

ALCOHOL & CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Alcohol

Mount Mercy is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for members of the University community by promoting a drug-free environment. Mount Mercy does not encourage consumption of alcoholic beverages, nor does Mount Mercy promote the use or abuse of them. In keeping with the federal Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, and with other federal legislation, Mount Mercy has established policies and programs which address the use and abuse of alcohol. Such policies are a requirement for the receipt of federal financial assistance, including financial aid to students.

Mount Mercy students are considered to be responsible individuals who are expected to behave in accordance with state and local law and the Mount Mercy alcohol policy. Mount Mercy respects students' privacy and autonomy, assumes they will behave legally and responsibly, and will not use unjustified means to verify compliance. When violations of law or policy come to the attention of school officials or agents, however, justified sanctions will be imposed and repeat or more serious violations will be dealt with more severely.

Under state law, the legal age for possession or drinking of alcohol is 21. State law prohibits public intoxication; consuming alcohol in public places not covered by a liquor control license; driving or being a passenger in a motor vehicle with an unsealed receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage in the passenger area of the vehicle; giving or selling an alcoholic beverage to anyone intoxicated; and possession of an alcoholic beverage under legal age. Violation of federal, state, and local laws as well as University policies concerning the use of alcoholic beverages or drugs will be covered under this policy.

Mount Mercy allows students who are 21 years of age or older to drink alcohol in their Andreas, Lower Campus, or Hazel housing assignments, but their alcohol consumption is still governed by Mount Mercy policy as outlined in the Good Book.

2.g.i. Underage Consumption/Possession: Students who are not 21 years of age are not allowed to consume or possess alcohol, including "low-alcohol" beer. Alcohol can be consumed only by students 21 year of age or older, under the conditions listed in the University alcohol policy printed in this policy. Underage students at Mount Mercy who possess or use alcohol are subject to disciplinary action by the institution and/or local law enforcement. Underage possession and use may result in civil or criminal penalties. Mount Mercy may report violations of these regulations to civil authorities. Parents or legal guardians may be notified concerning violations of underage possession, use, or provision to others of alcohol or any illegal substances, as provided for under the Campus Disclosure Act of 1998.

2.g.ii. Regina & McAuley: Regina and McAuley are dry halls. Regardless of age, no one may possess, consume, or transport alcohol in Regina and McAuley. This restriction includes both sealed and open containers. Students age 21 and over with a documented medical need for a single room who are assigned to Regina or McAuley may request, in writing, permission to possess, consume, and transport

alcohol into their room. Permission is not guaranteed. If permission is granted, the same standards as other rooms that are permitted to have alcohol will apply.

2.g.iii. Container Size: Multi-liter containers are not allowed on Mount Mercy property. Examples of multi-liter containers include but are not limited to kegs, pony kegs, and boxed wine.

2.g.iv. Public Consumption/Open Containers: Possession of or consumption from open containers is prohibited in public areas. For the purposes of alcohol policy enforcement, a room/ apartment/suite may be considered a public area if the door entering the room/ apartment/ suite is open. Alcohol beverage containers may not be used for decorative purposes by underage students. Open containers are defined as any alcohol container on which the seal has been broken or which cannot be enclosed, e.g. cups. Once the seal has been broken, a container is considered open even if the cap/cork/etc. has been replaced.

2.g.v. Excessive Consumption: Excessive alcohol consumption and/or the resulting irresponsible behavior are inconsistent with the goals and mission of Mount Mercy. Any/all individuals present during the following alcohol policy violations may be found guilty of a behavioral violation and subject to disciplinary action by Mount Mercy, regardless of age.

2.g.vi. Behavior that encourages excessive consumption: All drinking games (whether with alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages) are prohibited in residential facilities.

2.g.vii. Alcohol Disposal: In the event that alcohol is consumed or possessed in violation of University policies, all alcohol containers will be emptied. The University may limit the number of persons in rooms, suites, or apartments for the purposes of safety and health of campus residents.

