



Oak Lane Community Alcohol Beverage Use – Plain English Policies: A Companion to the *Hokie Handbook*

To assist chapter and individual members in the safe and appropriate usage of alcohol, the information below has been abridged from the *Hokie Handbook* (www.hokiehandbook.vt.edu).

Individuals

Chapter members and their guests of legal drinking age may possess and consume alcohol within private student rooms of Oak Lane chapter housesⁱ. Chapter members are responsible for their behavior and the behavior of their guests.

Fraternity members and their guests of legal drinking age may possess and consume alcohol within common spacesⁱⁱ. Chapters may allow or ban the consumption and possession of alcohol by members and their guests of legal drinking age in their common space as they conduct on-going risk assessments and in consultation with their inter/national office.

Chapter members and their guests are responsible for knowing and/or seeking clarification on all applicable policies and procedures. Chapter members are responsible for communicating such policies to their guests.

A **guest** is any person who is not an active member or new member/pledge of the chapter. Alumni, unaffiliated friends, family, and any auxiliary organizations are guests.

Possession and consumption of alcohol in areas outside of the Oak Lane chapter house is only allowable from Fraternity & Sorority Life, Housing & Residence Life, and Virginia Tech Police Department. Approval can be sought through event registration.

Fraternity and Sorority Chapters

Chapters share the responsibility for governing and regulating the use of alcohol within and around their Oak Lane chapter houses in compliance with their lease agreement and all applicable policies/procedures.

Chapters share responsibility with Fraternity & Sorority Life and the governing councils for the education of members in the fraternity and sorority community on the responsible usage of alcohol and University policies.

Chapters have the authority to designate and regulate the use of alcohol by members and guests of legal drinking age throughout student and common spaces of the house.

Events

All events occurring within or around Oak Lane chapter houses, planned or unplanned, chapter sponsored or not, must adhere to all Commonwealth of Virginia laws, local, town, and county regulations, the policies of the *Hokie Handbook*, and governing council policies.

Events with alcohol must be registered with Fraternity and Sorority Life by completing the [Oak Lane Alcohol Event Registration Form](#).ⁱⁱⁱ Following submission, a Residential Learning Coordinator for Fraternity and Sorority Housing will meet with chapter leadership to offer guidance and support for planning a safe and well-maintained. Approval for the event will take place in consultation with the Virginia Tech Police Department.

If policies are violated during the event, the chapter and members share the responsibility of confronting these incidents immediately and seeking the assistance of Housing and Residence Life staff and/or the Virginia Tech Police Department. By not confronting incidents of policy violations the chapter assumes responsibility for the actions of individual members and guests.

Disclosing incidents of violations to Fraternity and Sorority Life will allow the chapter to receive proper guidance on managing the issue and preventing future occurrences.

University staff, including the Virginia Tech Police Department, has access to Oak Lane chapter houses for health and safety, maintenance, and cleaning. University officials will make an effort to maximize student privacy but will enter the chapter houses when necessary.

The Plain English Policies stated above have been provided to assist chapters and individual members as they engage socially with each other. For a complete list of all policies applicable to Virginia Tech students and their guests, please refer to www.hokiehandbook.vt.edu. The Fraternity and Sorority Life office is available to assist chapters and individual members in the safe and responsible consumption of alcohol.

ⁱ Per standards and policies of the Panhellenic Council (PHC) and the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC), alcohol may not be consumed in sorority houses, to include, private student rooms.

ⁱⁱ Per Housing and Residence Life policies, the common space is defined, but not limited to: the foyer, great room, chapter room, kitchen, guest bathrooms, hallways, stairways, auxiliary rooms, and storage rooms (i.e., everything except student rooms and suite bathrooms).

ⁱⁱⁱ The registration process is only for events involving the use of alcohol. Registering the events allows Fraternity and Sorority Life to properly advise chapter leadership in managing a safe event and adhering to their inter/national policies for risk management. The registration process should be initiated with Fraternity and Sorority Life at least 10 days prior to the event (some events may require an earlier submission of the form).