

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Philosophical Statement

Converse students and their guests are expected to comply with local, state and federal laws and the general College policies regarding the possession and consumption of alcohol and other drugs. Converse College in no way condones the breaking of laws relating to alcohol or other drugs and is concerned with helping students develop a realistic understanding of the consequences for themselves and for those around them. The goals of this policy are to help students make informed, responsible decisions about the use of alcohol and other drugs, to define the misuse or abuse of alcohol and other drugs for the individual and the community, and to educate students regarding assistance available.

Converse College affirms the decision of students not to drink alcohol or partake in other drugs. The College emphasizes prevention education, low-risk decision-making, and healthy living that models the core values of the institution. The College provides on-going educational programs, workshops, awareness weeks, speakers and special programs that raise awareness and encourage the development of a campus free of alcohol and drug abuse.

Drug Policy

Cases involving the possession and use of illegal drugs and/or narcotics are state and federal offenses. The College cooperates with the Federal and State authorities when it is desirable and/or necessary to do so. Violations of the Drug Policy include but are not limited to:

- I. Possession of stimulant, depressant, narcotic or hallucinogenic drugs, drug paraphernalia and other agents having potential for abuse, and/or potential for health risks, except on physician's or dentist's prescription, violates the State and Federal laws and is prohibited.
- II. The abuse of prescription drugs and/or over-the-counter drugs is considered to be a health risk and is, therefore, not permitted. The use, selling, bartering, exchanging, and giving away such drugs to any person not intended to possess them is also illegal and prohibited.
- III. Possession, consumption, sale and and/or distribution of synthetic stimulants, such as "bath salts" (i.e. drugs known as Cloud 9, White Dove, Hurricane Charlie, White Lightning) is prohibited.
- IV. Students may not use or possess drug paraphernalia, including but not limited to hookahs, pipes, and other smoking devices, weights, scales, and/or rolling papers.

The use of illegal drugs, misuse of prescription drugs, and abuse of over-the-counter drugs poses significant health risks to students, such as severe mental and physical incapacitation or even death. These are issues of primary concern to the College. Educational programs concerning the risks of drugs will be offered on campus throughout the year. Assistance with any problem related to use of drugs is available through the counseling service. This service is confidential.

Any student who becomes aware of a violation should notify the Division of Student Development and Success. All cases of students who are convicted of a violation of federal or state drug laws will be reviewed by College authorities.

Alcohol Use On Campus

Within the context of local, state and federal laws, any use of alcohol that is coupled with behaviors that interfere with the learning process, living conditions, or social life of other students is considered a violation of our community standards and may be reviewed by the Civitas Council and/or the professional staff in Student Development and Success. Such behaviors might include but are not limited to: public intoxication, excessive noise, drinking in public areas, vandalism, disruptive guests, endangering self or

others. ***Violations of the Alcohol and Other Drug policy of the College could result in students losing the privilege of living on campus and/or in the College apartments.***

In addition, students who show a pattern of alcohol use that results in personal risk or injury, disruptive behavior to the community, excessive class absences, or multiple appearances before Civitas, Honor Board and/or the Student Development and Success staff may be referred to the Dean of Community Life and/or the Counseling Center for mandatory evaluation, reflection and planning. Repeat offenses may result in an involuntary withdrawal from the College.

As with all student conduct policies, the responsibility for knowing and abiding by the alcohol policy resides with the student. Violations of College policies may result in sanctioning by the student judicial boards, Civitas and/or Honor Board, and the Dean of Community Life or her designee, depending on the nature of the violation. Procedures for each are outlined in the Converse College Student Handbook.

Violations of multiple policies and/or of severe nature may result in suspension or expulsion from the College.

Consumption of Alcohol On Campus

- a) Possession and/or consumption of alcohol under the age of 21 are strictly prohibited.
- b) Distribution and/or provision of alcohol to anyone under the age of 21 are strictly prohibited.
- c) Students under age 21 who are in the direct vicinity of alcoholic beverages may be held responsible for constructive possession in accordance with South Carolina law despite the claim of ownership.
- d) Alcoholic beverages may be served during social gatherings with the prior, written approval from the Dean of Community Life or designee and in compliance with College policies regarding alcohol licenses. Two IDs are required for proof of age.
- e) Consumption of alcohol by students and their guests is not allowed, regardless of age, in any College residence hall. Students and guests of legal age may consume alcohol in the College apartments as outlined in the apartment alcohol policy.
- f) Consuming alcohol in public areas such as lounges, corridors, elevators, stairwells, and grounds is not permitted unless approved for a designated event as outlined in e. above.
- g) Students will be held accountable for the behavior of all guests in accordance with all College alcohol policies.

