

Policies and Procedures



Policy Governing Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs

Introduction:

The College of Environmental Science and Forestry is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all members of our community. This policy is intended to articulate, affirm, and maintain community-wide norms that support abstinence and encourage low-risk choices regarding alcohol and other drugs; choices that will not compromise positive living, learning, and working experiences for each member of our community. This policy provides a framework for the College's approach to prevention and intervention, and defines acceptable and unacceptable behaviors with regard to alcohol and other drugs.

Guiding Principles:

- **College as a Community:** The College of Environmental Science and Forestry is an educational institution dedicated to pursuing excellence, promoting academic achievement, and advancing knowledge. The College takes a demonstrable interest in the intellectual, physical, and psychological well-being of its members. Ultimately, the College seeks a proper balance between individual freedom to learn from experience and the need to accept and live within the standards of conduct set by the community. The College expects all its members and guests to share in the responsibility of adhering to and enforcing this policy.
- **Proactive Approach:** Federal, state, and local laws and other mandates require the College to promulgate policies and procedures that stipulate sanctions for violating standards for misusing alcohol and other drugs; however, the College's efforts go beyond rules and sanctions. The College aims to institute policies and procedures that develop and sustain healthy community-wide norms to facilitate the prevention of problems while providing resources for intervention and assistance.
- **Prevention, Education and Intervention:** The College of Environmental Science and Forestry seeks to provide an environment in which drug and alcohol abuse is not tolerated and does not interfere with the goals of the College as an educational institution and workplace. To provide an environment that does not tolerate the illegal and harmful use of alcohol and other drugs and helps to prevent problems related to those substances, the College engages in proactive efforts including the following:

NOTE: To ensure consistency and continued collaboration, ESF's Policy Governing Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs reflects selected provisions of the Syracuse University policy. Components of this policy may change without prior notification.

- educating members of the community about policies related to alcohol and other drugs and sanctions used to enforce these policies;
 - intervening and providing assistance to those with problems while creating an atmosphere in which those with problems are encouraged to seek help; and
 - offering low-risk social options that support institutional initiatives fostering health and wellness.
- Values Regarding Substances and Education: Taking into account the public health and safety concerns expressed above, the College of Environmental Science and Forestry supports the following values with regard to substances and education.
 - *Alcohol:* Abstinence is supported as a primary option. Consuming alcoholic beverages legally and in moderation is accepted. Drinking alcohol excessively is not. Unlawful behaviors involving alcohol are prohibited. Disruptive behavior that creates potential for harm or infringes on the rights of others is prohibited.
 - *Illegal and Other Drugs:* There is zero-tolerance for the unlawful possession and use of illegal drugs. This zero-tolerance also applies to improperly using prescription medications, controlled substances, or other legal drugs. Possessing drug paraphernalia is prohibited.
 - *Education:* The College supports and utilizes alcohol and drug education and early intervention programs where appropriate. Self-referral to such programs is strongly encouraged and participation is strictly confidential. Community members are expected to be aware of the risks associated with abuse of alcohol and other drugs and the education and early intervention programs available to the community.
 - Health Risks and Information:
 - Health risks associated with the use of alcohol include but are not limited to memory loss, depression, seizures, falls and accidents, heart and lung diseases, frequent infection, and sudden death.
 - Social risks associated with the use of alcohol include but are not limited to damaged relationships, academic failure and family problems.
 - Grain alcohol is very dangerous when consumed. It is usually in a concentration of about 95 percent (185-190 proof), is highly toxic, and physically damages body cells, including causing burn injuries to the mouth and esophagus. Possession of grain alcohol by any person, regardless of age, is a violation of New York State Law.
 - For further information and assistance regarding alcohol and other drug related matters, community members may consult the Office of Student Life and Experiential Learning, the Human Resources Office, and Syracuse University Health Services.

Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs:

- **Jurisdiction:** The College's Policy Governing Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs applies to the activities of all College of Environmental Science and Forestry students, recognized student organizations, staff, faculty, guests and visitors as follows. This policy applies to:
 - all activities occurring on College owned, operated, or controlled property;
 - all College-sponsored events occurring at any location;
 - all individuals while representing the College at any location;
 - all students as detailed in the Code of Student Conduct; and
 - all student organizations as detailed in the Student Organization Handbook.
- **Comprehensiveness:** All organizational units of the College shall conform to this policy as well as all federal, state, and local laws.
- **Definitions:** Definitions applicable to this policy are included in Appendix A.
- **Drugs:**
 - The unlawful manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, or use of any drugs or controlled substances is prohibited.
 - Possession of drug paraphernalia is prohibited.
- **Alcohol:**
 - The unlawful service, distribution, sale, possession, consumption, or other unlawful use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
 - "Legal drinking age" is defined as that of the state or country where the ESF-related activity takes place.
 - Unlawful behaviors involving alcohol including, but not limited to, underage drinking, public intoxication, drinking and driving, manufacturing, distributing, and using false identification are prohibited.
 - All events occurring on College owned, operated, or controlled property and all College-sponsored events where alcohol is present must conform to the guidelines set forth in the Policy for Serving Alcoholic Beverages at Campus Events (see administrative policy #ADM.004).
 - In addition to College-sponsored events as described above, alcoholic beverages may be served/consumed on College owned, operated, or controlled property only in:
 - specifically designated locations as outlined in Appendix B, and
 - private College residential units of persons of legal drinking age provided that the host and all guests present are also of legal drinking age. Alcoholic beverages dispensed via a central source container, such as kegs and beer balls, are prohibited in all student/guest residential facilities.

- Students under the legal drinking age may not distribute, sell, possess, consume or be in the presence of alcohol in assigned living quarters.

Sanctions for Violations of Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy:

- Employees and students known to violate this policy are subject to College disciplinary actions and public law enforcement actions.
- Any College official shall have the authority to take action regarding any violation of this policy occurring on College owned, operated, or controlled property or at any College-sponsored event. Any member of the College community may file a complaint pursuant to established College disciplinary procedures against any individual, student organization, or department he/she knows or believes to have violated this policy. Complaints may be filed through established College process, and, if a violation is found to have been committed by the accused individual or student organizations, appropriate sanctions will be determined with criteria identified below.
 - *Students and Recognized Student Organizations:* All students and student organizations are governed by this policy. Allegations that one or more students or recognized student organizations have committed a violation of this policy are handled by the College Judicial System. College sanctions are described in Appendix C. Students may also be subject to external sanctions.
 - *Employees:* All College employees are governed by this policy. Allegations that an employee has violated the policy are handled by the Human Resources Office. Employees found to have violated this policy are subject to appropriate disciplinary action, pursuant to state, local, and federal law, and policies of the Human Resources Office. Such disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to: referral for appropriate assessment, education, counseling, and rehabilitation. In cases where impaired performance is due to illegal drugs, immediate suspension or dismissal may result. Employees may also be subject to external sanctions.
 - *Visitors and Guests:* All visitors and guests are governed by this policy. Visitors and guests found to be in violation of this policy may be asked to leave College property immediately and may be subject to external sanctions. ESF students will be held responsible for the behavior of their guest(s).
 - *External Sanctions:* Penalties available under generally applicable federal, state, and local laws are not diminished or replaced by the sanctions imposed under this policy.

Appendix A: Definitions

When used in this policy, the following definitions apply:

- Alcohol means ethyl alcohol, hydrated oxide of ethyl or spirit of wine from whatever source or by whatever processes produced.
- “Legal drinking age” is defined as that of the state or country where the ESF-related activity takes place.
- Alcohol abuse means the excessive use of alcohol in a manner that interferes with (1) physical or psychological functioning; (2) social adaptation; (3) educational performance, and (4) occupational functioning.
- Controlled substance means a controlled substance in Schedules I through V of Section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) or whose possession, sale, or delivery results in criminal sanctions under New York State Law. In general, this includes all prescription drugs, as well as those substances for which there is no generally accepted medical use (e.g., heroin, LSD, etc.), and substances that possess a chemical structure similar to that of a controlled substance (e.g., designer drugs). This term does not include alcohol.
- Illegal drug or chemical substance is (1) any drug or chemical substance, the use, the sale, or possession of which is illegal under any state or federal law, or (2) one which is legally obtainable but has not been legally obtained. The term includes prescribed drugs not legally obtained and prescribed drugs not being used for prescribed purposes.
- An individual or group is considered to be representing the College when their activities involve active management, physical or administrative oversight, financial support, and/or release time by the College. Students represent the College when: (1) they are traveling on College money (including student fees), (2) they are on the job (in positions paid for by College accounts and student fees), (3) they use their College or student government titles or elected positions.

