

# ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS



## Information for international students

### KNOW WHAT YOU'RE CONSUMING

The body can typically process one alcoholic drink (or 14 g of ethyl alcohol) per hour. If you make the decision to drink, know what you're consuming. One container does not necessarily equal "one standard drink."

#### 1 STANDARD DRINK:



**350mL (12 oz) of beer at 5% alcohol by volume (ABV)**



**150mL (5 oz) of wine (12% ABV)**



**44mL (1.5 oz) of 80-proof liquor (40% ABV)**



**30 mL (1.0 oz) of 100-proof liquor (50% ABV)**



### KNOW THE LAW & CAMPUS POLICY

#### ALCOHOL

- You must be 21 years old or older to purchase or use alcohol anywhere in the U.S.
- No alcohol use in public spaces regardless of age in Boston. This law varies by city and state.

#### TOBACCO

- You must be 21 years old or older to purchase or use tobacco in Boston. Minimum age varies by state and city and is typically set at 18 or higher.
- No smoking tobacco (cigars, cigarettes, etc.) on university property or in public spaces in Boston, including public parks, workplaces, bars, or restaurants.

#### MARIJUANA

- While marijuana possession and use is legal for those aged 21 and over under state law in Massachusetts, it is illegal under U.S. federal law.
- Federal law also regulates the immigration system. **Any marijuana possession or use could hinder your immigration and visa status and ability to remain in the U.S.**

OPEN offers *free, confidential* services. We provide 'check-ins' to discuss alcohol and/or other drug use. We also meet with students who have been affected by sexual assault, harassment, exploitation, abuse, dating violence, or stalking to provide resources and information. Family members, advisers, and faculty will NOT know if a student utilizes these services.

307 Ell Hall; 8:30am-5pm

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**Office of Prevention and Education at Northeastern**

# SEX, CONSENT & RELATIONSHIPS



## WHAT IS CONSENT?

IF I WANT TO KISS SOMEONE OR INITIATE SOME FORM OF SEXUAL ACTIVITY, WHAT SHOULD I SAY?

At Northeastern, we define consent as "a voluntary, affirmative agreement to engage in sexual activity that requires mutually understandable and communicated words and/or actions," meaning that everyone involved needs to CLEARLY agree to the sexual activity. If you ask someone, "Do you want to come to my apartment?" and they say "Yes," this does NOT mean they are agreeing to sexual activity. If you are initiating a sexual act, you are responsible for getting consent from your partner(s). Men, women, or people with other gender identities may all be initiators.

To get consent, talk to your partner(s): "I'd really like to kiss you." Wait for them to respond affirmatively before kissing them. Other examples include: "Can I...?" "Are you interested in...?"

## WHAT IF I WANT TO ASK SOMEONE ON A DATE?

Anyone, regardless of gender, can propose a date. Some people believe that the person who initiates a date is expected to pay. Others believe the cost of a date should be split. Be prepared to pay for your own food, drink, tickets, etc. on outings, unless the other person offers to pay. Dating can include kissing or sexual activity, but doesn't always.

## WHAT DO I DO IF I AM NOT INTERESTED?

You have the right to say "No" to a date, invitation, or any kind of sexual activity or physical touch if you are NOT interested. You can simply say "no" or try something like, "I don't want to \_\_\_\_\_, but I would like to but I would like to \_\_\_\_\_."

## WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT MEETING PEOPLE ONLINE?

While many people have successful relationships with someone they met online, there are a few things to consider. If you want to meet someone in person who you are talking to online, always meet first in a public place. Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return. Sometimes people might initiate conversation online, ask you to send sexual pictures or videos, or request that you remove your clothes while chatting with them. These people then threaten to share the photos or videos unless money is paid. Be careful in sharing this type of information especially with people you don't know.

## WHAT IF SOMEONE SAYS NO? CAN I KEEP TRYING?

In an interaction, if someone seems to be, or is actually, saying no – listen. Signs they are not interested in a date or sexual activity: They say "No," "I don't know," "I'm not sure," "Not right now," or they tense up, hesitate, or move physically away from you. If this is the case, respect them and stop. Forcing someone to engage in sexual activity when they have not communicated a clear "yes" is a serious crime in the U.S. and violation of Northeastern policy.

## I'M CONFUSED BY ALL THE DIFFERENT WORDS PEOPLE USE ABOUT DATING/SEX.

Terms for relationships and other activity can be tricky and confusing. For example: dating, going out, seeing each other, and talking may have the same or different meanings in different contexts. "Hooking up" can mean different things to different people. Ask for clarification ("What do you mean by that?") if you aren't sure what someone means.

## IS IT OKAY TO TOUCH IN PUBLIC?

Hugging, holding hands and kissing between people in public is common in the U.S. Get consent by having a conversation with the other person about their preferences.

## IF PEOPLE ARE DRINKING, CAN THEY CONSENT?

It is possible to be drinking and still able to consent. If a person becomes drunk to a point of "incapacitation," they can no longer consent. Signs include: passing out, vomiting, stumbling, or not knowing the who, what, when, where, why or how of the sexual act.

## WHAT IS EXPECTED IN RELATIONSHIPS IN THE UNITED STATES?

In the U.S., it is generally expected that people make decisions together. One person should not make all the decisions in the relationship or tell the other person what to do. Certain behaviors are against law and violate the Northeastern policy. For example, it is not okay to hit someone, to make all the decisions about when to have sex, or to tell a partner what to eat, wear or do.