

Risk Management Strategies

The wide varieties of interests and activities represented by individuals and groups at Drury University have an equally wide variety of potential risks and liabilities.

All Drury students, employees and citizens are required to conduct their activities in such a manner to maximize safety and health, and to attempt to prevent accidents, injuries, illnesses, or other losses. Drury students, employees and citizens should make every reasonable effort to protect the health and safety of the Drury community and guests from any hazards incidental to operations of the university.

For most routine activities such as regular meetings or social gatherings, Drury students, employees and citizens are solely responsible for their own actions, and any loss, damage or other liability incurred as a result of those actions.

Drury University Student Affairs professionals offer a wide variety of programs, services and resources designed to assist and support risk management efforts, develop leadership skills, and assist in planning and hosting events where everyone involved has a safe and fun experience.

Definition

Risk Management is the process of advising individuals and groups of the potential and perceived risks involved in their activities as well as, supervising activities and taking corrective actions and proactive steps to minimize injury, harm and/or loss.

In order to remain a part of the Drury University experience, it is important that student leaders take precautions and carefully plan activities to avoid situations that may jeopardize their standing as part of the Drury community.

There is a simple, understandable approach concerning organizations in regards to risk management issues:

Step 1: Identify Risky Behavior

There is no such thing as a risk-free event and some events are riskier than others. When identifying risky behavior, ask the question, "Can someone get injured or harmed by participating or attending this event?" If your answer is yes to this question, then this is an event that is considered to be high risk.

- **High Risk Example: Hazing**
One type of high-risk behavior is hazing. All Drury students, employees and citizens must understand and comply with the Drury University Hazing Policy.
- **High Risk Example: Alcohol**
Another type of high-risk behavior is the improper use of alcohol during social events. All Drury students, employees and citizens must understand and comply with the Drury University Alcohol Policy.

Step 2: Eliminate or Reduce Risky Behavior

Reducing risky behavior means finding ways to increase the safety of events and activities. For

example, at an event requiring physical activity be prepared for any forms of injury, harm or any other incidents that may occur. For any event, the sponsoring individual or group should have participants complete the Liability Release Form. These forms should be completed for each event and should be stored with the event leader. Due to the nature of the event or activity, the university may conduct an investigation into any allegations of risky behaviors in disregard of possible injury, harm or loss.

Ways to Minimize Risks

There are many ways to minimize risk. Here are a few key areas:

- **FOLLOW THE RULES:** By adhering to guidelines, policies and laws; related risks are significantly reduced for activities.
- **DEVELOP A CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLAN:** If an emergency were to happen, do event leaders and participants know what to do and who to contact? Every Drury student, employee and citizen should know what to do in a crisis situation.
- **GET EMERGENCY TRAINING:** Proper training will assist individuals and groups in handling the situation properly and could save a life in an emergency situation.
- **EDUCATE MEMBERS:** Event participants are responsible for their actions, but event leaders are responsible for providing risk management education opportunities. If your group is interested, the Student Affairs Department coordinates regular risk management training programs on a variety of risk management topics.
- **HOLD PARTICIPANTS ACCOUNTABLE:** Although education responsibilities fall to event leadership, participants must be held accountable for their actions because the actions of one person can negatively affect the entire Drury community.
- **USE AVAILABLE RESOURCES:** It is important that event leaders and advisors spend ample time discussing policies and guidelines of the university, state or federal law, and possible national guidelines by affiliate national organizations.
- **USE THIRD PARTY VENDORS:** When hosting events with alcohol, use third party vendors to minimize risk regarding the distribution of alcohol; third party vendors are trained in proper distribution standards.
- **PLAN LOW-RISK EVENTS:** There are many options for events that don't require anyone to be placed in risky situations. On campus, well-planned and non-alcoholic events are usually lower risk.
- **KNOW THE SIGNS OF RISKY BEHAVIOR:** Sometimes individuals or groups place themselves in risky situations. By knowing the signs and approaching individuals about their risky behavior, you help maintain a safer environment.