

Last updated: October 13, 2017

Dalhousie's New (Updated) Alcohol Policy Frequently Asked Questions

The Dalhousie Alcohol Advisory Committee approved a new alcohol policy on June 22, 2017.

> What is the University Alcohol Policy?

Dalhousie University has an alcohol policy to outline the obligations of faculty, staff and students with respect to the marketing, distribution, sale and consumption of alcohol on the campus, and at off-campus events affiliated with the University.

> Why do we have an alcohol policy?

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.

> What information is included in the Alcohol Policy?

Information about: liquor licenses, Dalhousie's alcohol harm reduction strategy, licensed establishments, alcohol service for on and off-campus events, advertising, pub crawls and drinking games, donations and sponsorship, harmful behaviours and non-compliance, and administrative structure.

> Where can the Alcohol Policy be found?

University policies, including the Alcohol Policy, can be found on the University Secretariat website at: dal.ca/secretariat

> Where can students find the policies and regulations related alcohol to Residence?

In the Residence Code of Conduct at: dal.ca/residencecodeofconduct

> How did the policy change?

The biggest changes to the policy include:

- Background, purpose and definitions as they relate to the policy were added
- Advertising rules were expanded
- Violations details were expanded
- Advisory committee structure & scope were expanded

> How does the policy affect students?

The policy primarily impacts student groups affiliated with Dalhousie or ratified DSU societies who are planning events that include marketing, distribution, sale or consumption of alcohol. Event organizers have moral and legal obligations related to the safety of the event participants and space; this policy ensures the appropriate steps are taken to ensure this safety related to alcohol.

Residence students are also affected by the Residence Code of Conduct, which includes residence-specific alcohol policies and regulations.

> What do I do if I want to have alcohol service at an on-campus event?

Dalhousie's Halifax and Truro campuses have licensed areas and establishments (Grawood, T-Room, The Barn, Grad House, Arts Centre) where Dalhousie faculty, staff, students and student societies can host events.

To host an event on-campus with alcohol service:

- Read Dalhousie's alcohol policy
- (Halifax) Reach out to DSU Bar Services to ensure availability of space and to start the process of requesting a license (if required) – special licenses can take up to 10 days
- Complete a risk management form, indicating that you would like to serve alcohol
- Submit the risk management form to the contact below for approval
- Proceed with Campus Booking once approved

Halifax, DSU affiliation: DSU Member Services Coordinator: dsumemberservices@dal.ca

Halifax, other groups: Assistant Vice-Provost, Student Affairs: verity.turpin@dal.ca

Truro: Director, Student Success, Student Affairs: matthew.guy@dal.ca

NOTE: When a group affiliated with Dalhousie requests a license directly from the Alcohol & Gaming Commission, the Commission reaches out to Dalhousie to ensure the event has been approved.

> What do I do if I want to have alcohol service at an off-campus event?

To host an event off-campus with alcohol service:

- Read Dalhousie's alcohol policy
- Complete a risk management form, indicating that there will be alcohol served
- Submit the risk management form to the contact below for approval
- Proceed with event planning

Halifax, DSU affiliation: DSU Member Services Coordinator: dsumemberservices@dal.ca

Halifax, other groups: Assistant Vice-Provost, Student Affairs: verity.turpin@dal.ca

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> How does the Policy define an “off-campus event”?

“Off-campus events” means events organized or hosted by the University (or any of its Faculties, Schools, Departments, administrative units), the Dalhousie Student Union or any ratified Dalhousie Student Union society which are not held on a University campus.

> Do penalties for violations of the policy apply to the society or individual student(s)?

It depends on the situation as there are possible consequences for both.

Immediate consequences, at the discretion of Bar Services and/or Security Services, could mean shutting down the activity, alcohol service, and/or event completely.

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Following the event, all parties involved will have the opportunity to provide a written explanation of the situation to the VP Student Affairs (License Administrator), and a consequence will be given. Potential consequences include:

- Mandatory participation in the Restorative Justice process
- Fines
- Suspension of future licensed events
- Loss of use of space
- Loss of use of University facilities

> Are there students on the Alcohol Advisory Committee?

Yes. The Dalhousie Student Union President, Vice-President, Student Life and President of the Dalhousie Agricultural Students' Association are all on the committee and contribute from a student and student advocacy perspective. The full Advisory Committee structure is detailed in the policy.

> How will groups and societies learn about the Alcohol Policy?

When any policy, new or updated, is introduced to the Dalhousie community there is an implementation plan and process. This process includes consulting with and educating stakeholders. The Alcohol Policy Implementation Plan includes meeting with the DSU Executive and Council, DASA, student athletes (Varsity, Tier 1 and Tier 2), Deans Council, Faculty Council, and DPMG Executive. The plan also includes other channels for the larger Dalhousie community.

The DSU also requires a representative for each ratified society to participate in Primary Event Organizer training, follow the DSU Risk Management Society Responsibilities, and every event with alcohol service requires approval (details above).

If you would like to request a member of the Alcohol Advisory Committee come and talk to your group about the policy you can contact the Assistant Vice-Provost, Student Affairs by emailing Verity.Turpin@dal.ca.

> What else is Dalhousie doing to reduce the harms of alcohol?

Dalhousie is implementing the Postsecondary Education Partnership- Alcohol Harms (PEP-AH) framework that can be found online at dal.ca/studentaffairs. This framework addresses high-risk drinking and alcohol harm reduction, addressing five key areas: health promotion, prevention & education, campus services, availability & marketing, pricing, and community action.

In September, Dalhousie also piloted a dry-residence initiative during 2017 Orientation Week. The pilot was focused around student safety and aimed to reduce alcohol harms on campus. An evaluation of the pilot proved it to be successful; there was a decrease in alcohol-related incidents on campus and no increase in alcohol-related incidents off campus compared to previous years.

>Is there a parallel policy in development for marijuana, or will marijuana be addressed in the new Alcohol Policy?

Dalhousie University has not yet established a policy around the consumption of medical marijuana on campus, but will mirror the Nova Scotia provincial policy if it is legalized.

Currently, our doctors and physicians at the Student Health & Wellness do not prescribe medical marijuana. This is due to varying medical opinions, and evidence of the effectiveness of medical marijuana for various conditions. The College Institute of Physicians and Surgeons does not recommend or support the prescription of medical marijuana for individuals under the age of 25 (<http://www.cpso.on.ca/policies-publications/policy/marijuana-for-medical-purposes>)

>Can other businesses in Halifax, such as bars and clubs, buy program or guide advertisements or sponsor our events?

External businesses can buy advertisements in Dalhousie's programs and guides or provide sponsorship as long as they follow the advertising rules and regulations within the Policy. As per the Policy, advertisements can promote aspects such as music and dancing, but cannot promote the selling and distribution of alcohol, which includes advertising the price of alcoholic beverages or using alcohol branding or logos on promotional materials outside of our licensed establishments.