

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL
Los Angeles, CA

Wristbands Policy

Administrative policy approved February 27, 2026. Effective immediately.

Revision history: None; new policy.

Related policies: Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs; Code of Student Professionalism and Conduct; Employee Handbook; Campus Access Policy

Scheduled Review Date: June 2028 (General Counsel's Office and Biennial Review Team)

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A. Purpose

Under Southwestern's Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs, anyone consuming alcohol at a Southwestern event must be at least 21 years old. Before serving alcohol to any person, the server must request and review that individual's valid photo identification. Instead of the server checking each individual's ID, the sponsoring organization may implement a process of identifying individuals who have provided acceptable proof of age. Using wristbands is one acceptable method. This policy outlines the process that a sponsoring organization must follow if it chooses to use wristbands.

B. Scope

This policy applies to Southwestern events, whether held on or off campus, at which alcohol is served by or under Southwestern's authority. Implementing a wristband requirement is designed primarily for large-scale events where attendees may include individuals who are legally eligible to drink and those who are underage. The policy covers all participants, including students, employees, alumni, and guests.

This policy does not apply in the following circumstances, unless otherwise determined by the Office of the President and Dean:

1. Board of Trustees meetings or other official governing body meetings where attendance is limited to trustees, invited guests, and designated staff.
2. Private, invitation-only events (such as donor receptions, alumni gatherings, or official Southwestern functions) where the host certifies that all attendees will be of legal drinking age and age verification procedures are otherwise in place.
3. Events without alcohol service.

The President and Dean may also make other exceptions.

C. Training and Qualifications

1. Required training

Any individual who checks identification, issues wristbands, supervises alcohol service, or serves alcohol at a Southwestern event must complete institution-approved alcohol service training before performing those duties. Training will, at a minimum, cover age-verification techniques, acceptable forms of identification, detection of altered or fraudulent

identification, procedures for refusing or discontinuing service, and de-escalation and incident-reporting protocols. The Office of the President and Dean, or its designee, may prescribe the training content, frequency of refresher training, and acceptable certifications, and may maintain a roster of trained personnel.

2. Certified individual onsite

Where required by applicable law or permit, at least one responsible beverage service-certified individual must be on site and available for the duration of alcohol service. Sponsoring organizations are responsible for verifying and documenting compliance with the regulations.

3. Pre-event briefing

The event organizer must conduct a pre-event briefing for all relevant personnel covering event-specific procedures (e.g., wristband color/design, tamper-evident practices, location(s) of wristband distribution, service boundaries, escalation contacts, and documentation requirements).

4. Required attendance

Individuals may not perform ID-checking or alcohol-service duties if they have not completed the required training and have not attended the pre-event briefing for the specific event.

D. 21+ Wristband Eligibility and Identification

1. Single wristband

A Southwestern representative may give a person who is verified to be at least 21 a single wristband that will allow that individual to obtain alcoholic beverages at the event.

2. Tamper-proof wristbands

The wristbands used must be tamper-proof to help prevent transfer, reuse, or misuse. To the extent possible, Southwestern should not reuse the same wristband color or design for consecutive events.

3. Sizing

Wristbands should be selected that will fit a range of sizes to accommodate attendees.

4. Valid ID

An individual seeking a wristband must present a valid, government-issued photo identification at the wristband distribution point. Acceptable identification is a current, government-issued photo ID. Although a hard copy is preferred, the event organizer may accept a state-issued mobile driver's license or an official digital version of a U.S. passport or passport card. Photocopies, photographs, and expired IDs are not acceptable. A Southwestern representative must verify the ID to ensure that it belongs to the person presenting it, is current, and that the person is at least 21 years old. No exceptions will be made based on personal familiarity, age estimates, or third-party assurances.

5. Fraudulent IDs

Southwestern reserves the right to refuse to issue a wristband if the identification appears altered, fraudulent, or does not match the individual presenting it.

6. Applying the wristband

The Southwestern representative presenting the wristband should either put the wristband on the person approved or should watch the person put it on. No one should leave the distribution point without wearing the wristband.

