

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER (FOR EMPLOYEES);
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS (FOR STUDENTS)

EFFECTIVE DATE OF MOST RECENT REVISION: 8/1/2025

NEXT REVIEW DATE: MOST RECENT REVISION + ONE (1) YEAR – 4/2026

BOARD OF REGENTS REPORTING: PRESIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATION

I. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy establishes Northern Kentucky University's rules relating to alcoholic beverages. These rules reinforce the University's commitment to maintaining its campus as a safe place to learn and work and to fostering a healthy campus culture for its students and employees:

- The service, sale, possession, consumption, and manufacture of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on the University's campus and in its activities on and off campus, and employees may not consume alcoholic beverages while performing University responsibilities on or off campus, except where permitted by this policy.
- University employees may not be under the intoxicating influence of alcoholic beverages while on campus or while performing University responsibilities on or off campus.
- University funds may not be used to purchase or reimburse the purchase of alcoholic beverages. Northern Kentucky University Foundation funds may be used in accordance with the Foundation's procedures.
- Even when use of alcoholic beverages on campus is permitted by this policy, individuals under the age of 21 are prohibited from possessing, purchasing, and consuming them. In addition, it is a violation of this policy to provide an underage individual with an alcoholic beverage or otherwise assist an underage individual with obtaining alcoholic beverages.
- Conduct relating to alcoholic beverages that is prohibited by criminal law is also a violation of this policy where the conduct occurs on campus, in connection with University off-campus functions, and/or during an employee's performance of University responsibilities on and off campus (e.g., driving while intoxicated, use of false or fraudulent identification cards to obtain alcoholic beverages). Public intoxication as defined by Kentucky law is prohibited on the University's campus.

Other University policies and rules also apply to use and misuse of alcoholic beverages, including the [Hazing policy](#), the [Code of Community Standards and Student Rights](#), the [Registered Student Organization Handbook](#), and relevant provisions of the University's housing contract. The University maintains a separate [Drug-Free Campus](#) policy.

II. POLICY APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all spaces and activities on the University's campus, including for example:

- residence halls;
- the conduct of all individuals, groups, and entities while on the University's campus, including employees, students, student organizations, contractors and service providers, and visitors;

- University-organized activities and functions that occur off campus; and
- the performance of University responsibilities by employees on and off campus.

This policy also applies to spaces and activities at properties leased by the University for its functions and activities.

This policy does not apply to the residential properties that are owned by the University and leased to individuals or other entities for use as private homes or for organizational uses.

This policy does not apply to events hosted off campus by the Northern Kentucky University Foundation.

As used in this policy, “alcoholic beverage” has the same meaning as provided by Kentucky law.

III. EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The University will provide periodic education, training, and other resources to the campus community regarding the health impacts associated with use and misuse of alcoholic beverages, dangers of underage alcohol consumption, and alcohol addiction. The University also will maintain a program to prevent the abuse of alcoholic beverages by students and employees, as required by federal law.

IV. EXCEPTIONS

Alcoholic beverages may be served, sold, possessed, and consumed as described in the exceptions established below and only in a manner that is legal and responsible.

Even when use of alcoholic beverages is permitted by this policy, individuals engaging in activities involving alcoholic beverages must comply with applicable state and local laws. When required by law, state and/or local permits must be obtained prior to service of alcoholic beverages, and when those permit requirements apply, the terms and conditions of permits must be followed in connection with any event involving alcoholic beverages.

Note that in many instances, alcoholic beverages may be sold or provided on campus only by the University’s contracted caterer(s) or concessionaire(s). In those cases, the caterer / concessionaire may be responsible for obtaining and ensuring compliance with state and local laws and permitting requirements, and event participants therefore must comply with protocols required by the caterer / concessionaire.

A. OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY FUNCTIONS

Alcoholic beverages are permitted at official University functions, on and off campus, when organized or approved by the President, Board of Regents Executive Secretary, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Vice President for Administration and Finance, Vice President for Student Affairs, Vice President and Director of Athletics, Vice President for Advancement, or their designee(s).

B. ARENA EVENTS

Alcoholic beverages may be sold, served, and consumed during events at Truist Arena in accordance with the University’s arena management contract and applicable laws. The University may prohibit alcoholic beverages at certain events (e.g., commencement).

