

section 08

Campus Safety, Alcohol and Drugs



Introduction

Jim Hicks
Dean of Students

“As a parent or family member, you are and will continue to be a primary influence in your student’s life. The issues of consent, alcohol and mental health can impact every aspect of your student’s life and can act as barriers to their success. So, I wanted to share ways for you to continue your conversations with them about those issues and provide you with resources so you know where to go if ever you need help.

Consent is a complex topic that can be difficult to talk about, especially when alcohol is involved. It is important to talk with your student about asking for consent. Remind that if a person is incapacitated, they cannot give consent. Communication and respect for boundaries is an important aspect of healthy relationships. So, spend some time talking with your student about ways they can share their boundaries with others.

Even though the legal drinking age is 21, your student may need to make decisions regarding alcohol use. In a recent survey, 83 percent of 10- to 18-year-olds said their parents were their leading influence in their decisions about drinking. Although the media sometimes portrays college life as alcohol-fueled, over 75 percent of UTC students report drinking three or fewer alcoholic beverages a week.

Introduction (cont.)

It's important to ask your student about their views on alcohol and college life and share your expectations regarding their use of alcohol and/or other drugs. Help plan ways for your student to handle peer pressure and brainstorm ways in which your student can respond to offers of alcohol.

Thanks for sharing your student with us. We understand the trust you are placing in us. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance.”

Title IX

utc.edu/enrollment-management-and-student-affairs/title-ix

Title IX is a federal law that prohibits discrimination based on sex in educational programs and activities that receive federal funds. Sex-based discrimination includes sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking.

UTC strives to prevent, address and eliminate this type of misconduct by responding to individual incidents, supporting those who have been harmed and educating community members on how to create a safe and supportive campus that encourages healthy and respectful relationships.

Consent

utc.edu/consent

UTC's policy on sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence and stalking defines consent as "an active agreement to participate in a sexual act. An active agreement is words and/or conduct that communicate a person's willingness to participate in a sexual act. Consent can be revoked at any time."

Confidential Resources

If a student has experienced or is experiencing sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking, they are not alone. There are multiple on- and off-campus resources.

Confidential Resources include the Counseling Center, Survivor Advocacy Services and University Health Services (information following).

Counseling Center

utc.edu/counseling

The Counseling Center is the university's primary facility for personal counseling, psychotherapy and psychological outreach and consultation services. The center promotes the psychological, educational and social well-being of UTC students and helps prepare them to be productive members of society. Staff members provide a variety of services for students, including walk-in sessions; crisis intervention; group, individual and couples counseling.

Survivor Advocacy Services

utc.edu/enrollment-management-and-student-affairs/center-for-women-and-gender-equity/survivor-advocacy-services

Survivor Advocacy Services strives to reduce the impact of power-based violence on UTC's campus and in the Chattanooga community through advocacy to support survivors of relationship violence, sexual assault, stalking and sexual harassment.

University Health Services

utc.edu/university-health-services

The mission of UTC UHS is to deliver high quality healthcare that is holistic in nature and easily accessible for all UTC students. We are committed to meeting the health service needs of our diverse student population while treating everyone with dignity. Delivery of care will be a collaboration between the health care provider and patient; one that is built on trust and mutual understanding.

Non-Confidential Support Options

Student Outreach and Support

The Office of Student Outreach and Support (SOS) advocates for and supports students experiencing challenges in their personal and/or academic lives. SOS staff help students navigate University administrative processes; connect with university and community resources; and develop coping, resiliency, and self-advocacy skills. SOS also educates faculty and staff on how to work with students of concern, including how and when to make appropriate referrals.

Non-confidential Resources include the Center for Wellbeing, the Title IX office and the UTC Police Department (information following).

Center for Wellbeing utc.edu/wellbeing

The Center for Wellbeing supports students who have reported experiencing sexual misconduct, relationship violence and/or stalking. Staff members are available to assist students with academic concerns, housing concerns, financial aid concerns and more.

Title IX Coordinator, Anitra Barrett

The Title IX Coordinator coordinates campus Title IX education and prevention efforts and the response to

all sexual misconduct and relationship violence allegations and complaints. The coordinator is also available to answer questions and/or concerns about UTC's Title IX process.

UTC Police Department **utc.edu/police**

The UTC Police Department (PD) provides professional police services while working with faculty, staff, and students to reduce criminal opportunity and community anxiety. The UTC PD is committed to treating all people fairly while supporting an environment where diverse social, cultural and academic values are allowed to develop.

Emergency Services **utc.edu/safety-risk-management**

The UTC Police Department provides the campus community with 24/7 professional police services, which reduces criminal opportunity and promotes a safe, healthy, and hazard-free environment, while complying with applicable federal, state, and local safety, fire and environmental regulatory requirements.

Safe Ride: UPD can escort students, staff, and faculty anywhere on campus during the academic year. Use the Safe Ride Service to address any personal safety concerns by calling (423) 425-4357(HELP).

Blue Light Phones: Police call boxes are in the parking lots across campus and dial straight to campus police.

Emergency Preparedness **utc.edu/about/emergency-preparedness**

In the event of abnormal conditions on campus, we've got people and plans in place. The UTC Office of Safety and Risk Management partners with many other campus departments and offices to prepare students, faculty and staff for potential emergencies. This includes developing, testing and implementing emergency plans, supporting first responders during an incident and conducting campus-wide training.

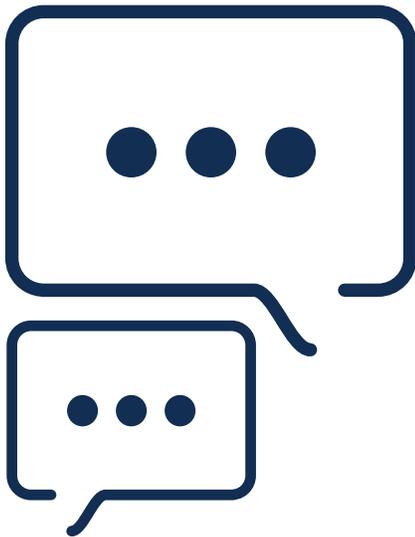
UTC ALERT **utc.edu/alert**

This communication system alerts UTC students and employees in the event of severe weather, criminal activity on campus and other emergencies. All students will receive SMS text messages by the mobile number provided upon registration for classes via their MyMocsNet account. Students can add additional recipients at utc.edu/alert.

Campus Safety and Alcohol

Before a new student attends classes at UTC, they will need to complete several online modules on alcohol use, academic integrity, Title IX and campus safety. The purpose of these modules is to introduce and educate new students on the campus rules and expectations on these topics. See below for more detail about each topic.

- AlcoholEdu—educates on the effects, laws and policies related to alcohol and other drugs.
- Academic Integrity—introduces concepts of ethics and ethical decision making. Also educates students on the UTC Honor Code.
- Title IX and Campus Safety—provides an overview of UTC’s Title IX policy, known as the Policy on Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Dating and Domestic Violence, and Stalking. Educates students on prevention and available campus resources.



Conversation Starters

What is your understanding of the word “consent”?

Do you know where to get help in case of an emergency on campus?

What are some realistic ways to intervene as an active bystander in situations that are red flags for sexual assault?

