ALCOHOL POLICY

Policy Statement

It is the goal of The University of Southern Mississippi to provide a positive environment that is conducive to the developmental and educational experience. The university understands the potential for the misuse and abuse of alcohol. The university expects that students, faculty, staff and visitors to its campus will act responsibly and follow the university’s policy on alcohol.

Reason for Policy/Purpose

This policy is required for the effective communication of university policy regarding alcohol.

Who Needs to Know This Policy

All members of The University of Southern Mississippi community.

Website Address for this Policy

www.usm.edu/institutional-policies/policy-stua-ds-004

Definitions

Policy/Procedures

The University of Southern Mississippi prohibits the unlawful possession, consumption and distribution of alcoholic beverages by students, employees and visitors on its campus. Any possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages of any kind in plain view shall be considered in violation of campus policy. Further, consumption or possession by underage individuals shall be in violation of applicable state law and university policy. In accordance with the residence
life and housing policy, alcohol is not permitted inside student housing. Alcohol consumption may lead to behaviors that are considered a nuisance or present a threat to others. Such behavior is subject to the enforcement of applicable state law and university policy.

PROCEDURE

A student who is found responsible for an alcohol policy violation, and who has not been found responsible for a previous alcohol-related violation, may face the following sanctions:

**a. First Offense** – The student will receive a campus citation issued by the University Police Department. The ticket must be paid within the semester in which it was issued, or it will be assessed to the student’s account. The student will also be required to complete an alcohol education program and/or complete a community service assignment. Finally, the Dean of Students office reserves the right to notify the parents of students under the age of 21 who violate alcohol and other drug provisions of the Code of Student Conduct, or who, in our professional judgment, are considered to be a danger to themselves or others. Upon receipt of an alcohol or other drug violation by a student under the age of 21, the dean of students will staff the case and make a decision regarding parental notification based on the particular circumstances of the offense and the student’s history. Parents will be notified by letter or phone, depending on the circumstances of the case.

**b. Second Offense** - The student will be issued a campus citation and will also complete an alcohol assessment at the University Counseling Center (at the expense of the student). The goal of the program is to identify the possibility of an alcohol and substance problem. The student will be placed on disciplinary probation for a minimum of two semesters and may be assigned a community service project. The student may also face a monetary fine in the amount of $500, which will be used for campus alcohol education. The student will also go before the student judicial board and if adjudicated as “responsible” could face the following:

- possible suspension from the university
- prohibited from participation in campus activities, student government and representation of the university or its organizations in any capacity

**c. Additional Offenses** – The student will receive a state citation. The student may be suspended or required to seek mandatory counseling services that may or may not duplicate those required for earlier violations. The student may also be required to register for the Alcohol Education Program. Parental involvement in the form a parent-student meeting with the Dean of Students office may also be required.

**Review**

The Dean of Students is responsible for the review of this policy every four years (or whenever circumstances require immediate review).

**Forms/Instructions**
N/A

Appendices

N/A

Related Information

N/A

History

11/01/11: Formatted for Institutional Policies website
02/05/13: Formatted for template. Minor editing throughout.
Amendments: Month, Day, Year – summary of changes
Authorization

ALCOHOL POLICY
STUA-DS-000-004

As the Responsible Officer, I have reviewed this policy and believe it represents the current policy.

[Signature]

Responsible Officer

[Signature] 4/4/13

Date