

Missouri S&T Responsible Action Protocol

Because the health, safety, and welfare of our students is a Missouri S&T priority, the university has instituted a Responsible Action Protocol. This protocol encourages individuals to seek medical assistance for themselves or others in circumstances involving significant intoxication resulting from alcohol or other substances.

Under this protocol, a Missouri S&T student, or Recognized Student Organization (RSO) who acts responsibly by notifying the appropriate authorities (see Responsible Action section) when experiencing an alcohol or drug overdose or related problems AND meets one or more of the following criteria, typically will not face University student conduct action for their own use or possession of alcohol or drugs.

Criteria for Invoking the Responsible Action Protocol

The criteria for invoking this protocol are:

- A student seeking medical assistance for themselves
- A student seeking medical assistance on behalf of another individual
- An RSO seeking medical assistance on behalf of an individual

Responsible Action

In serious or life-threatening situations, particularly where alcohol poisoning or drug overdose is suspected or where other medical treatment is reasonably believed to be appropriate, a student or RSO is considered to demonstrate responsible action when they take the following steps:

- Call 911 (or S&T Police at 573.341.4300).
- Remain with the person needing assistance until help arrives.
- Provide a statement with as much information as possible to medical personnel and authorities, including the amount and type of alcohol or substance consumed along with their name and contact information.

If a student is heavily intoxicated or is incapacitated, letting that person “sleep it off” or having a friend “look after” that person are not reasonable alternatives to getting the person necessary medical help. Any student or RSO who follows the responsible action protocol and acts in good faith, typically will not face University student conduct action for their own use or possession of alcohol or drugs.

This protocol aligns with Missouri’s [Good Samaritan Law](#) (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 195.205) designed to save lives by protecting anyone from certain crimes for calling 911 in good faith to obtain help for someone overdosing.

Wellbeing and Learning-Centered Approach

Based on the nature of the circumstance, the student for whom medical assistance was sought and the student or RSO who follows the responsible action protocol on behalf of another individual will not be charged with a violation of the [Standard of Conduct](#) provided that they meet with a University official, complete an assessment, and successfully complete a University approved targeted, educational intervention upon request. This may include an alcohol or drug education program, such as BASICS or the Substance Use Intervention Program that is consistent with the severity of the circumstance. For University facilitated intervention programs, fees will be waived. A student may also be required to

engage in other appropriate education and prevention interventions. Treatment options will be shared with the student or RSO as appropriate.

Exemptions to the Responsible Action Protocol

Circumstances in which a student's or RSO's behavior involves additional [Standard of Conduct](#) violations, depending on the severity and gravity of the behavior, may be subject to student conduct charges. Additionally, if a student or RSO exhibits an ongoing or repetitive pattern of concerning behavior related to alcohol or drugs, that student or RSO may be subject to formal conduct action.

This protocol is intended for one-time use by a student receiving medical attention due to an overdose. The University will consider any prior exemptions granted to students or an RSO on a case by case basis to determine whether additional exemptions should be granted. Typically, repeated use of this protocol by a student receiving medical assistance will be handled through the student conduct process. This limitation does not apply to students who assist others in seeking medical assistance.

Factors Considered

- More egregious, numerous violations or repeat behaviors will likely be reviewed through the student conduct process outlined in [CRR 200.020](#) or [CRR Chapter 600](#).
- No exemptions will be provided related to any activities that may constitute sexual misconduct or hazing as defined as violations of the University of Missouri Collected Rules and Regulations or the State of Missouri or federal law.
- All circumstances will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- Serious or repeated incidents will prompt a higher degree of concern/response.
- Support, education, and prevention interventions will take into consideration the following:
 - reason for use/misuse
 - underlying history of substance use or disorder
 - if an evaluation was conducted by a professional
 - willingness and desire to engage in a one-time consultation with a counselor or health professional beyond the educational intervention
 - need or interest in treatment response options
- Failure to engage in educational interventions or recommendations will normally result in student conduct action.