

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 emergency situations, even if prohibited conduct may have occurred in conjunction with the emergency.

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 emergency situation, including alcohol or drug overdose or related concerns 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 immediately seeking medical assistance for themselves
- A student immediately seeking medical assistance on behalf of another individual
- An RSO immediately alerting officials and 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:

- Immediately Call 911 (or S&T Police at 573.341.4300) or alert appropriate officials.
- Remain with the person needing assistance until help arrives, provided it is safe to do so.
- Cooperate with emergency officials and provide a statement with as much information as possible to medical personnel and authorities, including details regarding the emergency including the amount and type of alcohol or substance consumed along with their name and contact information.

In emergency situations, including those involving overdose or heavy intoxication, 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 the [University of Missouri Collected Rules and Regulations Section 200.020](#) and Missouri's Good Samaritan Law (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 195.205), which is designed to save lives by protecting those taking responsible action from certain crimes.

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 typically not be charged with a violation of the [Standard of Conduct](#) provided that they meet with a University official, and successfully complete a requested educational response or remedy other than traditional conduct proceedings or may include a reduced sanction. This may include an alcohol or drug education program, such as BASICS, iCHAMP, 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. Intervention 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 the traditional student conduct process.

This protocol is intended for one-time use by a student receiving medical attention due to an overdose or an RSO responding to such a concern. 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 traditional 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 traditional 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/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 interested in intervention options
- Failure to engage in educational interventions or recommendations will typically result in a hold being placed on the student account until the outstanding recommendations and/or matter is otherwise resolved. Additionally, the matter could be further reviewed utilizing the traditional student conduct process.