

Jackson State University
ALCOHOL POLICY
JSU Policy No. OP-2008- ____

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I. GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

JSU is committed to excellence in all aspects of personal and academic life. We recognize that alcohol abuse and misuse is a significant impediment to achieving this excellence. Therefore, JSU permits only the responsible legal consumption of alcohol.

JSU complies with all federal, state, and local laws concerning alcohol. As a JSU student, employee, or other person on JSU property, you are responsible for acquainting yourself with the laws and JSU policies regarding alcohol. This Policy conforms with Bylaw 609 of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

II. PERTINENT LAWS RELATED TO ALCOHOL USE AND SALE

1. The sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited except in designated areas, at times and dates licensed by the Mississippi State Tax Commission through the Office of Alcohol Beverage Control.
2. Persons under 21 years of age cannot legally possess or consume alcoholic beverages, distilled spirits, or wine as such substances are defined by Mississippi law pursuant to Miss. Code 67-1-5. Providing alcoholic beverages to underage persons is also prohibited.
3. No person under legal drinking age or any obviously intoxicated person shall be furnished, served, or given an alcoholic beverage.
4. Alcohol cannot be consumed or carried in open containers on any street, public sidewalk, alley, or automobile.

5. Additional laws governing alcohol in Mississippi may be found in Title 67 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, as well as other places. The Office of Alcohol and Beverage Control also promulgates regulations which effect alcohol use.

III. UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

1. JSU prohibits the abusive or unlawful sale, manufacture, possession, distribution, and consumption of alcohol. Students, employees, and visitors who violate this policy may be subject to civil or criminal prosecution, or other disciplinary action.
2. JSU prohibits driving or operating machinery under the influence of alcohol.
3. Designated areas where alcohol may be served for special events with the approval of JSU's President shall include the H.T. Sampson Library – 4th Floor lobby, the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium, the Reddix Building, the School of Business lobby, the Student Center, the Walter Payton Wellness Center, and other forums as determined by JSU's President.
4. Alcohol may not be served unless non-alcoholic beverages (in addition to water) and food also are served. Food and non-alcoholic beverages must be available without cost if alcohol can be consumed at no cost.
5. When events last two hours or more, service of alcoholic beverages must stop one-half hour before the close of the event.
6. It is the responsibility of those in charge of an event, including any independent contractor or caterer, to assure that no one who is underage is served any alcoholic beverages. Any server must act in accordance with all pertinent laws, regulations, and policies regarding the serving of alcohol including the requirement that clear evidence of legal age be presented. Where there is any question as to whether a person is of legal age, no service will be provided. Any person serving alcohol must be at least 21 years of age. JSU will not be liable for any act or omission of any independent contractor or caterer.
7. Any independent contractor or caterer who may serve alcohol at any event in accordance with this Policy must agree to indemnify and hold harmless JSU, its employees, and agents from any liability which may arise from the acts or omissions of such independent contractor or caterer. All contracts must proceed in accordance with JSU's policies and procedures and be approved by the Office of General Counsel prior to being forwarded to the proper JSU official with signatory authority.
8. Alcohol may not be consumed or carried in open containers in the common or public areas (as defined by law or JSU policies) of any building or grounds, except as provided for below:
 - a. In individual lodging rooms or apartments owned by JSU, or other private areas, such as individual offices or lounges in which consumption is clearly not part of an official group activity or event.
 - b. For group activities or events where a liquor license or permit (if required) has been obtained and the building proctor or scheduling officer has approved the event. All events where alcohol may be present requires the prior consent of JSU's President.
9. Advertisements on campus for events where alcohol will be consumed must follow the posting policies required by the Office of Accountability and Coordination (OAC).

10. Alcoholic beverages may not be sold or consumed at any public athletic event on campus.
11. Event sponsors must obtain the approval of JSU's President prior to the service of alcoholic beverages at special events. Please contact JSU's OAC and Coordination for information regarding how to obtain approval.
12. The OAC will inform the JSU Office of Public Safety as well as JSU's Office of Risk Management of any scheduled special events where alcohol will be present as soon as possible. Such notice must be provided at least 5 days in advance of any special events involving alcohol.
13. Accurate information regarding the use and possible abuse of alcohol consumption will be made available by JSU to discourage underage and irresponsible drinking.
14. This Policy is not intended to limit or prevent the scope of any other current policy of JSU, including but not limited to current versions of the JSU Student Handbook, the JSU Staff Handbook, or the JSU Faculty and Personnel Policies and Procedures.

IV. PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

JSU reserves the right to bring any civil or criminal action available at its discretion against any person in violation of this policy. Furthermore, employees who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. Students in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, consistent with the Student Handbook, including suspension or expulsion. Visitors, independent contractors, or caterers who violate this policy may be subject to negative action through such means as JSU has available to enforce in its discretion.

ADOPTED:

Dr. Ronald Mason, President

Date