

Additional Information about Drugs & Alcohol

Updated January 2024

Alcohol Policy

Methodist University is committed to students' intellectual and personal development, which includes ensuring students have various and abundant opportunities to show care and responsibility for their own actions. In this case, the vitality of the academic community relies on each member taking personal responsibility for their actions regarding alcohol use and safeguarding the well-being of others. Alcohol misuse inhibits students' development and is negatively correlated with academic success and personal safety, thus maturity, care for self and community, and responsibility are essential.

Methodist University also welcomes and supports the decision of students not to drink alcohol. MU continues to emphasize education about risks, choices, and personal responsibility regarding the use of alcohol. Students are expected to make conscious choices that do not diminish the academic or social success, or personal safety, of themselves or others.

Policy Statement

As required by Article 3 of Chapter 18B of the North Carolina General Statutes-individuals must be 21 years of age or older to possess, consume or purchase alcoholic beverages. It is also illegal, in North Carolina, for a person of legal alcohol-drinking age to purchase for or provide alcohol to anyone who is underage. Methodist University observes federal, state, and local laws regarding alcohol use, particularly those that address underage drinking, and holds students accountable for their choices. Students whose drinking presents a risk to the health and safety of themselves or others are subject to sanctions in keeping with the [Methodist University Student Code of Conduct](#).

- The possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages by students on the Methodist University property is limited to students 21 years of age or over and subject to the following additional requirements:
 - Only in designated residence hall spaces posted clearly within The Cape Fear Commons, Village Houses, and McLean Apartments
 - At Official university-sponsored events with the President's prior written approval
 - Only Alcoholic Beverage classified as beer/unfortified wine (*as defined by the North Carolina Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Commission*) are permitted in the designated spaces listed above.
 - Any alcoholic beverage that is not classified as beer/wine (*as defined by the North Carolina Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Commission*) is always prohibited on the Methodist University premises.
- Students participating in any Methodist University or Methodist University-affiliated study abroad programs are expected to follow the laws of the host country and host institution regarding the possession and/or consumption during any study abroad program.
- This policy will be reviewed at least annually by the President's Cabinet or as is otherwise deemed necessary by the University and is subject to immediate change or modification as the University deems appropriate in its sole discretion.

Alcohol and Disruptive/Destructive Acts of Behavior

- Methodist University students are always expected to represent the University with dignity. No student of any age may engage in behavior (whether or not due to alcohol consumption) that is disorderly, disruptive, or jeopardizes the health or safety of self or others.
- Per [North Carolina General Statute § 14-444](#) being intoxicated and disruptive in public is unlawful. Inappropriate or illegal behavior related to alcohol use will result in disciplinary action per the [Methodist University Student Code of Conduct](#)

Regulations for University Housing

- Students of legal drinking age (21 years of age or older) may possess or consume [beer/wine](#) (as defined by the *North Carolina Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Commission*) for their personal use and consumption in designated spaces within The Cape Fear Commons, Village Houses, and McLean Apartments. Only students of legal age (21 years of age or older) may transport unopened alcoholic beverages through “public areas” and may do so only in a sealed container, bag, or cooler.
- The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in public or outdoor areas including, but not limited to outdoor hallways, stairwells, elevators, balconies, patios, courtyards, and at events on campus. It is unlawful for any person to consume or have in their possession any alcoholic beverage in an open container on any campus street, sidewalk or undesignated area.
- The selling of alcoholic beverages on campus is prohibited.
- Students are responsible for their conduct and that of their visitors in individual rooms. Only those students of legal age may possess or consume alcoholic beverages. The residents will be subject to disciplinary action if there is excessive noise or over-crowding (more than two visitors per resident) in the room (or common area in the case of suite living spaces) or if those possession or consuming alcohol are underage. Representatives of the Department of Housing and Residence Life, security or university administration reserve the right to disband any gathering violating the [Methodist University Code of Conduct](#) or violating fire safety codes.
- Providing alcohol to anyone under the age of 21 is illegal and subject to applicable laws and the [Methodist University Student Code of Conduct](#).

Alcohol Containers and Paraphernalia

- Common containers (empty or filled) designed for rapid consumption are prohibited on campus at all times. Devices and games designed for the rapid consumption of alcohol are strictly prohibited and a violation of the Methodist University Alcohol Policy. Alcohol paraphernalia is not permitted on Methodist University premises at any time.

