduct*.

4. Any student organization which provides alcohol at a registered event without following the proper procedures, or any student organization which uses the name of Coastal Carolina University and serves alcohol without following the proper registration procedure, will be referred as an organization or as individuals to the Vice President for Student Affairs for disciplinary action. The student organization or individuals may be held responsible for their actions as provided for in the *Code of Student Conduct*.

5. Faculty and staff in violation of policies will be disciplined according to the personnel policies and procedures of Coastal Carolina University.

6. The Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1998 amended Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) to allow, but not require, institutions of higher education to notify the parents or guardians of students under the age of 21 who violate institutional policies pertaining to alcohol and drugs.

III. Campus Drug Policy

Coastal Carolina University prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of illegal drugs or controlled substances by Coastal students, faculty, and staff as set forth in *South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 44-53-110 et seq.*

This policy also prohibits possession of drug paraphernalia (such as roach clips, bongos, water pipes, cocaine spoons, etc.) as defined in *South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 44-53-110 and Section 44-53-391*.

Coastal Carolina University also prohibits the non-prescribed use of anabolic steroids as defined in *South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 44-53-1510 et seq.*

The term “controlled substances” as used in this policy shall refer to those drugs and substances whose possession, sale, or delivery results in criminal sanctions under South Carolina law.

A. Legal Aspects and Consequences

As citizens, students, faculty, and staff have a responsibility for knowing and complying with the provisions of state law referenced above. Anyone violating these laws is subject to prosecution and punishment by the criminal courts as well as subject to disciplinary procedures conducted by the University.

B. Coastal Carolina University Disciplinary Process

Coastal Carolina University considers any violation of the drug policy to be a serious offense. The continued enrollment of students will be subject to conditions or restrictions which may include procedures recommended by the Director of Counseling. Sanctions imposed by Coastal Carolina University are in accordance with disciplinary procedures published in the *Code of Student Conduct*. These sanctions include, but are not limited to, suspension held in abeyance with conditions, summary suspension, removal from residence halls, and permanent suspension from Coastal Carolina University.

C. Trafficking in Illegal Drugs on University Owned, Managed, or Leased Property

Prior to Hearing: Because the distribution of illegal drugs or controlled substances is a threat and danger to health and safety of the community, when reasonable cause exists, Coastal Carolina University will immediately suspend alleged offenders prior to a hearing, in accordance with summary suspension policies as published in the *Code of Student Conduct*.

Students found in violation of illegal distribution of drugs or controlled substances will be permanently suspended in accordance with disciplinary procedures in the *Code of Student Conduct*.

Students who live in University owned, managed or leased housing facilities found to be in violation of this policy will also be subject to termination of housing contract as published in the *Residence Life Living Guide* and/or *Residence Life Contract Terms and Conditions*.

D. Possession and Use of Illegal Drugs

For students found in possession or use of illegal drugs, the sanctions will range from suspension held in abeyance with conditions, to permanent

suspension in accordance with disciplinary procedures as published in the *Code of Student Conduct*.

Students who live in University owned, managed or leased housing facilities found to be in violation of this policy will also be subject to termination of housing contract as published in the *Residence Life Living Guide* and/or *Residence Life Contract Terms and Conditions*.

E. Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

For students found in violation of the drug paraphernalia section of this policy, Coastal Carolina University's response will be determined in accordance with disciplinary procedures as published in the *Code of Student Conduct*.

Students who live in University owned, managed or leased housing facilities found to be in violation of this policy will also be subject to termination of housing contract as published in the *Residence Life Living Guide* and/or *Residence Life Contract Terms and Conditions*.

F. Drug-Free Workplace Policy

The Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of illegal drugs in the workplace and provides for sanctions against faculty, staff, and student employees, permanent or temporary, who violate this policy. Pursuant to federal law, the policy also requires grant or contract employees to notify the employer of any criminal drug statute convictions for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five (5) days after the conviction. Any student employee who violates the Drug-Free Workplace Policy is subject to prosecution and punishment by the criminal courts as well as to disciplinary procedures by Coastal Carolina University and may also be terminated from his/her position of employment by the supervising department.

G. Eligibility for Federal Financial Aid

Students found in violation of the drug policy jeopardize their ability to receive financial aid for which they might otherwise be eligible.

IV. Future Revisions

Coastal Carolina University reserves the right to update this policy at any time. Members of the campus community are responsible for being aware of all changes as published and disseminated.