POLLICY STATEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF ALCOHOL ABUSE AND OTHER DRUG USE OR ABUSE

The health and wellbeing of students in our community is paramount. Therefore, Quinnipiac University empowers students to make healthy and responsible decisions about their behaviors, including alcohol and other drug use, that affect them and the Quinnipiac community as a whole. University prevention programs, policies and resources focus on reducing high-risk behaviors and promoting safe, legal and responsible student choices. For more information about prevention programs and resources, contact the Prevention and Wellness Educator at 203-582-7436.

Behavioral Expectations

The behavioral expectations that Quinnipiac University has for all students—whether on or off campus—are outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. The Student Code of Conduct, including specific codes pertaining to alcohol and drugs, can be found in this Student Handbook. Additionally, policies that outline expectations for student organizations as they relate to alcohol and/or other drugs can be found in the Student Organizations and the Fraternity and Sorority Life sections of the Student Handbook.

Bystander Intervention & Medical Assistance

Members of the university community who are aware of an incident involving alcohol or other drug abuse, unsafe situations involving alcohol and/or drugs and students who are in need of medical assistance due to alcohol and/or drugs are encouraged to speak to a university staff member to request assistance. Although policy violations cannot be overlooked, the university will consider the positive impact of reporting an incident when determining the appropriate response for policy violations. While the university reserves the right to refer matters to student conduct for review, students who specifically seek medical assistance from a university staff member or other emergency services for themselves or others will not face student conduct action unless other policy violations are present. In cases where a student is seen in Student Health Services or sent to the hospital for alcohol/drug intoxication, students will be required to attend an educational meeting with a university staff member. This educational meeting serves as an opportunity to check in with, offer resources to and provide other information that could benefit the affected student.

Student Disciplinary Sanctions

Students found responsible for violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in one or more sanctions. A list of possible sanctions can be found on pages 35 of the Student Handbook.

Legal Sanctions

Quinnipiac students are subject to local, state and federal laws concerning the use and possession of alcohol and other drugs. These local, state and federal laws and applicable legal sanctions are outlined below.

- **Alcohol:** Section 30-89(a) of Connecticut statutes states that it is unlawful for a minor (under the age of 21) to purchase, attempt to purchase, or make a false statement in connection with the attempted purchase of alcohol. Section 30-89(b) states that possession of alcohol by a minor anywhere is illegal, except where the minor is accompanied by a parent, guardian or spouse over the age of 21. The fine ranges from $200–$500.

- **Social Host:** Public Act No 06-112 (a) No person having possession of, or exercising dominion and control over any dwelling unit or private property shall (1) knowingly permit any minor to possess alcoholic liquor in violation of subsection (b) of section 30-89 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, in such dwelling unit or on such private property, or (2) knowing that any minor possesses alcoholic liquor in violation of subsection (b) of section 30–89 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, in such dwelling unit or on such private property, fail to make reasonable efforts to halt such possession. For the purposes of this subsection, "minor" means a person under 21 years of age.

- **Drugs:** Connecticut statutes cover a wide range of drug offenses, including the offer, sale, possession with intent to sell, gift and mere possession of various types of drugs (21a CONN GEN STAT Section 277, 278, 279 and PA 15-2). NOTE: PA 15-2 “June Special Session” replaced the prior penalty structure for drug possession crimes, which punished possession of most types of illegal drugs as felonies. Refer to summary of Connecticut Drug Offenses for Possession and Sale as well as the cited Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) relative to each at cga.ct.gov/2015/rtpt/pdf/2015-R-0219.pdf or can also be found in the Quinnipiac University Annual Security Report. Federal Law (Controlled Substances Act 21 U S C Section 841, 843b, 844, 845, 846, (1988)) states that it is unlawful (1) to manufacture, distribute, or dispense, or possess with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense, a controlled substance; or (2) to create, distribute, or dispense, or possess with intent to distribute or dispense, a counterfeit substance. Additional information on federal crimes and penalties related to all sections of the Controlled Substances Act can be found at deadiversion.usdoj.gov (http://deadiversion.usdoj.gov) or can also be found in the Quinnipiac University Annual Security Report.

