Alcohol Policies

The sale and service of alcoholic beverages on campus is governed by Federal laws, Wisconsin Statutes, University of Wisconsin System Administrative Codes, and UW-Madison regulations. The following is only a general guide for student organizations, not a complete, exhaustive list of laws, rules, and regulations. Please visit the University's website for University more information on alcohol policies and how they affect students.

University of Wisconsin-Madison Registered Student Organization Alcohol Policy (SOAP) [April 25, 2014]

Any Registered Student Organization event with alcohol must abide by the following policies:

1. An appropriate selection and quantity of non-alcoholic beverages and food must be available.
2. If event attendees are anticipated to include individuals below the minimum legal drinking age, then procedures must be in place to prevent consumption of alcoholic beverages by these individuals. Minimum requirements include:
   a. Sober monitors and servers must request an ID from any guest who appears to be age 30 or younger before providing them with alcohol and upon event entry.
   b. Alcohol is dispensed in a designated area for attendees at or above the minimum legal drinking age. This includes alcohol brought by event attendees.
   c. The organization will provide attendees with a wristband to indicate that the guest is at or above the minimum legal drinking age.
3. At any event where the consumption of alcohol is allowed, each sponsoring organization must provide a minimum of two sober monitors for up to 50 total attendees. One additional sober monitor from each sponsoring organization must be provided for every additional 25 attendees.
   a. The sober monitor shall refrain from the consumption of alcohol until the time that the monitor has completed serving in this capacity.
   b. Half (50%) of the sober monitors from each sponsoring organization must be in an officer/executive position or have been a member for over one academic year.
   c. At least one sober monitor from each sponsoring organization must be at or above the minimum legal drinking age.
   d. The Sober Monitor's duties shall be:
i. to be present at all times during which alcoholic beverages are served or consumed;
ii. to ensure that the Registered Student Organization Alcohol Policy is observed by all persons in attendance at the event;
iii. to ensure that inebriated persons do not consume alcoholic beverages;
iv. to maintain or ensure control of alcoholic beverages at all times to prevent unauthorized consumption and ensure alcoholic beverages are properly secured at the conclusion of the event; and
v. to ensure that individuals below the minimum legal drinking age do not consume alcoholic beverages.

e. All sober monitors must have completed the online sober monitor training program within the previous calendar year prior to serving as a sober monitor. Follow the link to the Responsible RSO Sober Monitor Alcohol Training to enroll in the online course. Please make sure to not only watch the video but also complete the quiz with a passing grade.

4. Total attendees at any given time may not exceed the fire code capacity of the venue or the requisite supplied number of sober monitors.

Any Registered Student Organization event with alcohol not held at a venue with an alcohol license must abide by the following additional policy: Alcoholic beverages present at the event are limited to beer (fermented malt beverages) and wine. Common sources of alcohol such as kegs, bowls, barrels, boxed wine, etc. are not permitted.

Note: The following sections are not policy. These are recommendations provided to Registered Student Organizations in the Student Organization Resource and Policy Guide.

Responsibly Managing Parties with Alcohol

Note: some of the following may be required by your governing council (i.e. Interfraternity Council) or departmental sponsor (i.e. School of Pharmacy). Always be sure to check with appropriate entities to insure you fully understand policies governing your RSO. Activities where consumption of alcohol is the purpose, consequence, or reward should not occur. Drinking games and using alcohol as a reward leads to over-consumption because people drink when they win/lose not when they want to.

- **DO NOT** serve or allow consumption of alcohol at events where a majority of these students are under the minimum legal drinking age.
- **DO NOT** consume alcohol at general or executive board meetings, unless everyone is 21 or older. If alcohol is consumed, set a specific start and end time to meetings to reduce liability for incidents that occur after the meeting.
- **DO NOT** use alcohol as an incentive for participating in recruitment or as prizes in contests. Liability increases when alcohol is used as an enticement.
- **DO** ensure that if not at a 3rd party vendor, only sober monitors over the minimum legal drinking age of 21 serve as bartenders.
- **DO** make sure all members can legally attend events at a liquor licensed establishment, by definition a restaurant (less than 50% of sales are from alcohol) or holds a 18+ Center for Visual & Performing Arts license through the City of Madison.
- **DO** use a typed guest list that includes the names of all anticipated attendees. It is recommended that this list specifically note membership in the organization and age of the attendee. Do not allow anyone to enter the event unless they were on the guest list prior to the event. This added step can assist your organization in managing the risk of having alcohol at one of your events.

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**Tips on Serving Alcohol at an Event**

When deciding whether or not alcohol should be served an event consider:

- How will the consumption of alcohol contribute to the event/activity?
- Alcoholic beverages should never be the purpose or focus of an event/activity.
- If there is a significant number of underage students present, it may be inappropriate to permit service and consumption of alcohol at the event.
- Ways alcohol consumption could detract from the event/activity.
- Containing alcohol in an isolated “beer garden” separates “of age” and “underage”.
- Counters goals of collaboration and networking.
- Removes opportunities to meet new people, share an interest and have fun together.
- Could increase the cost of having the event/activity.
- If alcohol is served, you must also offer non-alcoholic beverages and food, as required by University regulations.
- Security officers may be required.
- Funding sources do not include alcohol as an allowable expense, so the cost comes directly from the RSOs budget.