

This program is for **first time offenders only**. Many students choose this option because they **receive a reduction in the fines, and the charge is dismissed upon completion of the program. In addition, upon reaching age 21, the student may request the removal of the loss of driving privileges from his/her Penn DOT record.** This could be important in the future if a job requires a criminal background check and/or a check of driving records.

If you choose this option:

- You must complete an approved alcohol education program.
- You incur the costs of the program.

The decision to be admitted to the MDP is at the discretion of the arresting officer and the sole discretion of the presiding magisterial district judge.

Be aware that under PA state law, all persons under the age of 21, who are convicted of underage drinking or who enter into the MDP as a result of underage drinking, **will have their driving privileges in Pennsylvania suspended for a minimum of ninety days for a first offense.**

- The MDJ has no power to alter this driving privilege suspension.
- This suspension will be lengthened for any subsequent offenses.
- Possession of a driver's license from another state is not valid in PA when the privilege is suspended. You cannot legally drive in PA until the suspension is resolved.

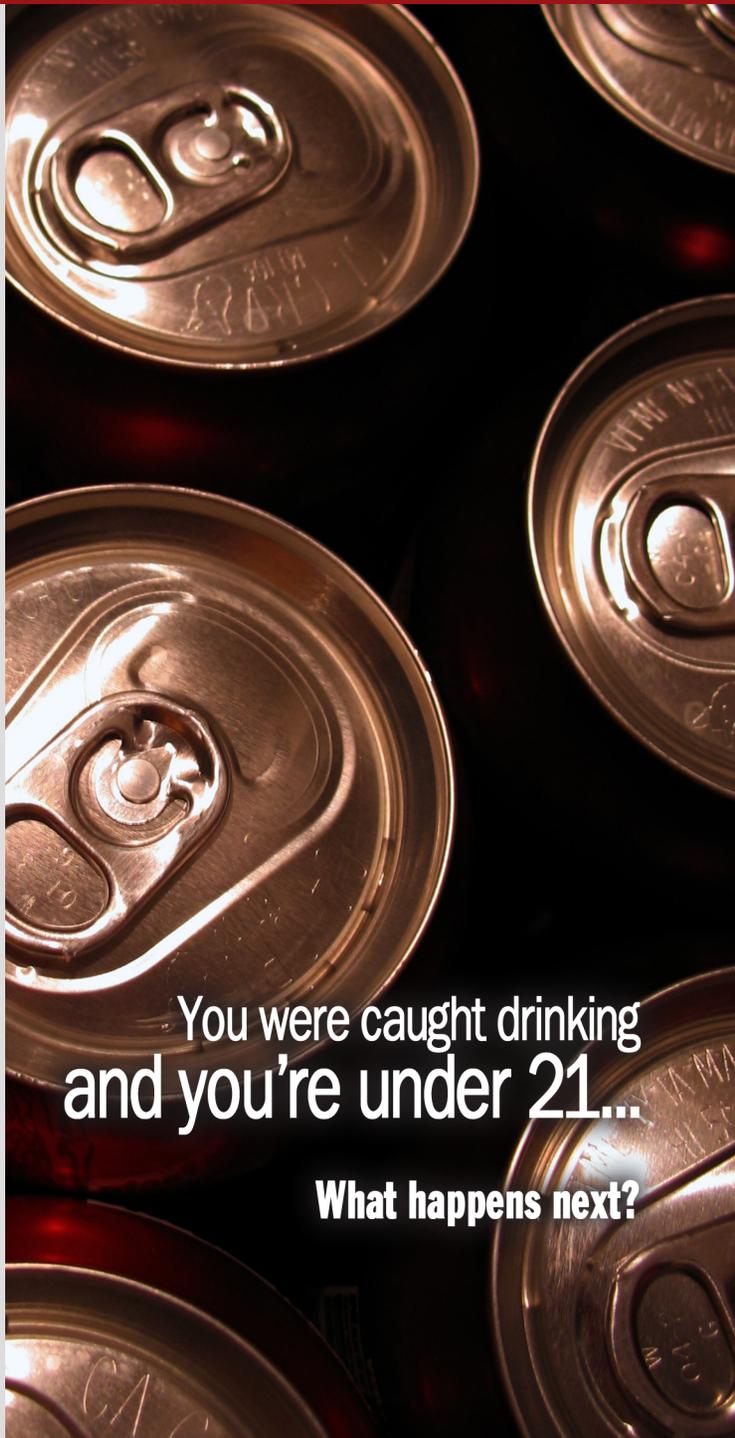
The AWARE Program:

