
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

A. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide regulations for the sale, service, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages on The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) facilities and on property leased, owned or controlled by UTRGV, including all annexes and off-campus property.

B. Persons Affected

This policy applies to faculty, staff, students and guests of UTRGV.

C. Policy

Except as otherwise provided in this policy, the sale, service, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in all UTRGV buildings and facilities and on all property owned or controlled by UTRGV.

1. Authorized Use of Alcoholic Beverages

- a. UTRGV-Sponsored Events. With the written approval of the President or designee (signature on the "Application for Use of Alcoholic Beverages on Campus" form), alcoholic beverages may be sold or served for consumption at UTRGV sponsored events. An event is sponsored by UTRGV if a budgeted office, department, or division of UTRGV is responsible for organizing the event, inviting attendees, and paying for expenses related to the event, including food and beverages. Approved meetings or events organized and presented by a registered faculty, staff, or student organization(s) are not events sponsored by UTRGV.
 - i. Under no circumstances may an organization publicly advertise an event using alcoholic beverages as an inducement to attend. Advertising of events may not include reference in any manner to the sale or availability of alcohol.
 - ii. Activities where alcohol is served must not have drinking as the sole or primary purpose of the event. "All you can drink" parties and any form of "drinking contest" are prohibited.
- b. Premises Licensed for Alcoholic Beverages. UTRGV, through its authorized contractor, maintains and operates the UTRGV Food Service. The UTRGV Food Service provider has a permit from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission to serve alcoholic beverages for consumption at all UTRGV campus locations. For additional information regarding the serving or storing of alcohol, please contact Campus Auxiliary Services at aux@utrgv.edu. The UTRGV Food Service also may apply for a temporary permit to serve and sell alcoholic beverages in compliance with state law and regulations for consumption at events in UTRGV facilities or on UTRGV property not covered by their permit when alcoholic beverages are permitted by this policy.

- i. Alcoholic beverages may not leave the site where they were purchased or dispensed except in bulk form to be dispensed at another approved location.
 - ii. Food and nonalcoholic beverages must be available and served at the same place as the alcoholic beverages, and featured as prominently as the alcoholic beverages.
 - c. Special Use Facilities. UTRGV premises that have been designated as Special Use Facilities in the *Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP)* may be reserved and used in accordance with the *Rules and Regulations* of The University of Texas System Board of Regents and UTRGV regulations.
 - i. Non-UTRGV individuals, corporations, or organizations that reserve and use a Special Use Facility for a permissible purpose and desire to serve food and beverages, including alcoholic beverages, must provide such food and beverages through the UTRGV Food Service.
 - ii. Recognized UTRGV departments may employ external caterers to serve food and alcoholic beverages on campus excluding areas noted in C.1.b above, if authorized by the Texas Alcoholic Beverages Commission.
 - iii. Recognized UTRGV departments may accept donated alcohol and serve it at any approved UTRGV-sponsored event; *however, the sale of donated alcohol is not permitted. Serving donated alcohol at fund-raisers, events that attendees pay to attend, or for which tickets are sold (i.e. any time money changes hands) constitutes the sale of alcohol and is not permitted.*
 - iv. Non-UTRGV individuals, organizations, or corporations that reserve and use a Special Use Facility may *not* serve donated alcohol under any circumstances.
 - d. UTRGV Residence Halls and Apartments. The possession or consumption of alcohol in rooms or apartments in which any of the assigned residents are under the legal drinking age is prohibited. The possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in UTRGV residence halls and apartments will be permitted only in the assigned residence hall room or apartment of a resident who is twenty-one (21) years of age or older under the following conditions:
 - i. Possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages must be limited to the resident(s) assigned to the residence hall room or apartment and invited guests, all of whom must be twenty-one (21) years of age or older. No more than four (4) invited guests may be present in a residence hall room or apartment at one time. Beer kegs, cases of beer or other alcoholic beverages, or similar bulk alcoholic beverages of any type are prohibited in the residence halls or apartments and are subject to confiscation. Violators are subject to disciplinary action.
 - ii. A resident assigned to the residence hall room or apartment must be present and shall be responsible for assuring that persons consuming alcoholic beverages are twenty-one (21) years of age or older, that no one becomes intoxicated, and that sounds made by persons present or by any device,

equipment, or instrument that generates sound do not disturb other persons in the residence hall or apartment building. All resident(s) assigned to the residence hall room or apartment is responsible for guests and their behavior, whether present or not.

2. State Laws and Regulations

State laws and the regulations of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission regarding the sale, purchase, service, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages must be observed and enforced at all times in all UTRGV buildings and facilities and on all property owned or controlled by the UTRGV.

3. Source of Funds for Purchase of Alcoholic Beverages

- a. With written approval from the President or his or her designee, only the following sources of funds may be used to purchase alcoholic beverages.
 - i. Gift funds, designated funds or auxiliary funds, with the exception of student service fees and funds under the control of intercollegiate athletics, may be used to purchase alcohol as permitted by state law.
 - ii. Funds collected as registration fees from participants in a conference or similar event may be used to purchase alcoholic beverages to be served as part of the event as allowed by law and UTRGV policy.
- b. No funds generated by contracts or grants may be used to purchase alcoholic beverages.

D. Responsibilities

UTRGV faculty members, staff, officers, administrators, and students are expected to make responsible decisions regarding the use of alcoholic beverages. It is the responsibility of UTRGV faculty members, staff, officers, administrators, students, and registered faculty, staff, and student organizations to be aware of and comply with state laws and regulations, UTRGV regulations and policies, and the regulations and policies of The University of Texas System related to the sale, purchase, service, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages. The failure to comply with such laws, regulations, or policies will subject the individual(s) or organization(s) or both to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include dismissal of an individual or revocation of the registered status of an organization.

E. Procedures

Not applicable.

F. Relevant Federal and/or State Statute(s), Board of Regents' Rule(s), UTS Policy(ies), and/or Coordinating Board Rule(s)

Not applicable.