

COM-FSM Board Approved Alcohol Policy 052109

Introduction:

The College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) Board of Regents adopted a policy in 1981 that was amended in 1998 prohibiting the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of alcohol and illicit drugs on college campus. This policy remains in force and has been expanded for clarification. COM-FSM students are not permitted to be under the influence of, possess, distribute, purchase or sell alcohol or illicit drugs on the COM-FSM campuses, at COM-FSM approved or sponsored events, on COM-FSM property or in the buildings, vehicles or boats used by COM-FSM for its educational or recreational programs.

1.0 Alcohol Policy:

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.

This policy will be evaluated every three (3) years.

Any violation of the alcohol policy will result in a referral to the Disciplinary Committee. Penalties for violations will range as described below:

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.

B. Second Offense: A second violation of the alcohol policy in 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. (See Section 5 of the procedures.)
 - 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 suspension. Documentation of the drug/alcohol education/counseling must be provided by the student upon reinstatement.
 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 Student Services or the Campus Director, who will be responsible to provide the appropriate lists to the Office of Admissions and Records. 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.

- 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 authorities will also be made, if appropriate.

2.0 Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to define the college's expectations regarding the use of alcohol on campus or at COM-FSM sponsored events.

3.0 Application:

This policy applies to all students attending COM-FSM.

4.0 Responsibility:

The Vice President for Student Services or his/her designee is responsible for enforcing this policy.

The Director of Student Life at the National Campus and the Student Services Coordinators at the State Campuses will monitor reporting of violations of this policy and follow-up reporting from counseling, security, and dorm managers.

5.0 Procedures:

1. Student will be reported to the Director of Student Life or Student Services Coordinator (SC) at the state campuses for confirmation of violation and referral to the disciplinary committee.
 - A Disciplinary Committee of five (5) members (1 counselor, 1 security office, and 3 others) shall be appointed by the Vice President for Student Services at the National Campus and the Director at the state campuses. Members shall serve for a period of one academic year.
2. The Chair of the Disciplinary Committee shall forward the details of the disciplinary action to the Director of Student Life or Student Services Coordinator at the State Campuses who will forward the information on community service work to the dorm manager for dorm students or security office for off-campus students at National Campus, and to the security office at the state campuses. The Director of Student Life or Student Services Coordinator shall also provide details for counseling to the counseling office at the respective campus.

3. The person supervising the community service work or counseling shall report back to the Director of Student Life or Student Services Coordinator on the student's compliance or non-compliance with the disciplinary action.
4. In the case where disciplinary action results in suspension, the student may appeal this decision to the Student Conduct Board, specifically for clemency purposes. See Student Conduct Procedure and Due Process (pgs. 32-33 of 2007-2009 catalog).
5. While the student is going through the appeal process, he or she shall be referred by the Disciplinary Committee to Counseling Center for counseling assistance. On a case by case basis, the Disciplinary Committee shall decide on the number of counseling hours/days. Parents will be notified when:
 - a. Student poses a threat to safety of self or other students/faculty/staff/visitors (FERPA)
 - b. Student is under the legal age of drinking. Legal age is 21 years. (FERPA)
 - c. Student is arrested for alcohol related crime
 - d. Student is undergoing disciplinary actions as a result of alcohol related violations
6. While the student is going through the appeal process, any further violation of the alcohol policy will result in immediate suspension from the College.
7. The Director of Student Life at the National Campus and the Student Services Coordinator at the state campuses shall submit a monthly report on the implementation of this policy.