Dear Student,

A sincere welcome to the newest members of the UMass community, and welcome back to returning students.

At UMass Amherst, we care about the health and safety of everyone in the community and support you in making responsible, informed decisions. This means that the university fully complies with local, state, and federal regulations regarding the sale, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages and other drugs – including making you aware of your responsibilities, laws, and policies pertaining to alcohol and other drugs. Not knowing about a law or policy is not an excuse for offending behavior, therefore, please take time to read the information that follows 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 and/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, University Alcohol and Drug Policies, and Residential Life Community Living Standards.
- 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 or Residence Hall Community Standards violation.

After reading these policies, ensure 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 even applies 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 even applies to empty alcoholic beverage containers used for decoration (vases, lamps, food storage, etc.)
- Federal laws prohibit the use, possession, and/or cultivation of marijuana at educational institutions. This means that the use of marijuana at UMass Amherst is an actionable offense of the Code of Student Conduct. Even though Massachusetts voters recently approved a law permitting the possession and recreational use of marijuana, UMass Amherst Police Department, Residential Life staff, and other university officials will continue to enforce the campus-wide prohibition of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia.

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.

Thank you,
Cara Appel-Silbaugh, Ph.D.
Dean of Students