E. Accessibility and Accommodation

Southwestern will provide reasonable accommodations for attendees who are unable to wear a standard wristband due to a disability, medical condition, or another protected reason. Acceptable alternatives include a clearly visible 21+ hand stamp, badge, or lanyard credential of equivalent evidentiary value.

Alternative indicators authorized under this Section carry the same effect as a wristband for purposes of service eligibility and enforcement.

Requests for accommodation should be made at the wristband distribution point or in advance to the event organizer.

Staff must implement authorized alternatives without requiring disclosure of sensitive medical information beyond what is necessary to provide the accommodation.

F. Nontransferability and Misuse

1. Nontransferable

Wristbands are nontransferable and may not be shared, given away, or sold.

2. Multiple or incorrect wristbands

Possessing more than one wristband or attempting to use a wristband not issued at the event constitutes misuse.

3. Lost or damaged wristbands

Lost, removed, altered, or damaged wristbands will not be replaced and will be considered invalid.

4. Other misuse

Attempting to obtain or use a wristband fraudulently, or to provide alcohol to an underage individual, may result in disciplinary action, removal from the event, or referral to law enforcement.

G. Using Wristbands

1. Wearing the wristband

Wristbands must be worn securely and visibly for the duration of the event. Individuals without a valid 21+ wristband may not be served alcohol.

2. No guarantee of service

A wristband permits, but does not guarantee, service of alcohol. Servers may refuse to serve any individual who appears intoxicated, is disruptive, or is otherwise ineligible. Servers may request valid, government-issued photo identification at any time before service and must refuse service if age cannot be verified.

H. Written Notice to Attendees

The sponsoring organization should, where feasible, include a "Wristbands Policy" notice in materials shared with attendees. Below is a sample notice. Material deviations must be approved by the Dean or the General Counsel's Office.

Event 21+ Wristband Policy

Southwestern will issue wristbands at this event for 21+ old individuals who wish to consume alcohol.

- Individuals must provide a valid photo ID with proof of age to pick up a wristband.
- Event staff will apply the wristband or watch the attendee apply the wristband at the distribution point.
- Wristbands are nontransferable.
- Wristbands must be worn throughout the entire event.
- Servers may still request to see ID and may refuse service even when an individual has a wristband.
- To review Southwestern's complete Wristband Policy for Alcohol Service at Events Policy, visit www.SWLaw/SWPolicies.

I. Event Conduct and Compliance

All participants must comply with Southwestern policies, any venue regulations for off-campus events, and applicable federal, state, and local laws. Event staff and security personnel have the authority to deny service, revoke wristbands, or remove individuals from the event if they violate this policy. Southwestern reserves the right to impose additional restrictions based on the nature of the event, venue requirements, or risk management considerations.

J. Liability and Safety

1. Responsible consumption

Southwestern encourages responsible consumption of alcohol and expects participants to exercise sound judgment.

2. Intoxication

Intoxicated individuals may be denied further service and may be removed from the event.

3. Safe transportation

To promote safety, Southwestern may provide access to safe transportation options; however, Southwestern is not responsible for the actions of individuals who consume alcohol.

4. Personal responsibility

By accepting a wristband, individuals acknowledge their personal responsibility for their conduct and any consequences resulting from consuming alcohol.

K. Enforcement

Violations of this policy—including but not limited to wristband misuse or transfer, presentation or use of fraudulent identification, possession or service of alcohol by or to an underage individual, or refusal to comply with staff directions—will result in immediate corrective action, which may include denial of service, revocation of the wristband, and removal from the event.

Students are subject to referral to Southwestern disciplinary processes. Employees are subject to referral under applicable employment policies. Guests may be barred from campus or future events.

Conduct that may violate the law (including underage service or use of fraudulent identification) may be referred to law enforcement.

Sponsoring organizations that fail to comply with this policy may be subject to conditions on future events or loss of event privileges.

L. Incident Reporting

The event organizer must document any material incidents related to alcohol service (e.g., suspected fraudulent IDs, removals for policy violations, refusals of service, medical or safety interventions) and report them to the designated Office of the President and Dean or their designee within two business days.

M. Policy Revisions

Southwestern expressly reserves the right to change or modify any aspect of this policy at any time, with or without prior notice.