

Open letter to all university students regarding drugs and alcohol

Dear University of St. Thomas Student:

As you may know, the mission of the University of St. Thomas is as follows:

Inspired by Catholic intellectual tradition, the University of St. Thomas educates students to be morally responsible leaders who think critically, act wisely, and work skillfully to advance the common good.

Drug and alcohol use and abuse can interfere with a student's ability to pursue an education and the university's ability to carry out its mission. Alcohol and drug abuse affects the health, safety, and well-being of all students.

Policies related to alcohol and other drugs at the University of St. Thomas are guided by an overarching philosophy of respect for one's own well-being, respect for others and respect for the State of Minnesota laws and the university's code of conduct. St. Thomas is committed to the well-being of all individuals within the community.

In accordance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, the University of St. Thomas is informing you about the university's policies on drugs and alcohol as well as the health risks associated with the illicit use or abuse of drugs and alcohol.

The University of St. Thomas's policies for students pertaining to alcohol and drugs is available in the code of conduct on the [policies website](#).

The university clearly prohibits the manufacturing, sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages except as expressly permitted by state law and university rules or policies. In addition, students are prohibited from using drugs, possessing drugs or drug paraphernalia and from selling or otherwise distributing drugs. For complete information please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Students who violate any of these university policies and/or local, state or federal laws concerning alcohol or drugs will be referred to the [university judicial system](#). If found in violation, students may receive significant sanctions. The sanctions may include a warning, formal reprimand, conduct probation, loss of privileges, fines, community service, alcohol or drug educational sanctions, parent notification (if under 21) , loss of residential status, and suspension or expulsion from the university.

The State of Minnesota has very strict penalties for the violation of laws pertaining to alcohol or drugs. Information about Minnesota controlled substance crimes and federal drug trafficking penalties can be found at the following websites:

- <http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/152/>
- <http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/169A/>
- <http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/340A/>

- <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/agency/penalties.htm>

The University of St. Thomas is committed to assisting students with alcohol and drug abuse problems. The University of St. Thomas employs licensed psychologists, psychiatrists, medical doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses and a health educator. Students seeking professional help for a drug- and/or alcohol-abuse problem can contact:

- Student Health Services: <http://www.stthomas.edu/studenthealth/>
- Personal Counseling and Testing: <http://www.stthomas.edu/personalcounseling/>
- Wellness Center: <http://www.stthomas.edu/wellness>

The Wellness Center website has specific information on drug and alcohol programs and education available on campus. Specific programs include E-Chug and the Alcohol Responsibility Course. The site also lists resources for persons in recovery.

In addition, information about the health risks of drug use and abuse can be accessed through the following website:

- <http://www.nida.nih.gov>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding alcohol or drug regulations or health risks please contact the Dean of Students Office at 651-962-6050 or deanstudents@stthomas.edu.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Lange
Dean of Students