

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

BOARD POLICY NO. 4905

Alcohol Policy

Date Adopted: 1981

Date Revised: 1998; 21 May 2009

Date Reviewed: 15 December 2015

Reference: College of Micronesia-FSM, General Catalog

A. Policy Statement

The College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and productive environment. Students are **strictly prohibited** from possessing, consuming, distributing, selling, or being under the influence of **alcohol** on COM-FSM campuses, at COM-FSM-approved or sponsored events, or in buildings, vehicles, or vessels used by COM-FSM for educational, residential, or recreational purposes.

B. Definitions

The following definitions clarify key terms used in this policy to ensure consistent understanding and enforcement.

1. **Alcoholic Beverages.** Any beverage containing ethanol (ethyl alcohol), including but not limited to beer, wine, distilled spirits, and other fermented or distilled products intended for consumption.
2. **Under the Influence.** A condition in which an individual's physical, mental, or behavioral faculties are impaired as a result of consuming any beverage containing ethanol (ethyl alcohol), including but not limited to beer, wine, distilled spirits, and other fermented or distilled products intended for consumption.
3. **Disciplinary Committee.** The body responsible for reviewing violations and imposing sanctions.
4. **Suspension.** Temporary removal of a student from all COM-FSM activities and campuses for a specified period.
5. **Probation.** A formal period of monitoring where a student must comply with restrictions set by the Disciplinary Committee.

C. Disciplinary Committee Composition

Each campus maintains its own Disciplinary Committee to handle violations occurring on that campus.

The committee is responsible for reviewing alleged violations of the Alcohol Policy, determining appropriate sanctions, and ensuring fair and consistent application of disciplinary actions within the context of each campus.

To carry out these responsibilities effectively, each campus has a Disciplinary Committee with the following composition:

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Role	National Campus	CTEC	State Campuses
Chair	Director of Student Life	Coordinator of Student Life	Student Services Coordinator
Faculty Representative	One faculty member appointed by the Dean of Academic Program	One faculty member appointed by CTEC Dean or Instructional Coordinator	One faculty member appointed by Campus Dean or Instructional Coordinator
Student Representative	One student independently appointed by the VPEMSS, not under the chair	One student independently appointed by the CTEC Dean, not under the chair	One student independently appointed by the Campus Dean, not under the chair

D. Violations and Penalties

- First Offense.** For a first violation, the student will face disciplinary measures designed to correct behavior while promoting education on the risks associated with alcohol use.
 - Written reprimand.
 - Work detail of 2-6 hours, completed within 1 month.
 - Completion of 2–10 hours of alcohol education or counseling within three months.
 - Additional restrictions as deemed necessary by the Disciplinary Committee.
- Second Offense.** A second violation results in formal probation and additional educational requirements, emphasizing the seriousness of repeated offenses.
 - Probation of up to 1 year, including:
 - Ineligibility to hold student office; resignation required if currently holding office.
 - Residential students must remain on campus from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am unless exempted.
 - Notice of probation placed in permanent record; parents notified in compliance with FERPA.
 - Warning that further violations may result in suspension.
 - Completion of 10–20 hours of alcohol education or counseling within three months.
 - Additional restrictions as necessary.
- Third Offense (within the same school year).** A third violation may result in suspension, along with more extensive education and counseling requirements.
 - Disciplinary suspension of up to 1 year at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee. The power to impose suspension rests with the President of COM-FSM, based on recommendations from the campus Disciplinary Committee.
 - Completion of 20–30 hours of alcohol education or counseling within three months.
 - Other measures short of suspension may be applied if sufficient to enforce policy goals.

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4. **More than Three Offenses.** Any student committing more than three violations in a school year will face immediate suspension, subject to the President's approval based on the Disciplinary Committee's recommendation.

E. Failure to Comply

Failure to complete assigned disciplinary actions will result in additional academic and administrative consequences.

1. Non-compliance will result in withholding of grades and/or transcripts until proof of compliance is provided.
2. Denial of registration for subsequent classes.
3. Possible impact on financial aid eligibility.

F. Special Circumstances

Certain situations require additional considerations when enforcing this policy.

1. **Violence.** Violations involving violence will be disciplined under the Prohibition of Violence Policy.
2. **Involvement of Minors.** Violations involving a minor will incur enhanced sanctions and may be referred to law enforcement authorities.

G. Enforcement

Each campus' Disciplinary Committee is responsible for enforcing the Alcohol Policy and imposing disciplinary actions, except for suspensions which require Presidential approval.