Apartment Alcohol Policy

The College apartments are small group living environments designed to foster independence, autonomy and responsible decision-making. Converse College maintains high expectations of accountability and responsibility regarding the consumption of alcohol. Decisions regarding the use of alcohol reside with the student within the constraints of local, state and federal laws and within the constraints of College policy.

- a) Possession and/or consumption of alcohol under the age of 21 are strictly prohibited.
- b) Distribution and/or provision of alcohol to anyone under the age of 21 are strictly prohibited.
- c) Those of legal drinking age have the option to consume alcohol in the privacy of their College apartment after: 1) all roommates are age 21 and above 2) all roommates have completed the alcohol education program for apartment living as conducted by the College Student Development and Success staff; and 3) all roommates have completed the roommate contract.
- d) Guests under the age of 21 may not be present when alcohol is being consumed.
- e) Common sources such as kegs, pony kegs, party balls, punches, bulk sources, etc and any paraphernalia that aids in the rapid consumption of alcohol, such as beer bongs, are not permitted
- f) Alcohol is prohibited on balconies and porches unless it is served as a part of a college sanctioned event. See (d) in the "Consumption of Alcohol On Campus" section.
- g) Residents plus other students plus guests in a College apartment may never exceed the capacity of occupants as designated by the Fire Marshal.
- h) Residents are expected to abide by all policies as outlined in the College Alcohol policies above.
- i) Residents of a College apartment will be held accountable for the behavior of all guests in accordance with all College alcohol policies and may face sanctions based on the behavior of the guest(s).

Special Notes on the privilege of living in the College apartments -

- Violations of the Alcohol and Drug policy of the College could result in students losing the privilege of living in the College apartments.
- Violations of multiple policies and/or of severe nature, such as providing alcohol to others under the legal drinking age, may result in suspension or expulsion from the College.

Behavioral Intervention (Amnesty) Policy

Converse College strives to maintain a balance between student support and accountability. The College believes strongly in addressing dangerous and disruptive behaviors but it also encourages students to seek help in situations where human health and safety may be of concern. The College's first priority is to the care and wellbeing of its students and guests.

- a) A student, students, and/or guests who require intervention and/or medical attention may be granted amnesty from the student judicial system. Students in such situations are encouraged to seek assistance from the Emergency On-call staff and/or Campus Safety. If amnesty is granted, students will not face judicial charges, however, she will be required to meet with the Dean of Community Life, or her designee, and may be expected to comply with education-related recommendations.
- b) Students who seek intervention and/or medical attention for their peer(s) may be granted amnesty from the student judicial system. Students in such situations are encouraged to seek assistance from the Emergency On-call staff and/or Campus Safety. If amnesty is granted, students will not face judicial charges, however, she will be required to meet with the Dean of Community Life, or her designee, and may be expected to comply with education-related recommendations.

Parental Notification Policy

Based on a 1998 amendment to the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, Converse College is permitted to notify parents of alcohol and drug infractions committed by students under the age of 21. Because Converse College is committed to the health and wellness of our students, parents may be notified when a student violates the Alcohol Policy of the college for the second time, violates the Drug Policy of the college, is hospitalized for a serious alcohol and/or drug incident, is arrested, is deemed unable to make responsible judgments, and/or is involved in a serious incident and the Dean of Community Life deems it necessary to contact the parent.

Student Assistance Program

The misuse of alcohol can cause significant health risks to students, such as severe mental and physical incapacitation or even death. These are issues of primary concern to the College. In an effort to continually assist students in making informed decisions about the use of alcohol and drugs, the College will provide educational programs throughout the year.

Counseling services are available for those who desire assistance with problems relating to use and/or abuse of alcohol and other drugs through the Health Center and the Counseling Center. Referrals are made to organizations off campus for those who require more intensive therapy or assistance.

Students will assume individual responsibility regarding the use or abuse of alcohol and other drugs. Converse expects each student to conduct herself in a manner which demonstrates respect for self, her fellow students, and the Converse College community.

NOTE: Guests at Converse College in violation of the College alcohol policy are subject to expulsion from campus by College Campus Safety, and or the issue of a trespass notice.