

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Alcohol Policy for Fraternities and Sororities

Alcohol Initiative Task Force Work Efforts

During the 2006-07 academic year, a team of actives, alumni/ae, and administrators held meetings to formulate updated alcohol policies to reduce the risks to chapters and student when chapters are hosting events involving alcohol. This includes reminders of the NY State laws, RPI student handbook policies, and chapter liability insurance coverage requirements.

It is hoped that through these policies, guides, and educational programming that the Greek community can continue the evolution to a safer and healthier social environment. This brochure highlights the key elements of the update. OFSA has full versions of the alcohol policy and event guide available.

Other websites with useful alcohol programming information are:

www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications
www.Brad21.org
www.bacchusgamma.org
www.figp.org

Elements of the Policy

The additions to the student handbook alcohol policy for fraternities and sororities align the "Bring Your Own" (BYO) and catered events to the general student body alcohol policies.

An "event" is defined as any event at which **6 or more students** of the same organization are present **and in which alcohol is served**.

The groups are subject to the following policies:

1. **No distilled spirits (liquors) are allowed**
2. Non-alcoholic beverages must be available
3. Alcoholic beverages may not be purchased or brought in any quantity exceeding one drink per hour per person of age.
4. All events are limited to a number of pre-invited guests not to exceed the number allowed by facility occupancy limits
5. Open social events are prohibited (meaning invite list and no campus flyers)
6. Any event at which alcohol is present must be BYO and BYO is restricted to those of age.
7. Any "event" must be registered with and approved by OFSA according to forms and schedule two weeks in advance.

Event Management Manual

The event management guideline was developed: 1) to reduce the risk incurred by chapters when hosting an event through the promotion of safe and responsible behavior; 2) to assure compliance with laws and policies of the land; and 3) to improve relationships between the chapters, student body, administration, and community. Event definitions include the follow types of events:

1. On-site BYO Chapter Event
2. On-Site Third Party Vendor Event
3. After Party Alcohol Free Event
4. Alcohol Free Chapter Event
5. Off-site Third Party Vendor Event

Each on-site alcohol event is to be invitation only with numbers limited to capacity of the facility; alcohol service is limited those of age and last no more than 4 hours ending before 2 a.m.; must be registered through OFSA; must have monitoring procedures for event security.

Consequences of Non-Adherence

Failure to adhere to the policy will result in all organization alcohol privileges subject to revocation while under investigation and for the duration of the disciplinary process. If are found to have served alcohol to someone underage, there is a minimum two-semester suspension and a mandatory live-in advisor for the sorority or fraternity.

Good Samaritan Protocol

In general, people may be reluctant to seek emergency or medical attention for fear of judicial consequences for themselves, the person in need of assistance, and/or the organization hosting the event where the situation occurs. The Good Samaritan Policy was developed to increase the likelihood that community members will call for assistance in an alcohol or drug-related emergency.

An individual who receives emergency assistance and completes an assessment, education activities, and/or treatment will not be subject to judicial action.

A person who calls for emergency assistance on behalf of another person will not be subject to judicial action, but may be required to attend an education program if deemed necessary.

A representative of an organization hosting an event is expected to promptly call for emergency assistance. This act of responsibility will mitigate the judicial consequences against the organization resulting from violations of the Grounds for Disciplinary Action at the time of the incident. The organization may be required to attend an education program if deemed necessary. Failure to call will be considered an "intolerable circumstance" affecting judicial sanctions if violations of the GDA have occurred.