

ACU Study Abroad Program Student Alcohol Policy

Abilene Christian University is committed to maintaining an alcohol free-campus. The ACU community cares deeply about the health and safety of our students and is committed to educating students about the physical and spiritual dangers of alcohol abuse. Furthermore, ACU realizes the heightened dangers in some social settings off campus and thus discourages students from attending establishments such as dance clubs, bars, and private parties where the principal purpose is known to be the sale and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages. The history of activities associated with these establishments (such as alcohol abuse, underage drinking, and drunkenness) is counter to our Christian values and lifestyle. The life choices and decisions that students make extend far beyond the college experience; thus, ACU is committed to challenging students to make decisions that ultimately glorify God throughout their lives.

In accordance with our educational mission, and for the well-being of our students and the ACU community, the University has established the following policies related to alcohol :

1. **The possession, consumption, or distribution of alcoholic beverages on campus (including all ACU residence halls and ACU affiliated apartments) is strictly prohibited.** Moreover, any student present where alcohol is found on campus (including but not limited to residence halls or apartment rooms, vehicles, or in personal belongings) may be subject to sanctions.
2. Alcohol is prohibited at all **University-sponsored events** (including off-campus events).
3. Any **officially recognized student club or organization** (regardless of legal drinking age of its members) is prohibited from hosting or participating in any formal group event (on or off-campus) that involves alcohol. Such groups include but are not limited to special interest groups, social clubs, athletic and intramural teams, and Spring Break Campaigns.
4. **Intoxicated students coming onto campus or to a University-sponsored event** will be sanctioned. For the purposes of ACU's student conduct policy and process, intoxication will be defined as any disruptive, destructive, hazardous, vulgar, or uncontrolled behavior during or following the consumption of alcoholic beverages.
5. **Alcohol-related disturbances** caused by ACU students who reside in local off-campus housing may result in disciplinary action.
6. **Alcohol paraphernalia** (such as glassware commonly used to serve alcoholic beverages; empty beer bottles or cans; posters, clothing, or signs promoting alcohol, etc.) is not permitted on campus.
7. All students must abide by **Texas law** related to the possession, consumption, and distribution of alcohol. Specifically, Texas law prohibits the following:
 - i. The purchase, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages by a person under 21 years of age (Texas Alcohol Beverage Code Sec. 106.02, 106.04-106.05, 106.071);
 - ii. Being intoxicated in public to the degree that one poses a danger to him/herself or to others (Texas Penal Code Sec. 49.02);

- iii. Furnishing alcohol beverages to a minor (Texas Alcohol Beverage Code Sec. 106.06);
- iv. Driving under the influence of alcohol (Texas Penal Code Sec. 49.04).

SANCTIONS:

Students who are found guilty of violating the University policy concerning the possession, consumption, or distribution of alcohol or related disturbances will be subject to a range and/or combination of the following sanctions: (1) fines ranging from \$100 to \$250; (2) completion of an alcohol education program, which involves a fee to students; (3) counseling; (4) disciplinary probation (may include dismissal from the study abroad program); (5) indefinite suspension; and (6) dismissal from the University.

Violations of under-age drinking, and serving or making alcohol available to those who are under the legal drinking age will result in strict sanctions (up to and including dismissal) and will be turned over to the appropriate legal authorities.

This information is intended to give students a range of expected outcomes or consequences regarding violations of the University's alcohol policy. Depending on the level of severity involved per violation, and at the discretion of the Vice President for Student Life or his/her designee, sanctions may vary from what is outlined above. Subject to privacy laws, parents or legal guardians may be contacted where deemed appropriate.