Appendix B: Designated Locations

- **Non-Residential Campuses/Properties:** Individual possession and consumption of alcohol is prohibited. College-sponsored activities approved by the Dean of Student Life and Experiential Learning may involve alcohol. The Dean of Student Life and Experiential Learning will approve functions and locations on a case-by-case basis.
- **Ranger School/Wanakena Campus:** Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in public areas. Consumption is permitted in private residential units of persons of legal drinking age provided that the host and all guests present are also of legal drinking age. College-sponsored activities approved by the Dean of Student Life and Experiential Learning may involve alcohol. The Dean of Student Life and Experiential Learning, in consultation with the Ranger School Director, will approve functions and locations on a case-by-case basis.
- **Cranberry Lake Biological Station:** Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in bunk houses or public areas. Consumption of alcohol is permitted only at the fire pit south of Sucker Brook bridge by those of legal drinking age. College-sponsored activities approved by the Dean of Student Life and Experiential Learning may involve alcohol. The Dean of Student Life and Experiential Learning, in consultation with the Property/Program Director, will approve functions and locations on a case-by-case basis.
- **Adirondack Ecological Center:** Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in office or laboratory facilities, the dining hall or its immediate grounds. College-sponsored activities approved by the Dean of Student Life and Experiential Learning may involve alcohol. The Dean of Student Life and Experiential Learning, in consultation with the Property/Program Director, will approve functions and locations on a case-by-case basis.
- **Residences of College Employees:** Lawful consumption of alcohol by College faculty and staff who live in College residences and their guests is permitted.

***Standard Sanctions for Substance Abuse-Related Violations
of the ESF Code of Student Conduct¹***

Category	First Violation	Second Violation
“In the presence of” alcohol or other drugs under prohibited circumstances (e.g. in residence halls) ^{2,3}	Social probation; and educational project	May result in suspension for a minimum of one academic semester. Third offense will result in dismissal.
Use or possession of alcohol under prohibited circumstances	Disciplinary probation; parent notification; educational project; and community service hours	Suspension for a minimum of two academic semesters ^{4,5}
Supplying alcohol to underage person(s)	Disciplinary probation; parent notification; educational project; and community service hours	Suspension for a minimum of two academic semesters ^{4,5}
Intoxication or other substance abuse-related behavior posing a substantial risk to the health and well-being of self and/or others	Disciplinary probation; parent notification; residential relocation; alcohol/drug program; educational project; and community service hours	Suspension for a minimum of two academic semesters ^{4,5}
Use or possession of marijuana or drug paraphernalia	Disciplinary probation; parent notification; residential relocation; alcohol/drug program; educational project; and community service hours	Suspension for a minimum of two academic semesters ^{4,5}
Driving any motor vehicle while intoxicated or while under the influence of unlawful drugs	Suspension for a minimum of one academic semester; and community service hours prior to readmission	Dismissal ⁴
Manufacture, sale, purchase, or distribution of illegal drugs or controlled substances	Dismissal upon conviction or suspension for a minimum of one year until case is adjudicated.	Dismissal (if not already dismissed) ⁴
Administration of all sanctions will follow policies and procedures for enforcement, as defined in the ESF Student Handbook (Appendix A: Code of Student Conduct).		

¹ Sanctions will be determined on a case-specific basis by the adjudicator/appropriate adjudicative body.

² Other than College-sponsored events, students under the legal drinking age should not be in a situation where alcohol is being consumed. All students should avoid situations where there is illegal drug use.

³ As defined by residence hall policies and ESF jurisdictions.

⁴ Any alcohol- or drug-related offense after a student returns from a suspension for substance abuse-related violations will result in dismissal.

⁵ Suspension for two academic semesters may include the current semester (if the violation occurred prior to the 5th week of classes) and a consecutive semester.