2.g.viii. Disruptive behavior: Students that are permitted to possess and consume alcohol on campus must do so in a respectful and responsible manner. Breaking any Student Code of Conduct policy while drinking alcohol will also result in a housing alcohol policy violation. As such, the privilege of possessing and consuming alcohol on campus may be revoked if this happens.

2.g.ix. Alcohol storage and consumption in Andreas, Lower Campus, and Hazel is restricted in certain cases.

- If any underage residents or guests are present, alcohol may not be visible or consumed.
- If any underage residents live in a suite/apartment/house, alcohol may not be consumed or stored in the common living areas at any time.
- If any room owner is not of legal age, alcohol cannot be stored or consumed in the bedroom at any time, regardless of whether or not the underage roommate is present.
- Occupants of a suite/apartment/house who are not of legal age may not enter any bedroom where alcohol is visible or being consumed.
- Alcohol containers are not allowed outside the resident areas, e.g. parking lots, hallways, or patios.

- Hazel Houses: Patios or decks enclosed by screens are considered non-resident areas. Alcohol consumption and storage are not allowed on Hazel House patios or decks.
- Storage of alcohol containers cannot be visible from outside of the suite/apartment/house.

Andreas, Lower Campus, and Hazel Houses:

1. In order to encourage a safe environment and mitigate risk, there may be no more than sixteen (16) people in an Andreas suite or nine (9) people in a Lower Campus apartment or Hazel House at any time.
2. Communities with All Residents Of Age: Alcohol may be possessed/consumed anywhere in the suite. While alcohol is being consumed, the number of alcohol containers (empty or not) may not exceed the number of people consuming alcohol. Empty containers must be properly disposed of prior to opening another container. When the alcohol is in the open and/or being consumed, everyone present must be of legal age. If a minor is present, everyone present at the time will be held to Mount Mercy alcohol policy. Alcohol consumption by residents (or guests) of age will be considered as a contributing factor if other violations are taking place.
3. Communities with Residents of Mixed Ages: If there are both of-age and underage people living in the same suite/apartment/house, roommate pairs who are both of legal drinking age may consume, possess, and store alcohol in their private bedroom only. While consuming alcohol, or while alcohol is visible, the bedroom door must remain shut. The number of open alcohol containers present (empty or not) may not exceed one container per individual of legal drinking age in the bedroom where alcohol is being consumed. Empty containers must be properly disposed of prior to opening another container.
4. Guests: Guests who are of legal age may be present when alcohol is being consumed as long as the number of individuals in the suite, apartment, or house does not exceed the maximum limit (see 7.a. above).

B.2.x. Alcohol Usage at Off-Campus Events Sponsored by Student Clubs or Organizations. Mount Mercy discourages university clubs and organizations from hosting or sponsoring off campus events where alcohol is sold or served. If an organization chooses to host or sponsor an event where alcohol is sold or served, the following rules are to be observed:

1. Alcohol may only be served by a third-party vendor.
2. Alcohol can only be sold and served in a private room or designated area separate from the primary party, dance, or event. Those under the age of 21 are not permitted to enter this area.
3. Alcohol may not be brought out of the designated alcohol sales/consumption area. No Mount Mercy money may be used to purchase alcohol.
4. No club, student, or employee of Mount Mercy may receive any portion of the money made from the sale of alcohol at the event.
5. Alcohol may not be provided or distributed by student organizations or members of student organizations.
6. Nonalcoholic beverages must be available.

7. Alcohol may not be carried into the facility; nor may students come and go from the party frequently.
8. Only single servings may be purchased; no pitchers are permitted.
9. Students may not purchase more than one alcoholic beverage at a time.
10. No Mount Mercy employee or student may certify age; only licensed agent may authorize age appropriate sale or provision.
11. Club officers and advisors will be held responsible for upholding these regulations. Violation of these regulations may result in judicial proceedings for the officers and for the club as a whole.