

**University of Alberta alcohol event guidelines
(excluding external groups)
REGISTERED STUDENT GROUPS**

To ensure compliance with its license and maintain a safe, comfortable, and secure campus environment, the University of Alberta is responsible for managing all aspects of liquor service, including approval of special events with alcohol organized by registered student groups. The university's requirements follow the best-practice guidelines set out by the Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission for special events, as well as some rules specific to our institution.

Registered student groups planning a private indoor event for up to 299 people should review the event requirements below and then complete the [BearsDen event application](#). Please note that there may be additional requirements for approval based on the nature of the event. The Student Event Risk Management Coordinator in the Office of the Dean of Students will bring any additional requirements to the organizer's attention after reviewing the event details.

If your event will be [open and/or advertised to the public](#), held [outdoors](#), or if you expect [300+ people](#), please familiarize yourself with the additional requirements for your event before completing the application.

Event organizers must ensure that non-alcoholic beverages and food are available throughout the event. Non-alcoholic beverages should be provided free of charge to designated drivers. Event planners should be ready to provide patrons with information about [designated driver programs](#) and [local transit](#) options from the event venue.

If your group is not affiliated with the University of Alberta, please review the information available online for [external groups](#).

Restricted activities

High risk activities that promote over-consumption, such as drinking games and itineraries including more than one bar (i.e. bar-hopping or pub crawls), are not allowed at University of Alberta events.

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Timeline

To ensure timely processing and avoid late fees, student groups must complete their [BearsDen event application](#) at least 15 full business days prior to the event. Late applications may not be processed in time.

Note: If your event will be held [outdoors](#), have [more than 300 attendees](#), or be [open and/or advertised to the public](#) there may be additional event requirements and you should submit your application at least three to four months before your event.

General event information

The following details are collected for **all events** organized by University of Alberta groups, both on and off campus.

Event details

Event organizers need to provide event information including event name, date, type, start and end times, bar service start and end times, expected attendance, and location.

Attendance

Maximum number of people expected to attend must not exceed the occupant load determined under fire code regulations for the event location. Event organizers will be sent an occupant load certificate upon approval for on campus events and be asked to post it with the liquor license. For off-campus events, event organizers should confirm occupant load information with the event venue.

Food service & non-alcoholic beverages

Event organizers must list at least two types of substantial food (eg. flat bread & hummus, pizza, sandwiches, etc) that will be available during the event. Substantial food does NOT include snack items such as chips, peanuts, etc.

Food service is required by the terms of the University of Alberta's liquor license in all on-campus venues, except the two theatres. Providing food at an event may also help to slow down alcohol consumption and intoxication. Therefore, food must be available throughout the event in sufficient quantity to meet the demands of all attendees.

Non-alcoholic beverages must also be available to attendees. Complimentary non-alcoholic beverages should be provided to attendees who identify themselves as designated drivers.

Event organizer information

Event organizers must identify two individuals who will be present and responsible for the event, and provide the contact information for these individuals. These individuals are referred to as the primary and secondary event organizers.

The primary event organizer (PEO) should be the person who completes the event approval application. The secondary event organizer (SEO) is the alternate contact at the event in case the PEO is not available. If for any reason the event is without a PEO or SEO simultaneously, the event must shut down immediately.

The PEO and SEO must:

- have valid [Event Organizer training](#)
- be on site for the duration of the event.
- provide responsible supervision
- step in quickly to prevent problems between guests and ask guests to leave the event if they are causing problems
- ensure the event complies with all liquor laws and policies
- report suspected illegal activities to the police
- allow police, AGLC Inspectors, and/or university officials into the event to perform inspections (where applicable)

The PEO and SEO must NOT:

- drink or serve alcohol
- permit intoxicated individuals to drink liquor or have liquor in their possession
- permit minors to drink liquor or have liquor in their possession
- permit illegal activities at the event

Valid ProServe training is also required for student event organizers and volunteer servers when the student group will be responsible for the alcohol service at the event. See the requirements for [On-campus indoor events at unstaffed location \(under Class C license\) or Special Event License](#) for more information.

On-campus indoor event at licensed location (under Class B license)

For on-campus events at a licensed location such as Timms Centre or the Myer Horowitz Theatre, the primary event organizer must apply for permission to hold an alcohol event and CANNOT drink alcohol at the event. You can view a [full list of these venues online](#).

