



University Alcohol Policy

Policy Sponsor:

President

Approval Date:

June 22, 2017

Responsible Unit:

Student Affairs

Revisions:

A. Background & Purpose

Dalhousie University recognizes the need to create and maintain a safe and secure environment in which the consumption of alcohol on campus does not harm or disrupt the teaching, learning, health and living environment of members of the University community.

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the obligations of University's faculty, staff and students with respect to the marketing, distribution, sale and consumption of alcohol on the University Campuses and in the course of University events and activities.

B. Application

This Policy applies to the marketing, distribution, sale and consumption of alcohol by a member of the University community that occurs:

- a. on a campus of the University; or
- b. off-campus in the course of activities sponsored by the University (or any of its Faculties, Schools, Departments or administrative units), the Dalhousie Student Union or ratified Dalhousie Student Union societies; or
- c. in off-campus space leased by the University.

This Policy does not apply to the University Club.

C. Definitions

1. In this Policy:

- a. "Bar Services" means the Dalhousie Student Union Bar Services on the Halifax Campuses and the food services provider or the Dalhousie Agricultural Students' Association pub staff on the Agricultural Campus.
- b. "Liquor Licenses" means the Special Premises Licenses issued to the University pursuant to the *Liquor Control Act*.

- c. “License Administrator” means the Vice-Provost, Student Affairs.
- d. “License Designate” means (i) for the Halifax Campuses, the General Manager of the Dalhousie Student Union; and (ii) for the Agricultural Campus, the Director, Student Success, Student Affairs.
- e. “Licensed Areas” means those areas which have been approved for the service of alcohol by the University Alcohol Advisory Committee from the list of licensed areas in the Liquor Licenses.
- f. “Licensed Establishments” means the Grawood, the T-Room, the Barn, the Graduate House and the Arts Centre, or successor establishments.
- g. “Off-Campus Events” means events organized or hosted by the University (or any of its Faculties, Schools, Departments or administrative units), the Dalhousie Student Union or ratified Dalhousie Student Union societies which are not held on a University campus.
- h. “Pub Crawl” means an event which is organized to have, in a single night, a group of people consume alcohol in multiple pubs, bars or other establishments.
- i. “Sponsorship” means the provision of support, including, but not limited to, financial support, hosting services and provision of free products or merchandise, for an event or activity, but does not include the funding of academic or research programs or projects.

D. Policy

1. Overarching Principal: The University is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and secure environment in which the consumption of alcohol on campus does not harm or disrupt the teaching, learning, health or living environment of members of the University community.
2. Liquor Licenses: The Liquor Licenses shall be administered in accordance with the *Liquor Control Act*, this Policy and the best practices, rules or guidelines approved by the University Alcohol Advisory Committee.
3. Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy: The Vice-Provost, Student Affairs shall, with input from the Dalhousie Student Union President and others, be responsible for the creation of an alcohol harm reduction strategy which will be reviewed by the University Alcohol Advisory Committee. This strategy shall:
 - a. Strive to shift the culture of the university to address issues of risky or harmful alcohol use in the University community;
 - b. Promote and reinforce a safer and low-risk approach to alcohol use;
 - c. Promote events which are not focused on alcohol consumption; and
 - d. Educate members of the University community on lower risk alcohol use and the dangers of high-risk or harmful alcohol use.

4. Residence Alcohol Use Policy: The Executive Director, Student Life shall put in place an alcohol use policy which addresses alcohol use in residence, including a focus on harm reduction. That policy, and any amendments to it, must be reviewed annually by the University Alcohol Advisory Committee.
5. Licensed Establishments: Licensed Establishments may serve alcohol directly to individuals of legal drinking age during regular business hours in accordance with the *Liquor Control Act*, this Policy, and the best practices, rules or guidelines approved by the University Alcohol Advisory Committee.
6. Alcohol Service for On-campus Events: Other than at Licensed Establishments, alcohol may only be served at events on campus on the following basis:
 - a. The event must be held in a Licensed Area;
 - b. The event must be approved in advance by the appropriate License Designate;
 - c. All alcohol must be purchased through Bar Services;
 - d. The organizers of an event must:
 - i. comply with all requirements of the License Designate in relation to training, service of alcohol and risk assessment;
 - ii. comply with any posted space-specific rules for the service of alcohol in that space;
 - iii. comply with any best practices, rules or guidelines established by the University Alcohol Advisory Committee; and
 - iv. ensure advertising of the event complies with Section D.8 of this Policy.
7. Alcohol Service for Off-Campus Events: Alcohol may only be served at Off-Campus Events on the following basis:
 - a. For events organized by ratified Dalhousie Student Union societies, the event must be approved in advance by the License Designate;
 - b. For events organized by all groups or individuals other than ratified Dalhousie Student Union societies, the event must be approved in advance by Vice-Provost, Student Affairs or designate;
 - c. The organizers of an event must:
 - i. comply with all requirements of the License Designate in relation to training, service of alcohol and risk assessment;
 - ii. comply with any event or location specific rules imposed by the License Designate or the location hosting the event;
 - iii. make best efforts to follow any best practices, rules or guidelines established by the University Alcohol Advisory Committee; and
 - iv. ensure advertising of the event complies with Section D.8 of this Policy.
8. Advertising: Advertising of alcohol may only be done on the following basis:
 - a. Advertising alcohol, which includes advertisements using logos of any company that produces or distributes alcohol products, in any medium is permitted only in Licensed Areas or in accordance with protocols approved by the University Alcohol Advisory Committee;

