

Warnell Alcohol Policy – Off Campus Activities

The Daniel B. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources is committed to fostering the personal and professional development of its students in all matters related to its academic mission. This includes not only classroom-based instruction, but also those academic activities occurring off-campus, including (but not limited to) field trips, field camps, field study tours and other non-classroom academic environments. It also includes activities sanctioned by Warnell and its subsidiaries, including (but not limited to) club events, parties and receptions, conclaves and other competitions, retreats and field days. An important part of this commitment is ensuring that the Warnell community adheres to the letter and spirit of University of Georgia policies regulating the consumption of alcohol. It is also essential that we promote an academic and social environment that helps us achieve and maintain the behavioral standards expected of natural resource professionals. In order to facilitate our efforts, the following University of Georgia and Warnell policies governing the presence and consumption of alcohol during all off-campus academic and sanctioned social activities will be observed.

University of Georgia Policy (www.uga.edu/drugpol):

“The University of Georgia’s student conduct regulations prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol and other drugs by students and student organizations. The regulations also prohibit other alcohol-related misconduct. All traditional freshmen, sophomores, and other students under the age of 21 are prohibited from possession and consumption of alcohol. All students are prohibited from the use and possession of illegal drugs. In addition, student organizations sponsoring events where alcohol is present are subject to the requirements and guidelines of the University’s Social Events policy and registration form. Sanctions for violations of these student conduct regulations may include alcohol and/or other drug education, mandated evaluation and treatment, community service, suspension, and/or expulsion. Student organizations which knowingly permit illegal drug activity will be excluded from campus for a minimum of one year, and leases or agreements for use of University property will automatically terminate pursuant to Board of Regents Policy and Georgia law.

“The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) has given colleges/universities the option to notify parents/guardians about specific types of information from a student's judicial record.

“The Office of Judicial Programs will notify parents/guardians the first time and any subsequent time a student is found to have violated Code of Conduct policies on the use or possession of alcohol or other drugs when he/she is under the age of 21.”

Supplemental Warnell Policy:

1. The University of Georgia and Warnell both strongly discourage faculty from providing alcohol for or purchasing alcohol for students.

2. All student conduct regulations, including those related to alcohol, are applicable while a student is participating in off-campus academic or sanctioned social activities.
3. In establishments contracted by the University, or during events in which a private entity is contracted by the University to provide meals to students, policies regarding alcohol established by the University of Georgia and Warnell shall be in full effect.
4. No alcohol or drugs are permitted on any public or private group/common transportation carriers (e.g., vans, coaches/buses, boats, airplanes, etc), either in the seating area or in the luggage compartment.
5. No alcohol or drugs are permitted, nor may they be consumed, in any accommodation, including (but not limited to) lodges/cottages/cabins, hostels, dormitories, hotels/motels and campgrounds/campsites of any kind, other than those sold for consumption in restaurants or bars of the premises. This policy applies to any accommodation paid for by course or program fees, or funded or subsidized by Warnell.
6. Those consuming alcohol in bars or restaurants during an off-campus academic or sanctioned social activity must adhere to all applicable laws, and are expected to exercise moderation in their consumption. Excessive alcohol consumption that interferes with course or activity management or the participation of any student is grounds for a referral to a judicial hearing.

All students found in violation of alcohol and other drug related misconduct through the University's judicial process will be subject to the mandated sanctions. According to the University's policy on drug and alcohol use (www.uga.edu/drugpol), the sanctions for those violations occurring) on or after May 14, 2007 include:

“1st violation – For possession (not consumption) of alcohol only - Alcohol awareness class and probation for six (6) months from the date of resolution.

“1st violation – For consumption, use, distribution, and possession of alcohol OR use, possession, distribution of other drugs – Alcohol and Other Drug awareness class and probation for twelve (12) months from the date of resolution.

“2nd offense while on probation – suspension from institution for current semester and 1 subsequent semester (Fall or Spring semesters only). Summer suspension may not be substituted for a Fall or Spring semester and will be included if suspension is initiated during Spring semester.

“Two or more violations (separate incidents) while not on probation – In cases where students are referred to the Office of Judicial Programs for additional violations that occur before the resolution of any prior violations or pending cases - suspension from institution for current semester and 1 subsequent semester (Fall or Spring semesters only). Summer suspension may not be substituted for a Fall or Spring semester and will be included if suspension is initiated during Spring semester.

“These are minimum sanctions. The findings of fact, and particular circumstances, and prior record of the student will be factors considered when determining any appropriate sanctions. Students who are suspended from the University for any length of time should be aware that this action may impact the following*:

- Tuition, residence hall costs and fees (suspension does not forgive financial obligations)
- Student financial aid, including HOPE scholarship
- Athletic participation and eligibility
- Health insurance (contact your personal health care provider)
- University housing
- Meal plan
- Use of university resources and access to University facilities
- Immigration status for international students
- Veterans and dependents of veterans
- Internships, assistantships, and study abroad.”

**Note: This is not an exhaustive list.*

This new policy (and, in some cases, the enforcement of existing policy) represents a significant but necessary change in Warnell’s management of alcohol in academic and sanctioned social activities. Your cooperation is appreciated as we strive to provide safe, healthful and stimulating academic and social environments that balance camaraderie and collegiality with professionalism and moderation.