Unauthorized alcohol must not be allowed into the event. In the event that a patron has become intoxicated, the PEO and/or the SEO (and/or servers acting as representatives), must take significant, positive steps to ensure that the inebriated individual does not cause harm to themselves or to others.

Off-campus event at licensed location

For off-campus events at a licensed location such as a pub or hotel, the primary event organizer must apply for permission to hold an alcohol event off campus and CANNOT drink alcohol at the event.

Unauthorized alcohol must not be allowed into the event. In the event that a patron has become intoxicated, the PEO and/or the SEO (and/or servers acting as representatives), must take significant, positive steps to ensure that the inebriated individual does not cause harm to themselves or to others.

On-campus indoor event at unstaffed location (under Class C license) or Special Event License

The following details are collected for all events held on campus in Class C licensed spaces or for any event held under a Special Event License, whether on or off campus. You can view a [full list of Class C or unlicensed campus event spaces online](#).

Alcohol purchasing

For a permitted event held under the University of Alberta's liquor license, alcohol must be ordered from [Classic Fare Catering](#) or [Room at the Top \(RATT\)](#). We recommend that you order your alcohol before you submit your permit application to ensure that the campus outlet has product available. Groups may be required to show the campus provider the completed permit (sent to event organizer once event is approved) or in order to pick up their alcohol order. The alcohol order must be calculated by a maximum of one drink per hour per guest, multiplied by the number of hours that drinks are being served.

The proof of purchase (itemized receipt for alcohol) must be present at the event.

Event location

Groups must provide the building name, room number, and room name (if applicable) for events on campus. Groups must also list any furniture/obstacles they will be adding to the event location in order to determine whether a new occupant load certificate needs to be issued for the event.

Groups organizing events off campus must provide the event location name and address. Event organizers should confirm occupant load information with the event venue based on the planned set up.

Service time

Alcohol service may not start before 10:00am. Service must end one hour before event end time to allow for consumption. All alcohol must be removed from guests and the premises after one hour of consumption time, even if the event goes longer.

Please note that service may not end later than 2:00 AM and may not last more than 8 consecutive hours. If alcohol tickets are used at an event, ticket sales must end one half-hour before the bar closes.

Server requirements

Groups must provide the name of the catering company providing bar staff or list the names of designated servers. Student groups may designate students who have valid ProServe training. Servers are not permitted to consume alcohol at any time prior to or during the event, and may NOT be the PEO or SEO. Alcohol may NOT be self-served.

Servers must ask for and check the identification of anyone who looks under the age of 25. Servers must refuse to serve anyone who is already intoxicated. In the event that a patron has become intoxicated, servers must take significant, positive steps to ensure that the inebriated individual does not cause harm to themselves or to others.

Alcohol service regulations

Alcohol cannot be served to anyone under the age of 18 years, be served past the point of intoxication, or taken outside the licensed area. Unauthorized alcohol cannot be brought into the event. Alcohol can only be provided and consumed during the hours indicated on the permit or Special Event License. Hours of alcohol service cannot be extended if the event does not start at the time requested on the application. Alcohol must only be served by designated servers; it cannot be served by patrons to themselves or other guests.

Patrons must be allowed one hour after the last drink has been served for consumption before the event officially shuts down. The price of liquor is set at the discretion of the sponsoring group; however, promotion of over-consumption of alcohol through low prices, free liquor specials, multiple drink specials, pour size specials or fixed cost promotions is not permitted.

ProServe training

ProServe Training is a course designed by the Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission to promote responsible liquor service training. The information in ProServe provides workers with training on the social responsibilities related to serving or selling liquor. ProServe is valid for 5 years and can be taken online for a fee of \$26.50 by staff and students who will be serving alcohol under the university's Class C license or a Special Event License.

ProServe is required for students who will be acting as event organizers, serving alcohol to event patrons, or acting as security monitors when the student group is responsible for alcohol service. (See the requirements for [On-campus indoor events at unstaffed location \(under Class C license\) or Special Event License](#) for more information.) ProServe training can be purchased and completed online at <https://smartprograms.aglc.ca/>. The individual or student group will be responsible for the fee.

