



Policies, Procedures and Guidelines

Policy Title:

McMaster University Alcohol Policy

Approved by:

President

Date of Most Recent Approval:

December 10, 2013

Updated April 2023

Supersedes/Amends Policy Dated:

May 11, 1998

Date(s) of Original Approval:

May 11, 1998

Responsible Executive: **Vice-President (Operations & Finance)**

Policy-Specific Enquiries: [Vice-President \(Operations & Finance\)](#)

Disclaimer: If there is a discrepancy between this electronic policy and the approved copy held by the University Secretariat, the approved copy prevails.

Accessible Format Requests and General Policy Enquiries: policy@mcmaster.ca

Introduction

1. McMaster University is committed to the health, safety and well-being of students, employees, and guests. The intention of the McMaster University Alcohol Policy is to ensure the responsible management of alcoholic beverages being served on campus or during sanctioned university events. All McMaster community members are accountable for their own decisions regarding alcohol use; they are also responsible for knowing, understanding, and complying with applicable University policies (see related policies, below) and provincial laws related to alcohol.

Scope

1. This policy applies to all McMaster University students, staff, faculty, visitors, and contractors on all McMaster University owned, leased or controlled property. Further, all McMaster University sanctioned events and operations located on or off campus are subject to this policy.

Policy

Authority & Responsibilities of the Liquor License Holders on Campus

1. The service and consumption of alcoholic beverages is governed by the Liquor License Act of Ontario. The University holds a license issued by the Alcohol & Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) for the provision and service of alcohol in specific locations and under specific conditions. Specifically at McMaster University, there are three (3) Liquor License holders: The McMaster Student's Union (in TwelveEighty), the Graduate Students Association (in The Phoenix), and McMaster University. No alcohol is to be purchased, sold or served on campus except by the license holders in their respective premises, under their respective licenses. Selling and/or delivering alcohol on campus except as arranged by the license holders is strictly prohibited

2. The License Holders have the ultimate responsibility for the interpretation of and compliance with the Liquor License Act and the Occupiers' Liability Act. The President and Vice-Chancellor of the University have designated the Vice-President (Operations & Finance) as the Responsible Officer for the implementation of alcohol regulations under the McMaster University LLBO permit. The Vice-President (Operations & Finance) has delegated this responsibility to the Director, Hospitality Services who will establish administrative procedures and guidelines in regards to the sale of alcoholic beverages
3. In addition, the License Holders have the ultimate responsibility in their respective jurisdictions for the formulation and ongoing review of procedures to regulate:
 - a. a. the retailing, service, consumption, and possession of liquor at the University;
 - b. the renewal and extension of Liquor Licenses;
 - c. the review of all physical and financial aspects of the Licensed Premises; and
 - d. the service of alcohol, to ensure that all persons serving alcohol comply with all sections of the Liquor License Act
 - e. the monitoring of licensed events to prevent violations of the Liquor License Act and related McMaster University Campus Alcohol Policy regulations. Violations of the LLA or the Alcohol Policy should be reported to McMaster Security Services.
4. Hospitality Services on behalf of the University License Holder also oversees the following services:
 - a. receipt and approval of all applications for temporary permits and license extensions on campus. Hospitality Services has this authority on campus.
 - b. continuing information services for University staff regarding changes to the Liquor License Act, regulations or policy, changes to smart serve programs or serving practices, etc.;
 - c. advice in regard to the planning of special events where liquor is served;

- d. monitoring special events to ensure that policies are being followed;
- e. ordering and issuing of all liquor products for McMaster University with the exception of the areas under the jurisdiction of the other license holders.

Conduct

All serving and consumption of alcohol must conform to the provisions of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, the Liquour License Act of Ontario, and this policy.

1. Any violations of this policy by Liquor License Holders may result in the loss of the Liquor License.
2. In addition to any penalties applied under the Liquor License Act, Municipal By-Law and/or the Criminal Code, any violations of the University Alcohol Policy shall be reported to and reviewed by the appropriate department.
3. This policy is not intended to cover behaviour resulting from the use of alcohol,
 - a. Student behaviour (including student groups and clubs) resulting from the misuse of alcohol will be referred to McMaster Security Services and/or the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards and/or Housing and Conference Services
 - b. Employee behaviour resulting from the misuse of alcohol will be referred to McMaster Security Services and/or Human Resources
4. Any McMaster sanctioned student club planning university events on or off campus must do so in accordance with the Student Event Risk Management Policy (see related policies, below). Any events where alcohol will be available must be at licensed establishments.
5. Any McMaster employees planning university events off campus must do so at licensed establishments if alcohol is to be available. If university events are hosted

at a private venue (including private residences), the use of a licensed caterer/vendor is required.

6. No vehicle will be permitted on campus for the purpose of transporting individuals to a non-University sanctioned event where alcohol will be served. Buses may be used to transport individuals to university approved events where alcohol will be served in compliance with this policy.

Security

1. McMaster Security Services is able to provide policing assistance to any organization requesting such assistance on campus by assigning uniformed or non-uniformed officers. The individual or organization requesting this assistance will be responsible for the cost of this service. The request for assistance should be made no later than one week prior to the commencement of the event or function.
2. The Director of Security Services or designate shall have the authority to terminate any function on campus where the possession, consumption or sale of alcoholic beverages is being conducted in violation of this policy or the law and regulations of Ontario (e.g. Liquor License Act, Trespass to Property Act).

Related Procedures or Documents

Residence Code of Conduct --

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/StudentsAcademicStudies/StudentCode.pdf>

Student Code of Conduct --

http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/StudentsAcademicStudies/Residence_Code_of_Conduct.pdf

Recognition of Student Groups --

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/StudentsAcademicStudies/StudentGroupRecognition.pdf>

Student Event Risk Management Policy --

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/StudentsAcademicStudies/StudentEventRiskMgmt.pdf>

(policy under review October 2013)

Policy on the Use of University Facilities for Non-Academic Purpose --

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/General/Misc/pufnap.htm>

Advertising & Sponsorship Policy --

http://www.mcmaster.ca/opr/html/opr/mcmaster_brand/main/policies/advertising.html

Health and Safety Policy -- <http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/med/document/RMM-100->

Workplace-and-Environmental-Health-and-Safety-Policy-1-36.pdf

Liquor License Act of Ontario --

http://www.elaws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90l19_e.htm

Occupiers' Liability Act of Ontario --

http://www.elaws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90o02_e.htm