1. Compliance with this policy is mandatory; violations will result in strict disciplinary actions.
2. Disciplinary actions such as written reprimands, probation, work detail, and counseling/education are determined and enforced by the campus Disciplinary Committee.
3. **Suspensions** are recommended by the campus Disciplinary Committee but **require approval by the President of COM-FSM** before they are imposed.
4. The Disciplinary Committee monitors compliance with assigned sanctions and reports completion to the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Services or the Campus Dean/Director.

~~COM-FSM students are not permitted to possess, distribute, consume, sell, or purchase alcohol nor are they permitted to be under the influence of alcohol on COM-FSM Campuses, at COM-FSM approved or sponsored events on COM-FSM properties or in buildings, vehicles, or boats used by COM-FSM for its educational or recreation programs.~~

~~Violations:~~

~~A. First Offense~~

- ~~1. A written reprimand with not less than two (2) hours and not more than six (6) hours of work detail to be completed within one month.~~
- ~~2. Not less than two (2) hours and not more than ten (10) hours of drug/alcohol education/counseling; this must be completed within three (3) months of the decision by the disciplinary committee.~~
- ~~3. Any other restrictions reasonably necessary to enforce the goals implicit in this policy.~~

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- B. ~~Second Offense. A second violation of the alcohol policy is one that occurs within the same semester as the first offense. Penalties will range up to the following:~~
- ~~1. Written notice of probation for up to one year. The restrictions for probation will be determined by the Disciplinary Committee and can involve the following restrictions:~~
 - ~~a. The student cannot hold any student office in any association or club during the period of probation, and must resign such an office upon a finding by the Disciplinary Committee.~~
 - ~~b. If the student boards at COM FSM, the student must remain on campus between the hours of 6:00 pm and 6:00 am, unless exempted by a counselor or an administrator.~~
 - ~~c. A notice of probation is placed in the student's permanent academic record.~~
 - ~~d. Student's parents will be notified only when in compliance with FERPA regulations.~~
 - ~~e. A notice that any further violations of college policy will result in even more harsh sanctions, including suspension.~~
 - ~~2. Referral for not less than ten (10) hours and not more than twenty (20) hours of drug/alcohol education/counseling, which must be completed within three months of the decision by the Disciplinary Committee.~~
 - ~~3. Any other restrictions reasonably necessary to enforce the goals implicit in this policy.~~
- C. ~~Third Offense. A third violation of the alcohol policy is one that occurs within the same school year of the previous offenses. Penalties will range up to the following:~~
- ~~1. Disciplinary suspension for up to one (1) year. Suspension will be initiated at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee.~~
 - ~~2. Referral for not less than twenty (20) hours and not more than thirty (30) hours of drug/alcohol education/counseling, which must be completed prior to reinstatement after suspension, or completed within three (3) months of the decision by the Disciplinary Committee, if the penalty prescribed is less than suspension. The college is not responsible to provide the drug/alcohol education/counseling while the student is suspended. Documentation of the drug/alcohol education/counseling must be provided by the student.~~
 - ~~3. Any measure short of disciplinary suspension if, in the view of the Disciplinary Committee, such measures will reasonably enforce the goals of the alcohol policy.~~
- D. ~~More than three offenses. In the event any student commits and is to be disciplined for more than three (3) offenses during a school year, the Disciplinary Committee will impose immediate suspension.~~
- E. ~~Failure to Comply with Assigned Disciplinary Actions. Non-compliance by the student of any of the above assigned disciplinary actions will result in the withholding of grades and/or transcripts until written notice of compliance has been filed with the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Services or the Campus Dean/Director, who will be responsible to provide the appropriate lists to the Office of Admissions, Records and Retention. The withholding of grades can interfere with the ability of the student to obtain future financial aid for his/her schooling. Failure to complete counseling and other requirements inside the given time constraints under any discipline imposed may result in the denial of the student to register for continued classes.~~

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- F. ~~Violations of the Alcohol Policy Involving Violence. If any violation of the alcohol policy involves violence, the discipline imposed and penalties prescribed will be those found under the Prohibition of Violence Policy.~~
- G. ~~Violations of the Alcohol Policy Involving a Minor. If any violation of the alcohol policy involves a minor, the Disciplinary Committee will also weigh this factor in considering the appropriate discipline for the offense. Referral of the matter to local law enforcement authorizes will also be made, if appropriate.~~