

THE RESPONSIBLE INTERVENTION PROTOCOL

The Responsible Intervention Protocol pertains to emergency situations only*. As members of the Embry-Riddle community, students have a responsibility to those around them, specifically when a medical emergency exists. Call for help when students are in medical distress – 911 and then Campus Safety & Security (386) 226-7233 (SAFE) – even if they are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. The fear of getting in trouble should never prevent a student from calling for help.

Policy Statement

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) encourages a living and learning environment that promotes the health and safety of all members of the Embry-Riddle community. Drug or alcohol consumption – including excessive consumption, consumption of a dangerous substance, or consumption by someone with sensitivity – can cause serious physical and neurological harm or be life-threatening. As such, students are encouraged to make responsible decisions and to seek medical attention in serious or life-threatening situations that result from alcohol, and students are also encouraged to seek help for any situation where medical treatment is reasonably believed to be appropriate. If a student is so intoxicated and cannot be awakened, letting that person “sleep it off” is not a reasonable alternative to getting them the necessary medical help. Students may be hesitant to seek help in such emergencies because of fear of potential conduct and disciplinary consequences for themselves, the person in need of medical attention, or the organization hosting the event where the situation occurred.

Scope of Protocol

If medical attention is required, students should immediately contact professional medical personnel by calling 911. Students who seek emergency assistance on behalf of themselves, another student, or a friend experiencing an alcohol and/or drug-related emergency as well as the individual in distress will not be subject to the alcohol student conduct process under the Embry-Riddle [Honor Code](#) and will not be charged with an alcohol-related violation. Their alcohol violation will be reviewed using the Responsible Intervention Protocol. Students who meet the Responsible Intervention criteria will be given consideration for their call for help and proceed through an educational course of action. Educational intervention requirements may include meeting with necessary departments, alcohol course completion at the student’s expense, and counseling. Under the protocol, the alcohol-related violation will not be added to the student conduct records.

If a registered student is transported to an emergency medical treatment center for intoxication, the student’s parents or guardians may be notified by Housing & Residence Life and/or the Dean of Students Office, if necessary, to protect the health and safety of the student or other individuals.

Requirements of Protocol

The student must remain with that individual(s) until medical assistance arrives. The caller may not be subject to disciplinary action for violating University Alcohol Honor Code so long as the caller cooperates with emergency responders.

An “emergency” communication is a timely contact with 911, Housing & Residence Life, and/or Campus Safety & Security when University members are not yet made aware of the situation. The Responsible Intervention Protocol does not apply to individuals who telephone friends for assistance or if the experience is first discovered by University employees or local law enforcement/public safety officials.

Students requiring emergency assistance or an individual or group who assists another student in medical distress* will not be subject to the student conduct process under the Honor Code for a first violation. This protocol does not excuse or protect those who repeatedly violate the Honor Code in regard to alcohol use. If the student is involved in any subsequent alcohol incidents, the situation will be evaluated by the Dean of Students Office to determine if the student qualifies for Responsible Intervention Protocol.

If a representative of an organization hosting an event calls for medical assistance, the act of responsibility may mitigate potential Honor Code consequences that could arise against the organization. The fact that an organization sought help will be favorably considered in potential sanctioning for University policy violations.

This protocol and the potential leniency applies only to Honor Code alcohol-related emergencies. It does not apply to other prohibited behavior such as Abusive, Threatening, or Bullying Behavior; Disorderly Conduct; Failure to Comply; Harassment; Hazing; Illegal Drugs & Other Substances; Obstruction & Disruption; Policy Violations; Sexual Misconduct; Theft: Unauthorized Entry or Use; Vandalism; or Weapons.

In those cases where a student has been a victim of sexual misconduct while under the influence of alcohol, the Dean of Students will not pursue disciplinary violations against the victim (or against a witness) for their improper use of alcohol (e.g., underage drinking) if the student is making a good faith report of sexual misconduct. A student who is under the influence of alcohol at the time of a sexual misconduct incident should not be reluctant to seek assistance for that reason.

Students considered for the Responsible Intervention Protocol are required to meet with an administrator from the Dean of Students Office and/or Housing & Residence Life. When one student seeks emergency assistance on behalf of another student, both students may be required to meet with the administrator. After evaluating the situation, the administrator may refer either or both students to a substance abuse specialist for assessment, education, and/or possible referral for treatment. All costs will be the responsibility of the student. Students who are referred for substance abuse counseling but fail to meet with the counselor and/or fail to complete the recommendations will be subject to disciplinary action.

Even if disciplinary action is not taken, the Dean of Students Office and Housing & Residence Life reserve the right to notify the student's parents, per standard practice. A confidential case file will be maintained for reference should subsequent alcohol violations occur. In those subsequent cases, administrators will

take into account the previous emergency incident when considering sanctions. Academic transcripts will not reflect the incident.

Students and student organizations that do not seek medical attention in an alcohol emergency situation where action is warranted could lose all protections under this policy and will face the student conduct process.

*Call 911 in these types of Emergency Situations:

- Inability to rouse the person with loud shouting
- Vomiting while passed out, not waking up after vomiting, or incoherent while vomiting
- Inability of a person who is passed out to stay awake for more than 2-3 minutes
- Breathing is slow (less than 8 breaths per minute) or irregular, with 10 seconds or more between breaths
- Weak pulse, very rapid pulse, or very slow pulse
- Cold, clammy, or bluish skin
- Seizures
- Confusion
- Loss of coordination
- Stupor - when someone is conscious but unresponsive
- Unconsciousness - passing out
- This list is not comprehensive; call for assistance even if you simply concerned for their wellbeing

In any situation, follow these guidelines:

- Call 911 immediately; do not hesitate
- Never leave someone to sleep it off. The amount of alcohol in someone's blood continues to rise even when they are not drinking. That's because alcohol in the digestive system carries on being absorbed into the bloodstream. Too much alcohol in the blood stops the body from working properly
- DO NOT leave the person alone
- Never give them anything to eat or drink. The stomach is irritated and cannot handle anything else
- Never make them sick. Their gag reflex will not be working properly which increases their chances they could choke on their vomit
- Never walk them around. Alcohol is a depressant which slows down the brain's functions and affects your sense of balance. Walking them around might cause accidents