

Health Risks

Alcohol

- Acts as a depressant, affects mood, dulls the senses and impairs coordination, reflexes, memory and judgment.
- More serious effects may be damage to the liver, kidney, pancreas, and brain.
- It is the leading cause of death among individuals 15-23 years of age.
- On average, heavy drinkers shorten their lifespan by approximately ten years.

Marijuana

- Prolonged use and increased tolerance can lead to severe psychological dependence.
- Immediate increase in heart and pulse rate may cause an acute panic/anxiety reaction.
- Impairment of memory, altered sense of time and inability to concentrate.

Prescription Drugs - Opioids, Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants, and Stimulants

(from the National Institute on Drug Abuse)

- Most common used drugs by college students include: Vicodin, Ritalin, Zoloff, Adderall, Oxycontin, Demerol, Valium, and Xanax
- All, when abused, can alter the brain's activity and lead to dependence and possibly addiction.
- Opioids, in combination with alcohol, can increase the risk of life-threatening respiratory depression.
- CNS depressants, in combination with alcohol can slow breathing, or slow both the heart and respiration, and possibly lead to death.
- Stimulant abuse has the potential to lead to cardiovascular failure or lethal seizures. Taken in high doses, they can lead to compulsive use, paranoia, dangerously high body temperatures, and irregular heartbeat.

General Information

Austin College is an institution of higher learning which strives to provide an environment conducive to academic achievement and the development of its students. As members of this academic community, students are accountable for their behavior and expected to be familiar with their personal responsibilities.

Members of the Austin College community need to be aware that the legal drinking age in Texas is 21 years. A person must be 21 years of age, or older, to purchase, possess or transport alcohol.

Austin College functions in direct compliance with the laws of the State of Texas, Grayson County, and the City of Sherman. Members of the AC community are required to uphold the local city ordinance prohibiting open containers of alcohol in public areas. Further specific regulations that govern the use, possession and sale of alcoholic beverages at Austin College can be found in this policy.

Students or groups who choose to utilize alcoholic beverages are expected to handle alcohol responsibly and conform to the laws of this State and the policies of Austin College. Failure to comply with this policy will result in disciplinary action. Austin College neither forbids nor encourages members of its community to use alcoholic beverages. Each member of the Austin College community is responsible for supporting this policy under the Community Principle. Enforcement of this policy is the responsibility of all members of the Austin College community; though, it is the responsibility of the Student Affairs staff to adjudicate student violations of this policy. This policy applies to every campus event (including those held at the Lake Campus and other off-campus locations) where alcohol is present.

Contact Us!

903-813-2306

studentlife@austincollege.edu



AustinCollegeStudentLife

Alcohol Policy & Information



**AUSTIN
COLLEGE**

Student Life

The Zero Tolerance Bill

The Zero Tolerance Bill, Senate Bill 35, went into effect September 1, 1997. This bill strengthened the consequences minors faced for underage drinking. Minors who purchase, possess or consume alcoholic beverages, as well as minors who are publicly intoxicated or misrepresent their age to obtain alcoholic beverages, face the following consequences:

- Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$500
- Alcohol awareness class
- 8 to 40 hours of community service
- 30 to 180 days loss or denial of driver's license

The Zero Tolerance Bill also makes it illegal for minors to drive while having any detectable amount of alcohol in the minor's system.

1. The consequences for the minor on the first offense of the Zero Tolerance Bill while driving:
 - Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$500
 - Attendance at an alcohol awareness class
 - 20 to 40 hours of mandatory community service
 - 60 days driver's license suspension. The minor would not be eligible for an occupational license for the first 30 days.
2. A second offense increases the consequences to:
 - Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$500
 - Attendance at an alcohol awareness class at the judge's discretion
 - 40 to 60 hours of mandatory community service
 - 120 days driver's license suspension. The minor would not be eligible for an occupational license for the first 90 days.
3. A third offense is not eligible for deferred adjudication. The minor's driver's license is suspended for 180 days and an occupational license may not be obtained for the entire suspension period. If the minor is 17 years or older, the fine increases from \$500 to \$2,000, confinement in jail for up to 180 days, or both.

Individuals who give alcohol to minors, or buy alcohol for minors, also face stiffer penalties. The punishment for making alcohol available to a minor has been increased from a class C misdemeanor (fine of \$0 to \$500) to a class B misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$2,000, confinement in jail up to 180 days, or both.

Sale to a minor is a class A misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$4,000, confinement up to a year in jail, or both.

The Austin College Alcohol Policy

In accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, an individual must be 21 years of age or older to consume, possess, purchase or transport alcohol.

In accordance with the City of Sherman, members of the Austin College community are not permitted to drink alcoholic beverages in open areas; therefore, consumption is restricted to:

- An individual's apartment or residence hall room if that person is 21 years of age or older with the door to that room or apartment closed.
- Another individual's apartment or residence hall as long as the resident of that apartment or residence hall room is 21 years of age or older and present in the room at the time of possession and/or consumption.
- The Pouch Club
- The Lake Campus (NO GLASS CONTAINERS) The City of Sherman has an ordinance making open containers illegal. This does not extend to the Lake Campus due to its location.

Kegs, party balls and other common sources of mass quantities (e.g. garbage-pail punch, spiked watermelon, and Jell-O shots) of alcohol are not permitted, except in the Pouch Club, where kegs are utilized for distributing beer. This restriction includes the main campus, the Lake Campus, the residence halls and the apartments. Any paraphernalia related to mass quantities of alcohol will be confiscated.

Because rapid consumption of large quantities of alcohol is far more dangerous than casual and responsible consumption, drinking games in which alcohol is consumed in large quantities are not permitted.

Public intoxication will also be considered a violation of this Policy.

All aspects of this policy apply to the Lake Campus.

Students under the age of 21 may possess a maximum of two empty alcohol containers (i.e. beer bottle, wine or champagne bottle) which must be cleaned and used for decoration only.



Decoration is defined as the container with items (i.e. flowers, marbles, stones, etc.) on display inside the container.

Individuals and groups will be held responsible for violations of this policy in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Non-Academic Code of Student Conduct (NACSC). Sanctions for violations are listed in section VII and VIII of this policy.

In accordance with fire code policies, no more than eight (8) people may congregate in a residence hall room or sixteen (16) in an apartment/suite at one time.

Exceptions to this policy for student activities or other approved events may be petitioned at least ten days prior to the scheduled event. Petitions are submitted to the Dean of Students.

The complete alcohol policy can be found in Austin College's Student Handbook - The Environment.