- b. Advertisements for an event must not do any of the following:
 - i. encourage people to drink alcohol irresponsibly;
 - ii. depict people drinking alcohol;
 - iii. depict a person who is intoxicated;
 - iv. depict a person behaving irresponsibly or illegally;
 - v. imply that driving while consuming or having consumed alcohol is acceptable conduct;
 - vi. directly targets minors or is used in locations used or visited mostly by minors;
 - vii. depict alcohol as one of life's necessities;
 - viii. depict alcohol as a key to social acceptance or personal success;
 - ix. depict alcohol as central to the enjoyment of any activity;
 - x. depict alcohol as a status symbol;
 - xi. use pictures or descriptions of minors or of personalities, images or activities that may appeal to minors;
 - c. Advertisements which refer to the price of alcohol are permitted only in Licensed Areas.
9. Pub Crawls and Drinking Games: The organization or promotion of Pub Crawls is not permitted. The organization of games that encourage excessive drinking or risky or harmful alcohol use is not permitted.
 10. Donated Alcohol Products: Alcohol products shall not be donated for consumption. For clarity, where alcohol has been purchased by the event organizers it is permissible for that alcohol to be distributed free of charge.
 11. Sponsorship by Companies Which Produce or Distribute Alcohol: Any Sponsorship by a company that produces or distributes alcohol must or be in accordance with Sponsorship protocols approved by the University Alcohol Advisory Committee or otherwise approved by the Committee.
 12. Harmful Behaviour and Non-Compliance:
 - a. Where an event organizer, Bar Services, Security Services, or the License Designate has reason to believe that harmful or risk-taking behaviour resulting from alcohol use, by an individual or group of individuals, poses a risk to the safety and wellbeing of the individual or others, they will report the behaviour to the Vice-Provost Student Affairs (or delegate) for consideration of appropriate intervention and support.
 - b. Failure to comply with this Policy in relation to an on-campus event or Off-Campus Event can result in the following immediate consequences, depending on the severity of the issue:
 - i. A requirement by Bar Services or Security Services to immediately cease the activity in question;
 - ii. A requirement by Bar Services or Security Services to immediately cease service of alcohol; or
 - iii. A requirement by Bar Services or Security Services to close the event down.

- c. Where action has been taken under section 12 b, the License Administrator will provide the responsible individuals five working days to provide a full written explanation of the circumstances of the situation. Following consideration of any explanation and any other relevant information, the License Administrator may proceed with a restorative or educational process, or impose a penalty, consisting of any or all the following: (i) a fine; (ii) a period of suspension of the right to conduct a licensed event on campus; or (iii) loss of the use of space. A first suspension will typically be for 30 days, a second in the same year for 60 days or more. Groups which violate this Policy or the terms of one of the Liquor Licenses may also lose the right to use University facilities for their events.

E. Administrative Structure

1. Authority: This Policy falls under the authority of the Vice-Provost, Student Affairs.
2. License Administrators: The administration of the University's Liquor Licenses is the responsibility of the Vice-Provost, Student Affairs.
3. License Designate:

The License Designates are responsible for:

- a. the overall administration and operational oversight of the University's obligations under the Liquor Licenses, including oversight over Bar Services activities;
 - b. putting in place rules and procedures with respect to (i) training persons who serve alcohol; ii) standard of service in relation to serving alcohol; and (iii) risk assessment and management of events where alcohol is served, and submitting the rules and procedures to the University Alcohol Advisory Committee for approval on an annual basis;
 - c. submitting protocols in relation to the approval of on-campus events and Off-Campus Events which are organized by ratified societies to the University Alcohol Advisory Committee for the approval;
 - d. submitting a licence compliance plan to the University Alcohol Advisory Committee for approval on an annual basis; and
 - e. submitting an annual report to the University Alcohol Advisory Committee summarizing the implementation of the license compliance plan, issues of non-compliance and how they were addressed, as well as any trends or observations concerning alcohol use.
4. University Alcohol Advisory Committee:
 - a. There shall be a University Alcohol Advisory Committee comprised of the following:
 - i. Vice-Provost, Student Affairs or designate (the chair);
 - ii. Associate or Assistant Dean appointed by the Provost and Vice-President Academic;
 - iii. 3 representatives from Student Affairs;
 - iv. 1 representative from the Human Rights and Equity Services;
 - v. Director, Security Services or designate;
 - vi. General Counsel or designate;
 - vii. License Designates;

- viii. Dalhousie Student Union, President;
- ix. Dalhousie Student Union, Vice-President, Student Life;
- x. Dalhousie Agricultural Students Association President, or delegate;
- xi. 1 representative from the Nova Scotia Health Authority, or designate, which designate may be from the IWK Health Care Centre; and
- xii. Manager, Organizational Health.

b. The University Alcohol Advisory Committee shall:

- i. review and approve terms and conditions for the service of alcohol by Licensed Establishments;
- ii. review and approve the best practices, rules or guidelines for service of alcohol on campus;
- iii. review and approve protocols for the approval of on and Off-Campus Events, advertising, sponsorship and the identification and approval of new Licensed Areas;
- iv. review and recommend the alcohol harm reduction strategy;
- v. review and recommend the residence alcohol use policy;
- vi. review and approve the rules and procedures with respect to (i) training persons who serve alcohol; standard of service in relation to serving alcohol; and (iii) risk assessment and management of events where alcohol is served;
- vii. review and approve the licensed areas compliance plans and receive annual reports in respect to those plans;
- viii. designate space on campus as Licensed Areas;
- ix. monitor the implementation of this Policy, recommending changes when appropriate; and
- x. provide advice to the University administration on the handling of specific alcohol use issues and the responsible management of alcohol use on campus.

5. Policy Review: This Policy will be reviewed no later than the end of the third year following its approval date.