Making an informed decision about drinking is your personal responsibility. No one can make this decision for you. The choices you make about alcohol use could be among the most important decisions you make in college and throughout your life. Please be responsible.

Know Missouri's laws about alcohol.

> The legal drinking age in Missouri is 21.

Respect your university polices about alcohol.

 Violating these polices can change your status as a student

Know how much you are drinking and how alcohol affects your body.

→ Check out the measuring graphic and BAC graphs in this brochure.

Watch how much your friends have had to drink.

Help them if they appear to be in trouble.

Decide what your expectations and limitations are before you head out.

Don't drink to get wasted or smashed.

Don't mix alcohol with other drugs.



of Missouri college students

would do something if their friend had alcohol poisoning.

For more information, contact:

Columbia College Counseling Services - 573.875.7423 www.ccis.edu/counselingservices

Drury University Counseling Services - 417.873.7419 www.drury.edu/counseling

Evangel University Counseling Services/Wellness Center - 417.865.2815, ext. 7222 www.evangel.edu/offices/student-development/counseling-center

Harris-Stowe State University Office of Counseling Services and Prevention- 314.340.5112

Lincoln University Student Health Services - 573.681.5476

Maryville University of Saint Louis Health & Wellness Services - 314.529.9520 www.maryville.edu/studentlife-health.htm

Missouri Southern State University MSSU Wellness 417.625.9533 www.mssu.edu/wellness

Missouri State University Taylor Health and Wellness Center - 417.836.4045

Missouri University of Science & Technology Counseling, Disability Support, and Student Wellness - 573.341.4211 counsel.mst.edu

Missouri Western State University Counseling Center - 816.271.4327

Northwest Missouri State University University Wellness Services - 660.562.1348 www.nwmissouri.edu/wellness

Rockhurst University Counseling Center - 816.501.4275

Student Health and Counseling Services - 314.977.2323

Southeast Missouri State University Counseling and Disability - 573.986.6191 www.semo.edu/SAPE

State Technical College of Missouri Student Services - 573.897.5110

Truman State University University Counseling Services - 660.785.4014 ucs.truman.edu

University of Central Missouri Office of Violence and Substance Abuse Prevention - 660.543.8338 www.ucmo.edu/VSAP

University of Missouri Wellness Resource Center - 573.882.4634 wellness.missouri.edu

University of Missouri-Kansas City Counseling, Health and Testing - 816.235.1635 www.umkc.edu/chtc

University of Missouri-St. Louis Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Coordinator - 314.516.6369 www.umsl.edu/swbs

Westminster College Counseling & Health Services - 573.592.5361 www.westminster-mo.edu/studentlife/chs



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What Every

College Student Needs to Know

This publication is brought to you by Partners in Prevention, a coalition of twenty-one universities in Missouri.

As a student at your university, it is important to remember that breaking state or local laws and violating campus policy could affect your status as a student. Depending on your campus policies, you could be held accountable through an on-campus conduct system when you are in violation of local and state alcohol laws. Educate yourself on your campus student conduct code.

What is the drinking age'

The legal drinking age in the state of Missouri is 21. It is against state law to consume, purchase, or possess alcohol if you are younger than 21.

What will happen to me if I am caught drinking as a minor?

Illegal consumption, possession, or distribution of alcohol by a minor is a misdemeanor. If convicted, you may be fined up to \$1000 and/ or imprisoned for up to one year. In addition to fines, you will need to pay court costs and attorney fees.

Consider your future

Irresponsible drinking can cause major disruptions in your most important job right now: school. It's not uncommon for drinking to lead to sliding grades, academic problems, even suspension or expulsion

Also, most employers now perform a background check on potential employees. This means that they will be able to see alcohol or drug-related convictions on your record. That includes impaired drinking, using a fake ID, serving underage students, and disorderly conduct. It is also important to keep your online presence in mind. Pages, photos, and texts are stored for years to come. How would you explain some of those 'crazy nights' to an employer or grad school?

How are you measuring?

Having a "drink" is pretty vague in terms of knowing how much alcohol you have consumed. Mixed drinks vary in their potency. Make sure you know exactly how much alcohol is in your drink, and request that it be mixed with non-carbonated beverages. Things like soda move the alcohol though the bloodstream quickly. Eating a mean high in protein before drinking will allow alcohol to pass through your body at a safer pace.



What are the laws about fake IDs?

In Missouri, it is illegal to obtain, transfer, or use any means of identification for the purpose of manufacturing and proving or selling a false identification card to a minor for the purpose of obtaining alcohol. Penalties for this misdemeanor offense includes fines and/ or possible prison sentence.

What about off-campus parties?

→ If you host an off-campus party with alcohol and charge admission, the person accepting the money could be charged with selling alcohol without a license. Sentences for this violation involve fines and jail time. Police respond to off-campus parties when there are noise complaints or parking problems. ID's are checked if police have reason to suspect that minors have been drinking. You risk being arrested if you are a minor.

Is it always unsafe to drive after drinking?

Yes. Make sure you always arrange for a designated driver who will consume no alcohol if you plan to drink. If everyone in your party has been drinking, call a taxi or a sober friend to pick you up. Never ride home with "least drunk" person in the group.

Can my driver's license be suspended or revoked due to drinking?

→ What is known as the 'Abuse and Lose' law and the 'Zero Tolerance' law can affect your license. Abuse and Lose results in suspension or revocation of a driver's license when a person under 21 years of age is guilty of any alcohol related traffic offense (possession, consumption, or use of alcohol while operating a motor vehicle), possession or use of any controlled substance, or the modification or misrepresentation of driver's license. Zero tolerance means that if you are found to have more than a .02 BAC then you are guilty of a misdemeanor and shall have your driver's license suspended or revoked.

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