What is your responsibility as a Student or Employee of Meredith College regarding alcohol and other drugs? Here are the facts, policies, laws and resources you need to know.

**Meredith College’s Philosophy on Alcohol and Other Drug Use**

Meredith College is committed to assisting students and other members of the College Community in developing well informed responsible attitudes and behaviors about the use/non-use of alcohol and other drugs within the framework of existing College policy and state laws.

This newsletter has been written as a commitment and guide to all members of the Meredith College Community. In addition, this newsletter provides facts concerning alcohol and other drugs to help you make informed choices.

As a recipient of federal monies, Meredith College is subject to the Drug Free School and Campus Act Amendments of 1989 and the Drug-Free Work Place Act of 1988.

**Meredith Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs**

**Students**

Meredith students are expected to represent the College with integrity at all times. The possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus or in any College building is prohibited except by those of legal age in individual on-campus apartments. Any amount of alcohol possessed or consumed by persons under the age of twenty-one shall be considered “possession.” For more information refer to the online student handbook at [www.meredith.edu/student_life/dean_of_students/student-handbook](http://www.meredith.edu/student_life/dean_of_students/student-handbook).

The College strongly discourages illegal and irresponsible use of alcoholic beverages by Meredith students. North Carolina state law prohibits the use or possession of alcoholic beverages for persons who are under twenty-one years of age. Students who choose to possess and consume alcohol are encouraged to do so responsibly and not in a manner that would disrupt the living community or endanger themselves or others.

Students shall not possess or consume intoxicants at any College function sponsored by Meredith students or any Meredith student organization. Students participating in any Meredith or Meredith-affiliated study abroad program are expected to follow the laws of the host country and host institution during any study abroad program.

Students may **not** attend class while under the influence of alcohol. In addition, students of legal drinking age who drive impaired will not be allowed to operate vehicles on campus. Students under 21 years of age will not knowingly be allowed to drive with any alcohol in their system.

A report will be sent to the Dean of Students in the case of any student deemed to be driving while impaired. In addition, if the student is a resident, an immediate notification will be sent to her Residence Director or the apartment manager.

Meredith College has a Medical Amnesty policy. The essence of the Medical Amnesty policy is that each individual has an ethical responsibility to help those in need. This policy encourages students to seek or request immediate medical assistance for themselves or others when there is concern about extreme intoxication, alcohol poisoning and/or sexual misconduct that threatens a student’s health and safety.

When a student requests medical assistance (for herself or another student) because she or another student has consumed too much alcohol, or is at risk of being a victim of sexual misconduct, neither student will be subject to Honor Council action for the consumption. This policy does not preclude...
Honor Council actions regarding other violations of College policies and does not protect the intoxicated students from actions taken by local, state or federal authorities. When seeking immediate medical attention, contact 911 (or 9-911 from a campus phone), then call Campus Police at 919-760-8888 (or ext. 8888 from campus phone). First responders will assess the need for next steps in medical attention, treatment or hospitalization. Campus Police will report the name of the student needing medical attention and any students witnessing the incident to the Office of the Dean of Students for any follow-up deemed necessary by the College.

In lieu of disciplinary action and following the receipt of the report in the Office of the Dean of Students, the following procedures will be followed under the Medical Amnesty policy:

1. Following the meeting with the Dean of Students, the student requiring medical attention must meet with the Director of the Counseling Center or a designee for an informal alcohol assessment. The student must complete the assessment and any resulting treatment recommendations by a deadline specified by the Dean of Students in consultation with the Director of the Counseling Center or a designee.

2. The student meeting with the Director of the Counseling Center will be required to sign a release allowing the Director of the Counseling Center or a designee to communicate with the Dean of Students. The release will be limited as to protect the student’s confidentiality as much as possible. The student will be asked to give permission for the on-campus counselor to disclose whether or not the assessment and any resulting treatment recommendations have been completed.

3. Failure of a student to attend the follow-up meeting with the Dean of Students or complete the assessment or resulting treatment recommendations by the Counseling Center may result in a referral of the student to Honor Council for further action. This policy encourages students to seek or request immediate medical assistance for themselves or others when there is concern about extreme intoxication and/or alcohol poisoning that threatens a student’s health and safety.

When a student requests medical assistance (for herself or another student) because she or another student has consumed too much alcohol, neither student will be subject to Honor Council action for consumption. This policy does not preclude Honor Council actions regarding other violations of College policies and does not protect the intoxicated students from actions taken by local, state or federal authorities.

