Alcohol Policy

I. Policy Principles

Wentworth Institute of Technology is a community dedicated to the academic and personal development of its members and is committed to educational and social programs promoting these ends. The Institute recognizes that the use of alcohol in the local community and the larger society can present serious problems, including harm to users and non-users and the encroachment upon values and rights considered fundamental to educational development and personal well-being.

The Institute affirms that the fundamental responsibility for personal behavior associated with the use of alcohol rests with the individual. The Institute, however, provides constructive leadership in delineating the rights of community members and protecting those rights from violation. In addition, the Institute maintains and strictly enforces rules and regulations deemed appropriate and necessary to preserving conditions essential to academic and personal well-being. The Institute expects all employees to be positive role models for students through their own responsible use or non-use of alcohol. The principle aims of this policy include:

- Formulating and enforcing regulations for social events and individual conduct.
- Encouraging responsible, moderate, and safe use of alcoholic beverages by those who use alcohol at on campus events.
- Reducing pressures on those who do not wish to use alcohol in social settings.
- Minimizing problems associated with alcohol use.
- For those times when alcohol service is permitted on campus, defining reasonable restrictions and approved location for such alcohol service.

II. Alcohol Use Regulations

- The use of alcohol on the Wentworth campus is subject to the requirements, restrictions and approvals prescribed by this alcohol policy.
- Wentworth observes all laws and regulations governing the serving and usage of alcoholic beverages by all members of its community and expects that these laws and regulations will be adhered to at all events associated with the Institute. This includes all activities on Wentworth’s campus.
• This policy permits the responsible use of alcohol by members of the Wentworth community who are at or above the legal drinking age of 21. It prohibits all other uses of alcohol by members of the Wentworth community. The obligation to observe existing laws and regulations in an environment where the majority of the undergraduate student body is not of legal drinking age makes it necessary for the college to impose constraints on those who are of legal drinking age. The fact that someone is of legal drinking age does not exempt him or her from the requirements of the Institute's alcohol policy.

• This alcohol policy is intended to work in conjunction with the alcohol requirements provided by the Student Affairs Division regarding the consumption of alcohol by students on campus (https://wit.edu/student-code-conduct/policies/alcohol).

The following general rules apply to the use and serving of alcohol under this policy:

• Alcohol will not be served or offered to students at any event which students must attend as part of their required course work.
• Where students of the Institute are present, alcohol will be allowed only at specially approved and significant events such as alumni, presidential and other special events.
• The Vice President of the Division sponsoring the event is responsible and must provide consent to allow alcohol at the event.
• Only beer and/or wine will be approved at events.
• In general, the drink limit should be two (2) drinks per individual per event.
  o Public Safety officers and other Institute officials will monitor and strictly enforce this policy when applicable.
• Alcoholic beverages may only be possessed by, served to, or consumed by persons of legal drinking age:
  o at events that have the consent of the Vice President of the Division sponsoring the event;
  o in areas of the Wentworth campus that are allowed to serve alcohol (see site-specific locations in section III below);
  o in on-campus staff residences; and
  o by students of legal drinking age as described in the Student Code of Conduct (https://wit.edu/student-code-conduct/polices/alcohol).
• Alcohol served at any event on the Institute campus must be served by Chartwells using TIPS (Training and Intervention Procedures for Servers of alcohol) certified servers.
• As a matter of policy external groups or organizations that are using or renting Wentworth facilities are not permitted to have alcohol at their event(s). However, external groups may request an exception to this policy through the Vice President for Finance.
• Possessing, serving, or consuming alcohol is prohibited under all other circumstances on the Wentworth campus.
• Alcohol services at events where students are present or where individuals under the age of 21 are present must be approved by the Vice President for Finance.
• Alcohol services at an event on Wentworth’s campus shall be restricted to locations identified in this policy or as may be approved by the Vice President for Finance.
III. Planning and Serving Alcohol at Events

A. PROCEDURES FOR PLANNING AN EVENT WITH ALCOHOL

1. Event Organizer
The Event Organizer is the individual from the sponsoring Wentworth organization or department who takes primary responsibility for the event. The Event Organizer is responsible for understanding and complying with this alcohol policy at their event(s). The Event Organizer must:

- consult with the Director of Business Services about the event before presenting the event to the overseeing VP for consent.
- obtain the written consent of the Vice President of the division which is sponsoring the event using the "Request to Serve Alcohol" form; a copy of the approved form must be submitted to the Vice President for Finance.
- be a minimum of 21 years of age if alcohol will be served at the event.
- be required to hire an Alcohol Server(s) through Chartwells Dining Services.
- be present for the entire event or designate an alternate organizer (designated organizer, who otherwise meets the criteria of an Event Organizer under the policy) over 21 years old to be present for the entire event.
- not consume alcohol during the event.
- submit a request to serve alcohol to Business Services and Chartwells at least four (4) weeks prior to the date of the event.
- budget for the cost for Chartwells Dining Services to obtain a one-day license from the City of Boston.

2. General Guidelines to serve Alcohol at an Event

a. Advertising at an event where alcohol will be served

Advertising must focus on the event, not the alcohol. Phrases such as "Beverages Available" and "Positive ID Required" are acceptable, while phrases such as "Wine & Cheese Party," "Free Beer and Wine," and "Beer Bash" are not. Advertising may not promote the availability of free alcohol, provide details of the type or brand of alcohol to be served, or include phrases such as "All You Can Drink." The Vice President of the Division sponsoring the event must approve of such advertising.

b. Site-specific locations

Unless otherwise approved as provided in this policy, alcohol may only be served in the following site-specific locations and only after the Vice President of the Division sponsoring the event has approved:

- Casella Gallery
- Watson Hall
- Multi-Purpose Room (Beatty 119)
- Board of Trustees Conference Room
• Douglas D. Schumann Library & Learning Commons (when closed to general student population)
• Ira Allen Forum (when closed to general student population)
• Center for Engineering, Innovation & Sciences Commons (when closed to general student population)
• Quad (note: open locations, such as the Quad, may require additional people to monitor alcohol consumption)
• Other locations: from time to time additional locations may be used with the approval of the Vice President for Finance. Alternative sites for alcohol service will be reviewed with the following factors: visibility of the event to the community and exposure to students; ability to control alcohol restricted location; and quiet enjoyment of adjoining spaces.

c. No sale of alcohol

At no event will the sale of alcohol be permitted.

Alcohol is not allowed at events occurring before 5 p.m. Exceptions may be approved by the Vice President for Finance on a case-by-case basis.

d. Public Safety

Depending on the size of the event (among other factors), the Public Safety office may be required to assist the Event Organizer to ensure a successful gathering. Public Safety may require an additional public safety officer detail for a four-hour minimum. The cost of the additional public safety officer will be paid by the department sponsoring the event. Public Safety reserves the right to halt the serving of alcohol at any event if they observe any violations of the alcohol policy.

e. Age Requirement

At any event at which alcohol is served, all guests, including students, MUST be 21 years of age or older to be served or to drink alcohol.

Alcohol may not be served to any individual who is under 21 years of age. Violation of this section may result in a fine of $2,000, one year imprisonment, or both under Massachusetts law (M.G.L. c138, §34).

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