Complicity

- Students are responsible for removing themselves from any situation where violations of the Code of Conduct are occurring or are anticipated. Furthermore, the University expects Methodist University students to be good citizens and, speak out against university violations by their peers as leaders. This code prohibits condoning, supporting or encouraging in any manner or form a violation of University policy.

Identification

- Without limiting any other prohibition contained in this policy, no person younger than 21 years of age may possess or use false identification (ID) for purchasing or possessing alcoholic beverages. This provision includes, but is not limited to, the following: possession or use of an altered ID; possession or use of a forged ID; possession or use of an ID belonging to another person; or possession or use of any form of identification which misrepresents the bearer's true identity or date of birth.

Student Clubs and Organizations

- No Alcoholic Beverages, for use on- or off-campus, may be purchased with student activity fees, University-collected fees, or with any other Student Club/Organization funds or dues. Additionally, no Alcoholic Beverages may be purchased for a Student Club/Organization or its members or guests in the name of or on behalf of the Student Organization (e.g., no passing the hat).

- No Student Club/Organization may host an event or meeting on campus where Alcoholic Beverages are served. Likewise, students may not bring alcohol for their consumption to any University club/organization event on or off campus.

Regulations on Event Use

- Official university-sponsored functions may serve Beer/Wine only with prior presidential approval in writing. Examples of some official University-sponsored functions include, but are not limited to:
 1. Board of Trustees' receptions hosted on or off campus
 2. Faculty/staff receptions hosted on or off campus
 3. Art exhibit openings hosted on campus
 4. Off-campus groups hosting events on campus, with prior Presidential written permission such as Symphony/Orchestra intermission
 5. Off-campus events hosted by the University such as sporting events, movies, plays, etc.
- At official University-sponsored functions, alcoholic beverages must be provided by a University pre-approved and fully insured professional vendor or caterer and the Common Source Container remains under the exclusive control of the vendor or caterer at all times (i.e. no self-service) subject to the following restrictions and requirements:
 - Alcoholic beverages are limited to Beer/Wine only as defined by the state of North Carolina <https://abc.nc.gov/Product/Index>.
 - The pre-approved professional and fully insured vendor or caterer will obtain and appropriately display the appropriate licenses and/or permits to serve alcohol on campus.
 - The use of alcoholic beverages must remain in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.
 - Non-profit organizations cannot promote the serving of alcohol in the publicity associated with the event being held on campus.
 - All appropriate insurance policies will be obtained in accordance with University requirements
- Alcoholic beverages are never permissible in sacred spaces: Matthews Ministry Center Chapel, Hensdale Chapel, and Stillpoint
- No Alcoholic beverages, for use on- or off-campus, may be purchased with student activity fees, University-collected fees, or with any other Student Club/Organization funds or dues. Additionally, no Alcoholic Beverages may be purchased for a Student Club/Organization or its members or guests in the name of or on behalf of the Student Organization (e.g., no passing the hat).
- No Student Club/Organization may host an event or meeting on campus where Alcoholic Beverages are served.

Note-Official University sponsored functions: With the President's prior written approval, students (age 21 and over only) may possess or consume alcoholic beverages at official University-sponsored functions. In situations like this, underage students may be present where alcohol is consumed by of-age students or guests but may not possess or consume alcohol themselves.

Campus Resources on Alcohol & Drugs

The Student Affairs Office and Health & Counseling Services Office at "The Well" provide alcohol and drug education and programming on campus. Health & Counseling Services Office at "The Well" offers confidential individual counseling and referrals for alcohol and other drug use/misuse concerns in addition to providing psychoeducational materials. Additionally, the staff at The Well are available to answer questions or provide information.

Annual educational programming for all students will aid in identifying the use and misuse of alcohol. These sessions will be planned by the Student Affairs Office in cooperation with Health & Counseling Services Office at "The Well" and Residence Life.

Health & Counseling Services Office at "The Well" and Residence Life staff will provide annual workshops for resident assistants in intervention techniques to aid those students who misuse alcohol.

The Student Affairs Division and Health & Counseling Services will annually review the alcohol and other drug education programs and will report their assessment to the Administrative Cabinet.

Medical Amnesty

Students are responsible for reviewing the Methodist University Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty Policy.