When seeking immediate medical attention, contact 911 (or 9-911 from a campus phone), then call Campus Police at 919-760-8888 (or ext. 8888 from campus phone). First responders will assess the need for next steps in medical attention, treatment or hospitalization. Campus Police will report the name of the student needing medical attention and any students witnessing the incident to the Office of the Dean of Students for any follow-up deemed necessary by the College.

For more information regarding the Meredith College Medical Amnesty Policy, please visit the following link: [www.meredith.edu/images/uploads/sh_college_policies_regulations.pdf](http://www.meredith.edu/images/uploads/sh_college_policies_regulations.pdf)

**Employees**
The use of alcohol or controlled substances by employees on the job, or reporting to work under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, constitutes a direct threat to the safety of the whole Meredith Community.

Reflecting its concern about the threat that alcohol abuse and illegal drugs constitutes to communities of higher education and to comply with these laws, the College prohibits the following by all of its employees:

1. The use or possession of alcohol while on College property (excluding the Massey House and faculty/staff campus apartments);
2. The unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of any controlled substance – including the abuse of any prescription medications, while on College property or as a part of any College activity;
3. Reporting to work or working while intoxicated or otherwise impaired;
4. The violation of any law governing alcohol or drug use on College property or as part of a College activity.

It is important to note that employees with substance abuse problems who voluntarily seek help will be provided with assistance. All treatment will be kept confidential, if at all possible, and disclosed only on a need-to-know basis. Those who do not seek help voluntarily will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Further information is available in the Office of Human Resources, Park Center.

North Carolina Laws

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, possession, and/or use of a controlled substance or alcohol is regulated by a number of federal, state, and local laws. These laws impose legal sanctions for both misdemeanor and felony convictions. Criminal penalties for convictions can range from fines and probation to denial or revocation of federal benefits (such as financial aid) to imprisonment and forfeiture of personal and real property. A summary of the North Carolina alcohol and drug laws can be found at: http://www.justice.gov/dea/druginfo/ftp3.shtml

The information provided is illustrative, not exhaustive of a definitive statement of all drug and alcohol related laws, but rather it indicates the types of conduct that are against the law and the range of legal sanctions that can be imposed for such conduct.

Fake ID’s and Underage Drinking

If you are under 21:

Penalty: Class 1 misdemeanor. With no criminal record, a person convicted can receive up to 150 hours of community services and/or up to $1,000.00 fine. Also, upon conviction, the court will file a report with the DMV, and the Division will revoke that person’s license.

If you are over 21:

Adult Providers: North Carolina has mandatory minimum penalties for people convicted of providing or helping provide alcohol to underage persons.

Selling and Providing:
A person convicted for the first time of selling or providing alcohol to someone under 21 will receive a minimum sentence of a $250.00 fine and 25 hours of community services.

Aiding and Abetting:
A person convicted of aiding and abetting the sale or provision of alcohol to someone under 21 for the first time will receive a minimum of $500.00 fine and 25 hours of community service.

For both charges, the fines and community services requirements will increase with a subsequent offense within four years.

Law Bans Fake ID Use:

Beginning December 1, 2001, it is a crime for a person under 21 to either enter a place where alcohol is sold or
consumed, or to obtain a wristband that enables one to buy alcohol by using a fake ID. The new law also creates a new criminal offense for even possessing or manufacturing fake ID’s. It is a Class 1 misdemeanor to possess, manufacture or use a fake ID to get into a place where alcohol is consumed. This applies to any kind of identification document, including in-state and out-of-state licenses. This law also calls for the Division of Motor Vehicles to establish an electronic system available for retailers to verify driver licenses and dates of birth.

It is illegal for anyone to obtain or attempt to obtain alcohol using any type of fraudulent driver license or altered identification document.

**Letting someone borrow your ID:**

It is also illegal for anyone to allow his or her driver license (or other document of identification) to be used by another person to obtain or attempt to obtain alcohol.

*(For more information, refer to NC Alcohol Beverage Control Commission: http://abc.nc.gov/education/)*

**Meredith College Policy in Regard to Drug Use and Possession**

Meredith College students shall not illegally manufacture, possess, sell or deliver a controlled substance or counterfeit controlled substance.

