

# the RED CUP Q&A



separating alcohol fact from fiction  
EVERY TUESDAY IN THE DAILY WILDCAT

## Q What repercussions can an MIP have on my record?

**A.** “Book ‘em, Dano!” \* Before I answer that question, let’s talk about what a misdemeanor is. Under Arizona Law, crimes are categorized as either felonies or misdemeanors. Felonies are serious crimes like murder or rape, while misdemeanors are less serious ones. The most common misdemeanors for college students are underage drinking or minor in possession (MIP), possession of marijuana or drug paraphernalia, DUI, false IDs, and giving false information to a police officer.

“Just the facts!” You can be charged with a MIP if:

1. You are under 21 and you buy, receive, possess, or consume alcoholic beverages. (Class 1 misdemeanor)
  2. You are under 21 and ask another person to purchase, sell, give, serve or furnish you alcoholic beverages. (Class 3 misdemeanor)
- The maximum penalty for a class 3 misdemeanor is a \$500 fine and 30 days in jail.
  - The maximum penalty for a class 1 misdemeanor is \$2,500 and six months in jail.
  - If you are not eligible for a diversion or sanction class, the penalty will probably only be a fine, but you will have a criminal conviction on your record for the rest of your life.

The good news for UA students is that first time offenders rarely go to jail. Additionally, MIP charges are often dismissed for first time offenders when a student completes a diversion program. The UA offers diversion through the Dean of Students Office and Campus Health’s SHADE program can be used for the educational piece of diversion.

If your charges are dismissed, you can legally answer “no” on future job applications that ask about prior convictions. Most future employees don’t generally go looking for your college MIPs. However, for some jobs, like teaching, criminal background checks are conducted. That will reveal your misdemeanor charge but will not prevent you from obtaining a teaching certificate. However, you just might have “some splainin’ to do!”

\*The first 10 students to identify the three television shows that the three quotes came from will receive a Red Cup magnet. You know you want one. Contact HPPS at (520) 621-5700.



wildfact

96% of UA students have not received a MIP in the past year.

(2011 Health & Wellness Survey, N=2,479)



Got a question about alcohol?

Email it to [redcup@email.arizona.edu](mailto:redcup@email.arizona.edu)



[www.health.arizona.edu](http://www.health.arizona.edu)

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