Advertising

Please note that campus alcohol events held under our Class C license must be advertised only to "University of Alberta staff, students, alumni and their invited guests." This includes anything advertised on a website, by word of mouth, etc. Advertising for events held under a Private Special Event License must clearly say that the event is for members and invited guests only.

None of the advertising costs may be paid, either directly or indirectly, by a liquor supplier or liquor agency.

Insurance

Please note that for events of 200 or more people your group will most likely require general liability and host liquor liability insurance through an independent insurance broker of your choosing, or <https://www.palcanada.com>.

Security

Security requirements are based on the nature of your event and the number of people in attendance. Student groups will be asked to list the names of students with valid ProServe training who will act as dedicated security monitors. Security monitors must be easily identifiable (eg. wearing t-shirts, arm bands, or lanyards).

Groups who prefer to hire professional security to monitor their event may do so, but must provide the Student Event Risk Management coordinator with written proof of the nature and number of security personnel engaged for review prior to signing an agreement or contract.

1-299 attendees

Student groups must dedicate at least one roaming monitor per 50 attendees, plus two monitors per entrance/exit security who must remain stationary. The Primary Event Organizer and Secondary Event Organizer may not act as the required monitors.

300+ attendees

At the discretion of the Director of [University of Alberta Protective Services \(UAPS\)](#), any reasonable number of UAPS Special Constables may be required based on the size and nature of the event, history of past events, and the location. The Student Event Risk Management Coordinator will be in touch to discuss security requirements after reviewing your application.

Note: Events with 400 or more attendees are considered high risk. Additional [insurance may be required](#). Events of this size held under a Private Special Event License require approval from the AGLC. Insurance & Risk Assessment will need to work with you to submit a proposal to the AGLC for review.

Outdoor events

The Primary Event Organizer must have written approval from the University of Alberta before obtaining a Special Event License (SEL) to hold an outdoor event on campus.

To have an outdoor event approved, registered student groups must complete the [BearsDen event application](#) and a written proposal must be submitted to the Student Event Risk Management Coordinator at least three months in advance of the event. The written proposal must include:

- A site plan.
- Permission in writing from Building and Grounds Services and/or the booking office in charge of the area.
- Permission/authorization from the deans of the faculties, chairs of the departments, and/or Residence Coordinators of any residences that may be inconvenienced by noise or proximity to the event.
- Evidence that the area will be physically separated (minimum 4' high barrier) from any public areas and will be adequately supervised.
- Evidence that any music will be directed away from buildings that are holding classes, and will be at an acceptable volume.
- Evidence that adequate toilet facilities are in the direct area or that portable toilets will be provided at a ratio of one for every 100 people at the event.
- Evidence that written notices have been delivered to the areas that could be inconvenienced by any noise.

Public events

Special events that are open and/or advertised to the general public require approval on a case-by-case basis from the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission because the University of Alberta's alcohol license is for private events only. A Public Special Event License application needs to be submitted to the AGLC and can take 8-12 weeks to process.

To have a public event approved, student groups must complete the [BearsDen event application](#) and a written proposal must be submitted to the Student Event Risk Management Coordinator at least four months in advance of the event. The written proposal must include:

- A detailed site plan.
- Time, date, location, purpose of event.
- List of planned activities & entertainment.
- Food & beverages details.
- Emergency plan.
- Security details.
- Proof of host liquor liability coverage.

Once your application is approved by the University of Alberta, you must work with Insurance & Risk Assessment to complete an application for a [Public Special Event License](#) and submit it to the AGLC for approval, at least three months before the event.

Fees

There is a small non-refundable fee to process each application and prepare the appropriate documents for posting at the event. The fee is \$20 for a host bar (non-sale) and \$30 for a cash bar (re-sale). Late fees may also apply to applications received within the required 15 business day timeframe.

Groups applying for approval to obtain a Special Event License from the Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission will also be required to pay the AGLC license fees (\$10 for host bar; \$25 for cash bar).

Fines & penalties

Event organizers should carefully read all regulations and requirements. Adherence is mandatory and violations could result in fines or disciplinary action, including group suspension or a restriction from holding future alcohol events. The registered student group is responsible for any fines levied by either the Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission or the University of Alberta as a result of such violations.

Contact us

Direct any questions about this procedure to the Student Event Risk Management Coordinator at studentgroupevents@ualberta.ca.