- Is run by the certified addictions counselor at the Health and Wellness Center located in the Sheetz Family Health Center.
- Is tailored to address issues related to college students and the use of alcohol.
- Helps you to evaluate your personal use of alcohol and its impact on your life.
- Includes a confidential individual assessment.
- Satisfies the mandated alcohol education sanction from the Office of Judicial Affairs and the alcohol education requirement of the Minors Diversionary Program (all at one fee).
- Fee can be paid by cash, check, or billed to your student account.

To schedule an appointment, call 814-949-5540 or visit www.altoona.psu.edu/healthwellness/appt.htm

For more information contact Essie Auker at the Health and Wellness Center at 814-949-5540 or esa11@psu.edu.

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You were caught drinking and you're under 21...

What happens next?

OK. You were caught drinking underage by University Police or one of the local police departments.

You probably have a lot of questions:

- What do I do next?
- Will my parents find out?
- What happens legally?
- Will I lose my driver's license?
- Will the University find out?
- Will I be expelled?
- How does this affect my career choice?

This brochure will answer these questions and guide you through the process. But, most importantly, we hope this experience helps you evaluate your use of alcohol and its impact on your life.

Remember, the majority of Penn State Altoona students make good choices regarding the use of alcohol!

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania **prohibits the possession, purchase, transportation, or ingestion of beer, liquor, and any other form of alcoholic beverages by anyone under the age of 21** (PA Crimes Code Section 6308).

Any act in violation of the PA Crimes Code, as it pertains to alcoholic beverages, is also a violation of the Penn State Student Code of Conduct.

To ensure consistent enforcement and accountability for student behavior, **University Police at Penn State Altoona have adopted the policy that all violations of the law as they pertain to alcohol will be prosecuted through the courts, as any other violation of the law.**

Underage drinking is a summary offense. This non-traffic citation includes your identifying information such as name, address, and information about the offense, such as the date, time, and location of the offense. It also lists the magisterial district judge's (MDJ's) number and office address.

If cited by the Penn State Altoona University Police Department:

— Your parents will be notified via a letter

— The Office of Judicial Affairs will be notified of the violation

- Disciplinary charges and sanctions may be assigned

- You will likely be referred to the AWARE program

If cited by the Altoona Police Department or the Logan Township Police Department, they will notify the Penn State Altoona University Police who, in turn, will notify the Office of Judicial Affairs.

You may or may not be given the actual citation form at the time of the offense.

If issued a non-traffic citation at the time of contact with police:

— You must contact the magisterial district judge's office within ten calendar days. (The address is located at the top of the citation)

— You have three choices in responding to the charges:

1. Plead "not guilty" and request a hearing. A hearing will then be scheduled at a later date.
2. Plead "guilty" and pay the fine as set by the MDJ. The fine can range from \$0 to \$300.
3. File an application for the Minors Diversionary Program (see description on next page).

If a non-traffic citation is filed with the Office of the MDJ:

— You do not receive the citation form at the time of the incident; it will be sent to you via the mail (this is known as a summons).

— You must contact the MDJ within ten calendar days.

— Your three choices to the charges are the same as above.

In either case, failure to respond within the ten calendar day time-frame will be cause for an arrest warrant. If this happens, the police will take you into custody and transport you to the MDJ's office.