Statement

This Policy is intended to be consistent with all applicable local, state, and federal laws. The standards of conduct and the means of enforcement outlined in this Policy are adopted to further the University's interests and supplement, rather than substitute for, the enforcement of applicable civil and criminal law. It is not double jeopardy for the University to address conduct that has previously been or may be sanctioned under local, state, or federal law.

Definitions

When used in the Student Alcohol Policy of Methodist University or any of its appendices, terms have the following definitions:

- **Alcoholic Beverages:** Any beverage or other ingestible substance defined as alcohol by the North Carolina Alcohol Beverage Control Commission. For specific definitions, please visit the ABC Commission website. Please note: Any Alcoholic Beverage that is not classified as Beer/Wine (as defined by the North Carolina Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Commission.) is prohibited at all times on the Methodist University campus.
- **Common Source Container:** This includes, but not is limited to Kegs, pitchers, punch bowls, bath tubs, trash cans, common shared refrigerators, or similar common source containers of Alcoholic Beverages intended to serve as a source of open access to Alcoholic Beverages at a party or other gathering.
- **Open Container:** Any container of alcohol that is open or has at any point had the manufacturer's seal broken and the lid replaced. Examples include, but are not limited to, a solo cup, water bottle, open bottle or can containing any amount of Alcoholic Beverage.
- **Person:** Considered to be used in this Policy as any Student, Student Organization, or Administrative Unit, and can be used interchangeably except regarding medical amnesty.
- **Policy:** Except as otherwise noted, the term 'Policy' or 'this Policy' refers to the Alcohol Policy of Methodist University.
- **Student:** The term "Student" means any of the following:
 - a person enrolled in or attending classes at or through the University, either at the University's main campus or at any remote location, including a person enrolled in online or distance education programs or a person participating in Study Abroad programs; or
 - a person participating in any pre-matriculation orientation programs.
- **Student Club/Organization:** Any recognized group affiliated with or supported by the University or a University administrative unit (e.g., societies, clubs, student organizations including fraternities and sororities, athletic teams, or similarly organized groups in or recognized by the University.) A Student Organization also includes any group of students, whether or not officially recognized, that is affiliated with the University through the use of University Premises or University-sponsored programs.

- **University Premises:** Buildings, property, or grounds owned, leased, operated, controlled, or supervised by the University.
- **Visitor:** Any person on university premises/property or attending a university-sponsored event who is not an employee, student, or affiliate

Related Requirements

External Regulations and Consequences

- Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) Subpart A, Sec. 86.1 - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention
- 20 U.S.C. 1145(g) - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention
- NCGS § 18B-300. Purchase, possession and consumption of malt beverages and unfortified wine
- NCGS § 14-444. Intoxicated and disruptive in public
- NCGS § 18B-401. Manner of transportation
- NCGS § 20-30. (Effective until July 1, 2023) Violations of license, learner's permit, or special identification card provisions
- NCGS § 74G-6. Oaths, powers, and authority of campus police officers

Drug Policy

Methodist University prohibits the use, possession, and/or the distribution /sale of illegal drugs. The following are prohibited:

Illicit Drugs

- Possessing or using illegal substances, as defined by federal, state, and local statutes.
- Possessing or using controlled substances as defined by federal, state, and local statutes. (Controlled substances may be taken pursuant to a properly issued prescription, provided the controlled substance is taken as and in the amount prescribed.)
- Distributing, selling, or possessing with the intent to distribute illegal or controlled substances, as defined by federal, state, and local statutes.
- Possessing or using drug paraphernalia (including but not limited to pipes, bongs, etc.).
- Being under the influence of illegal or controlled substances as demonstrated by actions and/or other evidence such as the smell of marijuana on the student's clothing and/or person.
- Growing and/or manufacturing any illegal substance.

Students who are found responsible for the use, possession and/or odor of marijuana will be subject to Disciplinary Probation and a \$500 fine on the first offense. Students who possess large quantities of marijuana will be subject to arrest and/or suspension/expulsion regardless of which offense. Given reasonable cause, drug testing may be required of students suspected of a drug-related offense. The type of drug testing will be determined by the Dean or Associate Dean of Students. Drug tests will result in \$150.00 being assessed to the student's account to cover the cost of the test. Reasonable Cause in Drug Use Situations is defined as the odor of marijuana on the student's clothing and/or person, in a campus residence, personal vehicle or any other confined space that belongs to or is assigned to the student and/or in a confined space where the student is located when the odor is detected. Refusal to participate in such testing may be used as grounds for probation, suspension or other discipline of a suspected violator regardless of how long they were present in the room or common living area. Student(s) who possess expired prescription drugs and/or unreasonable, large quantities of prescription drugs will be asked to provide independent, medical verification that the quantity and the prescription is valid. If students are unable to obtain medical verification, he or she will be subject to the sanctions outlined in this policy.