C. NORTHERN TERRACE RESIDENCE HALL

Residents of Northern Terrace Residence Hall and their guests may possess and consume alcoholic beverages in residence hall rooms for the 2025-26 academic year, with extensions to be considered at a later date. Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed in any other areas of Northern Terrace, including in common areas. Northern Terrace residents and guests must comply with other specific rules and housing contract terms applicable to that facility.

D. STUDENT EVENTS

Alcoholic beverages may not be served or consumed at Registered Student Organization campus events or at other primarily student-facing campus events unless approved in advance by the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee. These events may be subject to additional requirements established by Student Affairs. At least fourteen (14) days prior to any such events involving alcoholic beverages, the event leader must complete and submit an [NKU Alcoholic Beverage Event Form](#).

E. FOUNDATION EVENTS

Events hosted on the University's campus by the Northern Kentucky University Foundation may involve the service and consumption of alcoholic beverages when approved by the Vice President for Advancement and operated in compliance with applicable laws and permits.

F. PRIVATE EVENTS

Alcoholic beverages are permitted at private events held by outside entities on the University's campus when approved in advance by the University and when the service and consumption of alcoholic beverages complies with the relevant facility use agreement.

G. EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Coursework covering the biological process of fermentation; laboratory training in fermentation processes relevant to careers in industry, brewing, wine-making, and distilling; and research on fermentation processes will be exempt from this policy so long as all applicable state and federal laws are followed.

H. OTHER EXCEPTIONS

Additional exceptions to this policy may be granted by the President, the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, or the Vice President for Administration and Finance.

V. ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Advertising, marketing, and promotion of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on the University's campus, except for advertising and signage in Truist Arena that is permitted by the University's multi-media rights and other relevant agreements.

VI. AMNESTY FOR STUDENTS

The University recognizes that students may be hesitant to report severe misconduct involving alcoholic beverages, including hazing and sexual misconduct, due to fear of potential consequences of their own behavior, such as underage consumption. To encourage reporting, the University will extend amnesty to students who are victims of such severe misconduct and who truthfully report it.

VII. ENFORCEMENT

This policy is enforced by the following officials:

- For students, by the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee;
- For faculty, by the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs or designee;
- For non-faculty employees, by the Chief Human Resources Officer or designee; and
- For all other individuals, by the University office with supervision over the corresponding contract or event.

Students and student organizations who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action according to the [Code of Community Standards and Student Rights](#) and the [Registered Student Organization Handbook](#).

Employees who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action according to applicable processes.

Other individuals and entities who violate this policy may be removed from campus and are subject to other penalties.

The Northern Kentucky University Police Department has authority to enforce criminal laws regarding alcohol use, possession, and related misconduct.

VIII. RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

[Drug-Free Campus](#)

[Hazing](#)

[Code of Community Standards and Student Rights](#)

[Registered Student Organization Handbook](#)

[NKU Alcoholic Beverage Event Form](#)

REVISION HISTORY

REVISION TYPE	MONTH/YEAR APPROVED
Revision – Addition of Section G approved by Faculty Senate (4/28/2025) & University President	June 5, 2025
Revision	February 26, 2025
Minor edits and formatting updates	August 1, 2019
Name change & format change	January 14, 2015 (Admin. Reg. that met criteria for Board-approved policy – see Presidential Recommendation C-7, p. 96 of BoR materials)
Administrative Regulation AR-II-5.0-1 “Alcoholic Beverage Policy and Regulations”	July 27, 1988

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL

PRESIDENT

Signature

Cady Short-Thompson

Date

6/5/25

Cady Short-Thompson

BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVAL

BOARD OF REGENTS (IF FORWARDED BY PRESIDENT)

- ☐ This policy was forwarded to the Board of Regents on the **Presidential Report (information only)**.
Date of Board of Regents meeting at which this policy was reported: ____/____/____.
- ☐ This policy was forwarded to the Board of Regents as a **Presidential Recommendation (consent agenda/voting item)**.
 - ☐ The Board of Regents approved this policy on ____/____/____.
(Attach a copy of Board of Regents meeting minutes showing approval of policy.)
 - ☐ The Board of Regents rejected this policy on ____/____/____.
(Attach a copy of Board of Regents meeting minutes showing rejection of policy.)

BOARD OF REGENTS MATERIALS

Board of Regents Meeting Date:

February 26, 2025

Board of Regents Materials Page #: 109