



Office of Student Conduct  
*Promoting Integrity, Character, & Ethics*

## Promoting Responsible Action in Medical Emergencies

### Introduction

The health and safety of University students is of paramount concern. All members of the University community are encouraged to act in a responsible manner when an individual may require medical assistance by dialing 911 or 301.405.3333 or seeking a University official. In situations in which either a student summoning or requiring help is under the influence of alcohol, the threat of disciplinary sanctions for violating the University's alcohol policy should not be a barrier to responsible action. *Promoting Responsible Action in Medical Emergencies* is an administrative protocol<sup>1</sup> authorized by the Director of Student Conduct to provide conditional relief in certain defined situations. The purpose is to encourage students to seek assistance for medical emergencies.

### Protocol of the Office of Student Conduct

1. A student in possession or under the influence of alcohol who summons medical emergency assistance for him/herself or on behalf of a fellow student experiencing a medical emergency will normally not face disciplinary charges under the *Code of Student Conduct* or *Residence Hall Rules* for the possession or use of alcohol. In lieu of disciplinary charges and as a condition of such relief, students handled under this protocol will usually be required to be evaluated by the University Health Center staff and successfully complete an approved alcohol intervention program
2. This protocol also extends to the student for whom medical emergency assistance has been summoned.
3. Students referred to the Office of Student Conduct or the Department of Resident Life for alcohol use or possession will be interviewed by a representative of the unit. If the student is eligible for conditional relief under this protocol, the initiation of disciplinary charges will normally be “deferred” under part 28 of the *Code of Student Conduct* pending successful completion of an approved alcohol intervention program. If the student successfully completes the program to the satisfaction of the

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<sup>1</sup> This protocol constitutes instructions by the Director to the staff of the Office of Student Conduct describing how a limited range of alcohol-related conduct will be regularly managed under the *Code of Student Conduct* and *Residence Hall Rules*. It is also serves to inform the Campus Community of what has and shall be the customary practice of the Office of Student Conduct. It must be understood, however, this protocol is not an established University policy or rule and may, from time-to-time be changed by the Director. Similarly, on a case-by-case basis and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this protocol, the possession or use of alcohol in violation of the University's alcohol policy may be handled differently when the Director determines that under the peculiar facts of the situation it is in the best interests of the institution or persons involved. It is for these reasons the words “normally” and “usually” are employed in the protocol.

Health Center staff and the Office of Student Conduct/Department of Resident Life, the pending charges will be withdrawn, leaving the student with no disciplinary record. If the student fails to successfully complete the program, charges for alcohol use and possession will be processed and, if proved, may result in more severe sanctions and a disciplinary record.

## **Exclusions**

1. The conditional relief from disciplinary charges described in this protocol does not extend to charges other than possession or use of alcohol. In addition, it shall not provide relief from disciplinary charges pertaining to the alleged possession or use of alcohol which, if proven:

- (a) would constitute an “Aggravated Violation” as defined under Paragraph 2(a) of the *Code of Student Conduct*:

*“[T]he term “aggravated violation” means a violation which resulted or foreseeably could have resulted in significant damage to persons or property or which otherwise posed a substantial threat to the stability and continuance of normal University or University sponsored activities.”*

“Aggravated Violation” also includes:

“...[R]ioting, assault, theft, vandalism, arson, or breach of the peace related directly or indirectly to University sponsored activities;” or,

- (b) involve or are associated with the distribution of alcohol to a person under the legal drinking age.

2. Students with a prior disciplinary record of alcohol-related violations and students previously granted relief under this protocol, shall only be eligible for relief on an individual-by-individual basis following an assessment by the Office of Student Conduct.

3. This protocol does not and cannot offer conditional relief, immunity or protection from criminal complaint, arrest or prosecution by University police or other person or official for illegal activity, including the illegal use or possession of alcohol in violation of County, State or Federal law. It does not provide relief from any civil suit, fine or financial obligation to any party (including the University), for loss, damage or injury associated with alcohol use or possession. It must be emphasized that the “charges” and “violations” referred to in the protocol are only charges and violations under the *Code of Student Conduct* and/or under *Residence Hall Rules*.

4. This protocol does not offer conditional relief to student organizations, which remain subject to organizational charges for alcohol-related violations, including possession and use. The nature of such charges and any resulting disciplinary sanctions, however, will take into account and may be mitigated by the action taken by organizational representatives. A representative of a student organization who summons medical emergency assistance may be eligible for conditional relief from charges for his or her personal use or possession of alcohol under this protocol.