Odor of Marijuana

If the odor of marijuana is present (room, vehicle, etc.) without physical evidence, the student will be found responsible for "being in the presence of marijuana odor." Additionally, students who are in the presence of marijuana odor will be offered the option of taking a drug test to clear charges with a negative drug test result. If a student is found in the presence of the odor of marijuana for a second or any additional incidents, drug testing will be required.

If students are in the presence of physical evidence, then those who are guests may be tested if they deny responsibility. The residents of the room and/or the owner of the vehicle may be found responsible for possession without being tested.

Health Risk and Effects

Alcohol and drug usage causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increase the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts, including domestic violence and date rape. Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairments in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to retain and recall information. Very high doses cause respiratory depression and death. Repeated use of alcohol and drugs can lead to dependence. Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, and convulsions. Long-term consumption of large quantities of alcohol and drugs particularly with poor nutrition, can also lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and liver.

Tobacco Policy

Smoking is strictly prohibited in all campus buildings, and there is no smoking allowed within fifty (50) feet of any campus building. This prohibition extends to all hallways, lobbies, stairwells, restrooms, offices, classrooms and residence halls and apartments. The use of smokeless tobacco, to include eCigarettes and Water Vapor cigarettes, is also prohibited in all of the above places. Hookahs are not allowed on campus.

[See North Carolina Sanctions for Drug and Alcohol Violations and Federal Penalties below:](#)

North Carolina Sanctions for Drug and Alcohol Violations

Offense	Minimum Punishment	Maximum Punishment
Sale or Delivery of Controlled Substance (Class G or H Felony)	Imprisonment for Term of 4 Months (Class H) or 8 Months (Class G)	Imprisonment for Term of 25 months (Class H) or 31 Months (Class G)
Possession of Controlled Substance w/ Intent to Sell or Deliver (Class H or I Felony)	Imprisonment for Term of 3 Months (Class I) or 4 Months (Class H)	Imprisonment for Term of 12 Months (Class I) or 25 Months (Class H)
Manufacture Controlled Substance (Class C, H or I Felony)	Imprisonment for Term of 3 Months (Class I) or 4 Months (Class H) or 44 Months (Class C)	Imprisonment for Term of 12 months or 25 Months (Class H) or 182 Months (Class C)
Felony Possession of Controlled Substance (Class I Felony)	Imprisonment for Term of 3 Months	Imprisonment for Term of 12 months
Misdemeanor Possession of Controlled Substance (Class 1 or 2 Misdemeanor)	Active Jail Sentence of 1 Day (Class 1 or Class 2)	Active Jail Sentence of 60 Days (Class 2) or 120 Days (Class 1)
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (Class 1 Misdemeanor)	Active Jail Sentence of 1 Day	Active Jail Sentence of 120 Days
Driving While Impaired - Alcohol / Drugs (Misdemeanor w/ Six Possible Levels of Sentencing)	30 Day Suspension of Driver License, Up To \$200 Fine, 1 -60 Days In Jail (Level 5)	30 Day Suspension of Driver License, Up To \$10,000 Fine , 12 -36 Months In Jail (Level 1 Aggrv)
Driving By Person Under 21 After Consuming Alcohol (Class 2 Misdemeanor)	Revocation of Driver License and Up to 30 Days In Jail	Revocation of Driver License and Up To 60 Days In Jail
Intoxicated and Disruptive In Public (Class 3 Misdemeanor)	Up To 10 Days In Jail	Up To 20 Days In Jail
Consumption of Beer or Unfortified Wine By Person Under 21 Years of Age	\$25 Fine or Up To 10 Days In Jail	\$25 Fine or Up To 20 Days In Jail
Purchase or Possession of Beer of Unfortified Wine By Person Under 21 Years of Age	\$25 Fine or Up To 10 Days In Jail	\$25 Fine or Up To 20 Days In Jail
Provide Alcohol To Minor (Class 1 or 2 Misdemeanor)	Up To 30 Days In Jail (Class 2) Up To 45 Days In Jail (Class 1)	Up To 60 Days In Jail (Class 2) Up To 120 Days In Jail (Class 1)
Possess or Consume Alcohol On Unauthorized Premises	\$25 Fine or Up To 10 Days In Jail	\$25 Fine or Up To 20 Days In Jail

