Alcohol Policy

Villanova University strives to develop and sustain a living and learning environment in which the full potential of its members may be realized. Therefore, the University aspires to the highest standards of academic excellence and is committed to the personal health and safety of all individuals. In pursuing these community goals, all students and student organizations are required to comply with applicable state laws and the following University policies regarding alcohol.

1. Any person under the age of 21 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania may not lawfully possess, consume, purchase, attempt to purchase or transport alcoholic beverages.

2. Furnishing alcohol to any person under the age of 21 or enabling underage alcohol consumption is strictly prohibited. Violations that result in disorderly, disruptive or dangerous conduct, damages, injury, or other criminal activity will be considered more serious.

3. Regardless of age, the abusive or dangerous use of alcohol is prohibited on and off the campus, including but not limited to:
   1. Intoxication that results in impaired motor skills or balance, slurred speech, disorientation, vomiting, blacking-out, passing-out, or other similar behavior.
   2. Disruptive, disorderly, or dangerous conduct related to the consumption of alcohol.
   3. Driving on or off the campus while under the influence of alcohol.

4. Residing on campus and the possession/consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, regardless of age, the following policies apply within University residence halls and/or on University property:
   1. The possession, consumption, or furnishing of alcoholic beverages that contain fifteen percent (15%) or higher alcohol by volume (e.g. hard liquor) is prohibited within University residence halls. This regulation applies to all students and their guests.
   2. Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages in open containers is prohibited in common areas of residence halls, including hallways, lounges, lobbies, stairwells, and bathrooms.
   3. Alcoholic beverages may not be possessed or consumed in academic, administrative, or public areas of campus without authorization from appropriate University officials.
   4. Common source containers of alcoholic beverages, including beer kegs and alcoholic punch (e.g. “jungle juice”), are prohibited in residence halls and on University property without authorization from appropriate University officials.
   5. The possession, consumption, or furnishing of alcoholic punch, caffeinated alcohol, powdered alcohol, grain alcohol, or gelatin shots is prohibited within University residence halls and on University property.
   6. Participation in drinking games, consuming shots of alcohol, and any type of binge drinking (e.g. chugging, “shot-gunning,” etc.) is prohibited in residence halls and on University property.
   7. Possession or use of binge drinking paraphernalia or any instrument of alcohol abuse (e.g. funnels, beer pong tables, etc.) is prohibited in residence halls and on University property.

5. For students of legal age, the following policies apply within University residence halls and on University property:
   1. Students of legal age may possess and consume alcoholic beverages that contain less than fifteen percent (15%) alcohol by volume (e.g. most beer and wine) within their own University residence hall room/apartment, or within a room/apartment where at least one resident is of legal age and is present. At all times, alcohol use must be consistent with the concept of moderate and responsible consumption*.
   2. Students of legal age may transport in common areas of campus or University residence halls an
amount of alcoholic beverages that contain less than fifteen percent (15%) alcohol by volume, in
closed containers and in suitable packaging, consistent with the concept of moderate and
responsible consumption.

3. Students of legal age may possess and consume alcoholic beverages at approved University
functions and/or when served at a campus facility/event authorized to provide alcoholic beverages.

4. All student organization sponsored events where alcohol may be served must be approved by the
appropriate University official and must follow all University policies and regulations. At all times,
alcohol use must be consistent with the concept of moderate and responsible consumption.
Furnishing alcohol to any person under the age of 21 or enabling underage alcohol consumption is
strictly prohibited for student organizations.

*For purposes of this policy, moderate and responsible consumption is the expectation that using alcohol
should always be in a manner that does not harm others and minimizes harm to the user. It includes, but is
not limited to: setting limits (e.g. pacing and tracking drinks); taking precautions (e.g. eating before and
during drinking); sensible decision-making (e.g. not drinking while on medication); and thoughtful
consumption (e.g. avoiding hard liquor and drinking games).

Conversely, using alcohol to the degree that one may endanger themselves or other persons or property, or
otherwise disrupt the community is not considered moderate and responsible consumption.

Alcohol Policy Enforcement and Sanctioning

The University reserves the right to sanction students who violate the law and/or the above University
alcohol policies (both on and off campus). Violations may result in a referral to Community Standards,
educational follow-up, warnings, fines, disciplinary probation (plus other disciplinary measures) up to and
including suspension or expulsion from the University. Typically, alcohol violations which do not involve
disruptive, disorderly, or dangerous conduct, and which are consistent with the concept of moderate and
responsible consumption will result in less severe sanctions. Subsequent violations, excessive quantities of
alcohol, and/or aggravating factors will result in more severe sanctions. Student organizations that violate
the law and/or University alcohol policies are also subject to disciplinary action, up to and including
suspension or loss of recognition.

1. While legal aged students are permitted to possess and consume alcoholic beverages with less than
fifteen percent (15%) alcohol by volume in campus residence halls, if at any time, and in the
discretion of University staff, the possession or consumption exceeds the concept of moderate and
responsible use, or if there is disorderly, disruptive, or dangerous behavior, the University reserves
the right to take immediate corrective action, including but not limited to, the confiscation of
alcoholic beverages and/or the dispersion of guests from a residence hall room/apartment. The
University reserves the right to sanction students in cases of excessive, dangerous or abusive
alcohol use, or for disorderly or disruptive conduct.

2. When a suspected policy violation is encountered by University staff in a residence hall room or
apartment, University staff may enter rooms or apartments to address policy violations, confiscate
containers of alcohol, whether full or empty, and/or to disperse guests, if appropriate. University
staff may confiscate all alcohol present at the time of a violation regardless of the type of alcohol or
the age of the residents. University staff may also, at the time and location of an alcohol violation
and when students are present in the room, open and inspect refrigerator(s) and/or coolers (both
personal and University-owned) in order to remove all alcohol from the premises. Students are
expected to comply with University staff in their efforts. Failure to comply will result in more severe
sanctions. Items found that violate the above policies will be confiscated by appropriate University
personnel and not returned.

3. The University reserves the right to sanction all residents of a residence hall room/apartment where
a violation occurs regardless if the alcohol containers are empty or full, decorative or otherwise, and
whether or not the residents are present at the time of the violation.

4. All students found in violation of the alcohol policy must comply with all educational requirements
specified by the Assistant Dean of Students for Alcohol and Drug Intervention and/or the Community Standards Coordinator. The Assistant Dean of Students for Alcohol and Drug Intervention and the Community Standards Coordinator will inform the Dean of Students of attendance, compliance and any other recommendations regarding the student.

5. Fines may be assessed, at the discretion of the Conduct Review Officer, for violations of the alcohol policy and will vary depending on the quantity and type of alcoholic beverages confiscated, whether full or empty. Violations involving alcoholic beverages that contain fifteen percent (15%) or greater alcohol by volume, or common source alcohol containers, or where there is disruptive, disorderly, dangerous, or uncooperative behavior will face more severe fines. For example, the fine for a 1.75L “handle” of liquor is $300; and a common source alcohol container (e.g. a keg or “jungle juice” container) is $500, per violation.