

Parent & Family Webinar: Talking to your *Wildcat* about Drugs and Alcohol

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Northwestern



Agenda



About the Dean of Students Office

Policy and Process Review

- Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Student Code of Conduct

Amnesty

Dillo Day!!

Framing the conversation

Resources



Dean of Students Office

- ❖ **Student Assistance and Support Services**
- ❖ **Accessible NU**
- ❖ **Off-campus Life**
- ❖ **Emergency Administrator On-Call**
- ❖ **Office of Community Standards**
- ❖ **Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness**
- ❖ **[Report a Concern](#)**



Alcohol

- ❖ **In IL and on campus, must be 21 or older to use or possess alcohol**
- ❖ **This includes all campus buildings**
- ❖ **Some residence halls prohibit alcohol regardless of age (all sororities and some fraternities, by national policy)**
- ❖ **Violation to manufacture or sell alcohol regardless of age**
- ❖ **Violation to provide alcohol to a person under the age of 21**
- ❖ **Registered student orgs, fraternities and sororities may host events with alcohol (abide by all above). Usually at off-campus venues.**



Alcohol-continued

- ❖ **Majority of students self-identify as abstainers or nondrinkers when they arrive**
- ❖ **That shifts throughout their undergraduate career**
- ❖ **Dangerous acts: shots, pre-gaming and chugging**
- ❖ **Negative consequences: physical and mental health concerns, damaged friendships, declining academic performance.**



Drugs

- ❖ **Cannabis (marijuana) prohibited on campus**
 - ❖ **Regardless of IL or other states' laws**
 - ❖ **Possession, use, cultivation, selling or distribution is prohibited**
 - ❖ **Includes paraphernalia**
 - ❖ **Result in conduct action**

- ❖ **Other drugs and paraphernalia**
 - ❖ **Regardless of IL or other state law**
 - ❖ **Possession, use, manufacture, selling or distribution is prohibited**
 - ❖ **Misuse of prescription drugs is prohibited**
 - ❖ **Result in conduct action, including suspension or expulsion**



Alcohol & Drugs—Conduct Action

- ❖ **First time possession of small quantities of alcohol**
 - ❖ **May result in warning or conduct action, including probation and wellness intervention**

- ❖ **First time possession or use of cannabis or large amounts of alcohol**
 - ❖ **Result in conduct action, including probation and wellness intervention**

- ❖ **First time possession, use or distribution of illegal/hard drugs**
 - ❖ **Result in conduct action, including suspension or expulsion**
 - ❖ **Likely also result in arrest**



Amnesty

- ❖ Encourages students to get help
- ❖ No conduct!! No record!!
- ❖ *Call, Stay, Cooperate*
- ❖ Wellness meeting and intervention
- ❖ Thank you letters
- ❖ Title IX Amnesty



Dillo Day

- ❖ **Student run musical festival (largest in the country!)**
- ❖ **Afternoon and evening of May 16**
- ❖ **On the lake-fill by Norris and Cohen Lawn on campus**
- ❖ **Student parties off-campus in morning**
- ❖ **Growing police and staff presence**
- ❖ **No need to drink to enjoy the day**
- ❖ **Plan ahead, reach out for help**
- ❖ **BORGS!!**

Framing the conversation

- ❖ **Allow for an open, honest discussion.** The sooner the better.
- ❖ **Ask them what they know and let them ask questions.**
- ❖ **Do they know the rules?**
- ❖ **Do they know about amnesty?**
- ❖ **Challenge “Nothing else to do” or “Everyone drinks”.**
- ❖ **If they or a friend needed help, would they know where to go?**
- ❖ **Brain Science:** Explain that drugs and alcohol affect teenage brains differently than adult brains and can permanently damage developing brain structures, impairing learning and memory more significantly than in adults.
- ❖ **Addiction:** Heavy users during post-adolescence experience significantly higher rates of addiction later in life.
- ❖ **Establish limits:** Help them create a plan on how to respond when friends are drinking or using drugs around them or pressuring them to join.
- ❖ **Be responsible:** If they’re going to drink, help them think through how to do so safely and responsibly.





Helpful Links

- ❖ [Student Handbook](#)
- ❖ [Student Assistance and Support Services](#)
- ❖ [Accessible NU](#)
- ❖ [Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness](#)
- ❖ [Amnesty](#)
- ❖ [Recovery](#)
- ❖ [Report a Concern](#)

Questions?



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Thank you!!



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