Federal Trafficking Penalties for Schedules I, II, III, IV, and V (except Marijuana)

Schedule	Substance/Quantity	Penalty	Substance/Quantity	Penalty
II	Cocaine 500-4999 grams mixture	First Offense: Not less than 5 yrs. and not more than 40 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. Fine of not more than \$5 million if an individual, \$25 million if not an individual. Second Offense: Not less than 10 yrs. and not more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$8 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual.	Cocaine 5 kilograms or more mixture	First Offense: Not less than 10 yrs. and not more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. Fine of not more than \$10 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual. Second Offense: Not less than 20 yrs, and not more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual. 2 or More Prior Offenses: Life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual.
II	Cocaine Base 28-279 grams mixture		Cocaine Base 280 grams or more mixture	
IV	Fentanyl 40-399 grams mixture		Fentanyl 400 grams or more mixture	
I	Fentanyl Analogue 10-99 grams mixture		Fentanyl Analogue 100 grams or more mixture	
I	Heroin 100-999 grams mixture		Heroin 1 kilogram or more mixture	
I	LSD 1-9 grams mixture		LSD 10 grams or more mixture	
II	Methamphetamine 5-49 grams pure or 50-499 grams mixture		Methamphetamine 50 grams or more pure or 500 grams or more mixture	
II	PCP 10-99 grams pure or 100-999 grams mixture	PCP 100 grams or more pure or 1 kilogram or more mixture		

Substance/Quantity	Penalty
Any Amount Of Other Schedule I & II Substances	First Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than Life. Fine \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual. Second Offense: Not more than 30 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine \$2 million if an individual, \$10 million if not an individual.
Any Drug Product Containing Gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid	
Flunitrazepam (Schedule IV) 1 Gram	
Any Amount Of Other Schedule III Drugs	First Offense: Not more than 10 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not more than 15 yrs. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2.5 million if not an individual. Second Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious injury, not more than 30 yrs. Fine not more than \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual.
Any Amount Of All Other Schedule IV Drugs (other than one gram or more of Flunitrazepam)	First Offense: Not more than 5 yrs. Fine not more than \$250,000 if an individual, \$1 million if not an individual. Second Offense: Not more than 10 yrs. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2 million if other than an individual.
Any Amount Of All Schedule V Drugs	First Offense: Not more than 1 yr. Fine not more than \$100,000 if an individual, \$250,000 if not an individual. Second Offense: Not more than 4 yrs. Fine not more than \$200,000 if an individual, \$500,000 if not an individual.

Federal Trafficking Penalties for Marijuana, Hashish and Hashish Oil, Schedule I Substances

<p>Marijuana 1,000 kilograms or more marijuana mixture or 1,000 or more marijuana plants</p>	<p>First Offense: Not less than 10 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs., or more than life. Fine not more than \$10 million if an individual, \$50 million if other than an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if other than an individual.</p>
<p>Marijuana 100 to 999 kilograms marijuana mixture or 100 to 999 marijuana plants</p>	<p>First Offense: Not less than 5 yrs. or more than 40 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. Fine not more than \$5 million if an individual, \$25 million if other than an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not less than 10 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine not more than \$8 million if an individual, \$50million if other than an individual.</p>
<p>Marijuana 50 to 99 kilograms marijuana mixture, 50 to 99 marijuana plants</p>	<p>First Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. Fine \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if other than an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not more than 30 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine \$2 million if an individual, \$10 million if other than an individual.</p>
<p>Hashish More than 10 kilograms</p>	
<p>Hashish Oil More than 1 kilogram</p>	
<p>Marijuana less than 50 kilograms marijuana (but does not include 50 or more marijuana plants regardless of weight) 1 to 49 marijuana plants</p>	<p>First Offense: Not more than 5 yrs. Fine not more than \$250,000, \$1 million if other than an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not more than 10 yrs. Fine \$500,000 if an individual, \$2 million if other than individual.</p>
<p>Hashish 10 kilograms or less</p>	
<p>Hashish Oil 1 kilogram or less</p>	