- **Medical Marijuana:** Connecticut state law permits the use of medical marijuana, however, in accordance with federal law and as a recipient of federal funding, the university does not permit the possession, use or distribution of marijuana. As such, students in possession of medical marijuana (issued in Connecticut or any other state) are not permitted to use or possess marijuana in any form on university owned or leased property, or at any university sponsored programs, internships, externships, or clinical assignments.

Health Risks of Alcohol and other Drug Use or Abuse

According to the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, “harmful and underage college drinking are significant public health problems, and they exact an enormous toll on the intellectual and social lives of students on campuses across the United States.” Moreover, “drinking too much—on a single occasion or over time—can take a serious toll on your health” including but not limited to:

- Alcohol interferes with the brain’s communication pathways, and can affect the way the brain looks and works. These disruptions can change mood and behavior, and make it harder to think clearly and move with coordination.

- Drinking a lot over a long time or too much on a single occasion can damage the heart, causing problems including: cardiomyopathy—stretching and drooping of heart muscle, arrhythmias—irregular heartbeat, stroke and high blood pressure.
• Heavy drinking takes a toll on the liver, and can lead to a variety of problems and liver inflammations including: steatosis, or fatty liver, alcoholic hepatitis, fibrosis and cirrhosis.

• Alcohol causes the pancreas to produce toxic substances that can eventually lead to pancreatitis, an inflammation and swelling of the blood vessels in the pancreas that prevents proper digestion.

• Drinking too much alcohol can increase your risk of developing certain cancers, including cancers of the mouth, esophagus, throat, liver and breast.

• Drinking too much can weaken your immune system, making your body a much easier target for disease. Chronic drinkers are more likely to contract diseases like pneumonia and tuberculosis than people who do not drink too much. Drinking a lot on a single occasion slows your body’s ability to ward off infections – even up to 24 hours after getting drunk.


In addition to the health risk posed by alcohol, those posed by use of other drugs are also of concern. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, “drug use can have a wide range of short- and long-term, direct and indirect effects. These effects often depend on the specific drug or drugs used, how they are taken, how much is taken, the person’s health and other factors. Short-term effects can range from changes in appetite, wakefulness, heart rate, blood pressure and/or mood to heart attack, stroke, psychosis, overdose and even death. These health effects may occur after just one use. Longer-term effects can include heart or lung disease, cancer, mental illness, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and others. Long-term drug use can also lead to addiction.” Furthermore, “drug use can also have indirect effects on both the people who are taking drugs and on those around them. This can include affecting a person’s nutrition; sleep; decision-making and impulsivity; and risk for trauma, violence, injury and communicable diseases.” Visit drugabuse.gov/related-topics/health-consequences-drug-misuse (http://drugabuse.gov/related-topics/health-consequences-drug-misuse) for additional information on how various drugs affect the body and disease risk.

Alcohol and Other Drug Support Resources

On-Campus:

• Counseling Services: 203-582-8680 or Request an appointment at myq.quinnipiac.edu/Counseling (https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.qu.edu%2Fabout-quinnipiac%2FStudent%2Fabout-quinnipiac%2FStudent%2Fstudent-consumer-information.html&data=02%7C01%7CMegan.Buda%40quinnipiac.edu%7C4c774ff6e0f74973ebb380d5e91cbe49%7C0940985869fbd4e9897990db22b52eaf%7C0%7C0%7C636952776691415200&data=6FTPbY9X9B%2FDUEUub2HUEwElzuYnWZsvz5WzyW5XCHM%3D&reserved=0)

• Student Health Services: Mount Carmel, 203-582-3890

• Prevention and Wellness Educator: 203-582-7436

• CARE Team: care@qu.edu, 203-582-CARE (2273)

Off-Campus:

• Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration National Helpline, 1-800-662-HELP (4357)