The term “controlled substances” shall be defined in accordance with the definitions set out in the *North Carolina General Statutes*.

Any student suspected of violation of this policy is subjected to a hearing by the Honor Council. If found responsible, the student will be suspended or expelled in accordance with the drug policy as enunciated by Meredith College. The violator is also subject to the North Carolina law.

*(Refer to the online student handbook for additional information.)*

**North Carolina Laws With Regard to Drug Use and Possession**

Under North Carolina Law, penalties for drug possession vary depending on the type of drug, amount, and whether or not the drug is intended for sale. Drugs are classified under different schedules of penalties.

**U.S. Laws With Regard to Drug Use and Possession**

The Federal Penalties and Sanction for Illegal Possession of a Controlled Substance are up to one-year imprisonment and a fine of at least $1,000.00 for a first offense and up to one year imprisonment and a fine of at least $5,000.00 and minimum of 90 days in prison after two or more prior drug convictions.

Specific penalties for drug trafficking violations can be found in NC General Statute 90-95 (http://www.ncleg.net).

**Alcohol Facts:**

*(Sources: factsontap.org)*

- 300,000 of today’s college students will eventually die of alcohol-related causes.
- 159,000 of today’s first year college students will drop out for alcohol or other drug related issues.
- One-third of college students admit to missing at least one class because of alcohol or drug use.
- One-fourth of college students report failing a test or project because of after effects of drinking or using drugs.
- One night of heavy drinking can impair your ability to think abstractly for up to 30 days.

**Facts about Alcohol and Sexual Violence:**

- 90% of all campus/college rape occurs when alcohol is consumed by either the assailant or the victim.
- 60% of all college women who reported being infected with a sexually transmitted infection state that they were under the influence of alcohol when they became infected.
- **Just One Drink** can raise a woman’s Blood Alcohol Level to .08% or higher, thus reaching the intoxication level where an individual’s assessment of sexual situations is impaired (increasing the chance of...
unsafe or unwanted intercourse).

Under North Carolina State Law, it is impossible to give legal sexual consent while under the influence of alcohol. See information specific to Title IX and Meredith College’s response to reports of sexual violence at www.meredith.edu/about_meredith/human_resources/title-ix-compliance/

Campus Resources for students on Alcohol and Other Drugs

If you would like to know more about the use/abuse of alcohol or other drugs beyond what this newsletter offers, Meredith has services and resources that can help:

Offices under Meredith’s Dean of Students Office including the Counseling Center, Health Center and the Office of First Year Experience are responsible for providing alcohol education and programming on campus.

Meredith Counseling Center

The Counseling Center offers individual confidential counseling and referral for a variety of alcohol and other drug use/abuse concerns.

Meredith Health Center

The Health Center offers a number of written materials, available free of charge, in the waiting and health promotion rooms. Additionally, the Health Center Staff members are available to answer questions or provide information.

Meredith Office of First Year Experience

The Office of First Year Experience provides an annual alcohol awareness event each fall that is mandated for freshman and open to the entire Meredith community. Contact the Counseling Center for more details at (919) 760-8427 or at www.meredith.edu/counseling/

Additional alcohol and drug information can be found at these websites:

- Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization
  www.adultchildren.org

- Alcoholics Anonymous
  www.aa.org/

- Cocaine Anonymous
  www.ca.org

- Families Anonymous
  www.familiesanonymous.org

- Marijuana Anonymous
  www.marijuana-anonymous.org

- Narcotics Anonymous
  www.na.org

- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism: College Drinking Prevention
  www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov

- National Institute on Drug Abuse
  www.drugabuse.gov/drugpages

- National Poison Control
  1/800-222-1222

- Treatment Locator Database
  http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/

- Department of Education’s Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention
  http://www.edc.org/projects/higher_education_center_alcohol_drug_abuse_and_violence_prevention

- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
  www.niaaa.nih.gov

- U.S. Department of Education
  www.ed.gov

- Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA)
  www.amersa.org

- Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
  Division of College Programs 5
www.samhsa.gov/prevention

Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
www.samhsa.gov/about/csat.aspx

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov

Drug Enforcement Administration
www.dea.gov

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
www.ncadd.org

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
www.nhtsa.gov
National Institute on Drug Abuse
www.nida.nih.gov

Office of National Drug Control Policy
www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov

Drink In Moderation
http://www.drinkinmoderation.org