RE: CONCERNS ABOUT HIGH-RISK STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Welcome to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls! You have chosen a university that offers an array of academic programs and many out-of-classroom learning opportunities. UW-River Falls strives to enhance your growth and development by providing the best faculty, staff, programs, and facilities.

However, in order for you to take advantage of all that UW-River Falls has to offer, you need to be aware of the realities that some new students face as they begin their college careers.

Each year, alcohol misuse on U.S. college campuses contributes to student issues ranging from academic difficulties to sexual assault, violence, and even death. This also takes place at UW-River Falls. We are concerned about students misusing alcohol. Misusing alcohol, often called high-risk drinking, is a significant health risk for you, your friends, classmates, and acquaintances. That’s why reducing high-risk drinking is a priority for the University and the City of River Falls.

Please note the following points concerning alcohol use:

- Wisconsin’s legal drinking age is 21. If you are underage, you may not consume or possess alcoholic beverages of any kind. A first-time underage violator can be fined up to $500 by police and is subject to sanctioning by the University.

- If you are underage, this law applies to you in residence hall rooms, at off-campus house parties, and in downtown restaurants and bars. Both on-campus and off-campus violators are subject to disciplinary action by the University up to and including suspension and expulsion. Your parent(s) and/or guardian(s) may also be contacted.

- Student Health & Counseling Services, 211 Hagestad, can help students who struggle with alcohol misuse.

We want you to be safe and healthy. That’s why it’s so important for you to know the truth about student alcohol use at UW-River Falls.

Surveys show that most students who enter college have already experimented with alcohol. This may lead you to believe that “everybody gets drunk.” In fact, many college students set healthy limits and/or don’t drink at all. A recent on-campus study showed that 81% of UW-River Falls students overestimate how often their fellow students drink. Knowing that many students only drink legally or don’t drink at all can help you resist the pressure to participate in high-risk drinking.

Do consider some of the many alternatives to alcohol use. Join one or more of the 160 student organizations. Enjoy a variety of entertainment offered on week nights and weekends. Participate in one of the region’s finest intramural sports programs. Secure a job, an internship, and/or volunteer on-campus or in the community.

Please know that the University community cares about your well-being and expects that you follow our policies and become a positive contributor as a member of this community.

I wish you great success throughout your college career. I look forward to greeting you personally when you arrive on campus.

Sincerely,

Gregg Heinselman
Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
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