

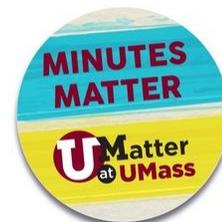
Dear Student,

A sincere welcome to the newest members of the UMass community and welcome back to returning students studying remotely or on campus this spring.

At UMass Amherst, we care about the health and safety of everyone in the community and support you in making responsible, informed decisions. The university fully complies with local, state, and federal regulations regarding the [sale, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages and other drugs](#) – including reminding you of your related responsibilities. Not being aware of a law or policy is not an excuse for violating it, so please read the following carefully:



- You may not unlawfully make, distribute, dispense, possess, or use a controlled substance in or on any property owned and controlled by UMass Amherst or at off campus university events.
- The unlawful possession and use of alcohol and other drugs is prohibited in or on any property owned and controlled by UMass Amherst and/or at off campus university events.
- Any use of alcohol is *always* subject to the alcoholic beverage laws of the state of Massachusetts, applicable county and city regulations, and university regulations. These include (but are not limited to) the [University Alcoholic Beverage Policy](#), [Code of Student Conduct](#), and [University Alcohol and Drug Policies](#).
- [You may not use, possess, or grow marijuana](#) or possess marijuana paraphernalia in or on any property owned and controlled by UMass Amherst and/or at off campus university events.
- If you see someone who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs and might need medical attention, call 911 or 545-3111 **immediately**. Under the [Minutes Matter: UMass Amherst Medical Amnesty Policy](#) neither you nor the other person will be charged with a Code of Student Conduct violation.



After reading these policies, be sure that you understand these key points:

- **No person under 21 years of age may possess, use, be under the influence, or be in the presence of alcohol.** This means unless everyone assigned to a shared room (double, triple, quad, or double within a suite/apartment) is over 21, no one can possess, use, or store alcohol in the room. This applies even if you are 21+ and have been assigned to that space.
- **No person under 21 years of age may transport alcohol beverages without a parent/guardian.** This applies all the time, even to underage drivers with passengers over 21.
- **Guests are NOT allowed to transport alcohol into any residence hall buildings.**
- **Drinking games (including fake or simulated drinking games)** or other activities involving rapid and/or excessive alcohol consumption are not allowed.
- **Possession of alcoholic beverage containers is not allowed if you are under 21.** This applies even to empty alcoholic beverage containers used for decoration (vases, lamps, food storage, etc.)
- **Controlled Substances/Drugs:** The manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, use, or sale of – or the attempted manufacture, distribution, dispensing, or sale of – controlled substances identified in federal/state law or regulation. **This includes misuse, sale, or distribution of prescription or over-the-counter medication.**



Although Massachusetts law permits the use of medical/recreational marijuana, **federal laws prohibit the use, possession, and/or cultivation of marijuana at educational institutions.** Federal laws also require any institution of higher education that receives

federal funding to have policies prohibiting the possession and use of marijuana on campus. **The use, possession, or cultivation of marijuana for medical and/or recreational purposes is therefore not allowed on university property.**

High-risk drinking and illegal drug use can lead to negative health consequences and undermine your goals for wellness and academic success. If you have questions, concerns, or need advice and/or help regarding alcohol and/or drug use, UMass offers several support [campus based resources](#). Thank you for making healthy decisions and encouraging your friends to do the same as we work together to build a community of caring, compassion, and active engagement.

Sincerely,
Evelyn L. Ashley, Ph.D.
Dean of Students