

## COVID-19 Update Fall 2020:

The serving of food at any in-person University event is discouraged for safety reasons. If food must be served at an in-person event it must be ordered through UAlbany Dining in accordance with the Food Policy located below and served in either a pre-packaged, “grab and go” format or served pre-plated. No buffets or other self-serve food service will be allowed. Single use, disposal dishes and cutlery must be used to serve any food at an in-person University event. All condiments must be contained and distributed in individual packets (no commons use containers). Event organizers must also mandate that participants dispose of all food, dishes, utensils, cups or any other food related items appropriately prior to departure from the Event. UAlbany Dining follows all Visitors and Events Protocols rules.

**Per Campus Center Management:**

**The sale of food/beverages at tabling events within the Campus Center is suspended.**

## UALBANY CAMPUS FOOD POLICY

The University at Albany has elected to contract with University Auxiliary Services at Albany, Inc. (UAS), a non-profit organization, to provide the food services on campus in an effort to minimize costs and maximize convenience, value and safety to students, staff, faculty and visitors.

In order to exceed the expectations of the University, UAS has elected to have an exclusive dining services contract with UAlbany Dining, managed by Sodexo, Inc.

All food and beverages served on campus must be provided through UAlbany Dining with the limited exceptions indicated below (*See* § I, III, V, VI, IX, and XIII) or if UAlbany Dining determines that it is unable to provide the requested food service -- ***which is extremely rare*** -- it may issue a [waiver](#) at its discretion (*See* § VIII).

### POLICY OBJECTIVES

UAS recognizes and respects the role of food in the activities of campus departments and student groups. In an effort to ensure the safety and quality of the food provided at special events, meetings etc., the campus community shall adhere to the guidelines and standards set forth in this policy as follows:

#### I. Public Tabling Events Serving ONLY Low Risk Foods Given Away or Sold

A tabling event is exempt from the requirement to use UAlbany Dining or obtain a waiver under the following conditions:

- The tabling event is by a recognized student organization that is selling or giving away Low Risk Foods (*See* § XV. *Definitions and Examples of Low Risk Foods*) in a sanitary manner to raise funds for a charity or for the organization itself;
- The student group understands that it assumes the liability and responsibility, including financial, for complying with policy and food service health and safety laws;
- The student group has obtained approval from the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership to request space via the Event Management System – [EMS Virtual](#);
- The Campus Center management has approved the tabling event via [EMS Virtual](#);

- The foods/beverages are purchased from UAlbany Dining whenever possible, but may be obtained from an outside vendor or prepared at home provided Low Risk Foods are served and discarded within two (2) hours.
- If the food is prepared at home, a sign is clearly posted stating:

**NOTICE**

**THIS FOOD HAS BEEN  
HOME PREPARED AND HAS  
NOT BEEN INSPECTED.**

- The tabling event serving Low Risk Foods takes all precautions that food products are reasonably protected from unnecessary handling or airborne contamination by using gloves, tongs, covers etc. (See the [NYS Department of Health](#) website or contact [UAlbany Dining](#) for more information on how to handle Low Risk Foods in a sanitary manner).

## II. Public Events

Public events are:

- Campus-wide events: Events that are open to the entire campus community and/or the public (e.g., graduation, homecoming, athletic games, exhibitions and concerts).
- Recognized student group events: Events sponsored by recognized student organizations/groups and that are open to the campus community and/or public such as fashion shows, meetings, cultural events, galas and parties.
- Foods and beverages served at public events must be purchased from UAlbany Dining (A)
- No food prepared or stored at home is permitted;
- The University's Alcohol Policy must be followed if bar service is desired.

## III. Private Events or Meetings Serving ONLY Low Risk Foods Given Away

In a university setting such as UAlbany, almost all events are considered public.

However, all of the following criteria must be met to qualify an event as 'private':

- ✓ Indoor gatherings of 20 people or less;
- ✓ Not open to or advertised to the general public;
- ✓ Not charging admission;
- ✓ Serving only Low Risk Foods in a sanitary manner and eaten or discarded within two (2) hours;
- ✓ Food/beverages are given away, not sold.

If an event qualifies as private, please note the following:

- The organizing group assumes liability in regards to the safety and wholesomeness of the food items provided and responsibility, including financial, for complying with policy and food service health and safety laws;
- Foods/beverages should be purchased from UAlbany Dining whenever possible but may be obtain from an outside vendor or prepared at home provided Low Risk Foods are served and discarded within two (2) hours;
- If the Low Risk Food(s) is prepared at home, a sign must be clearly posted stating:

**NOTICE**

**THIS FOOD HAS BEEN  
HOME PREPARED AND HAS  
NOT BEEN INSPECTED.**

- The event sponsors serving Low Risk Foods takes all precautions that food products are

reasonably protected from unnecessary handling or airborne contamination by using gloves, tongs, covers etc.

#### **IV. Cultural and Unique Food Events**

The UAlbany Dining's *Cultural Dining Program* is a program that was instituted to help meet the cultural needs of the diverse student population on campus while also providing a fun and educational culinary experience. These are events in which recognized student organizations have UAlbany Dining's approval to prepare unique and/or cultural food in a campus dining facility under the direct supervision of a UAlbany Dining manager and/or chef.

For recognized student organizations hosting a cultural or unique event/gala and wanting to participate in the UAlbany Cultural Dining Program, the following must be adhered to:

- Fifteen (15) business days advanced notice of event is required. Contact [UAlbany Dining](#) to get approval and review menu and recipes;
- Students should follow all instructions given by the UAlbany Dining staff including appropriate dress and sanitation practices as required by the New York Food Code prior to and during the food preparation and cleanup;
- A "Waiver of Liability" form must be signed by all students who assist in the preparation of the food in UAlbany facilities. UAlbany Dining will provide this form;
- The UAlbany Dining staff will determine the number of students needed for food preparation. If the recommended number of students is not available for food preparation, the event may be cancelled or additional fees incurred;
- Students must stay until the UAlbany Dining staff approves the work is complete;
- All food storage, preparation and service will be under the direct supervision of the UAlbany Dining staff;
- All costs associated with the event are the responsibility of the recognized student organization; this may include menu ingredients, use of kitchen and serving equipment, professional staff time and any other requirements deemed necessary by UAlbany Dining staff; and
- Future permission to engage in this type of activity is contingent upon compliance with these terms and conditions.

#### **V. Social Gatherings Held in Residential Life Facilities**

Social gatherings in residential life locations are exempt from the requirement to use UAlbany Dining or obtain a waiver under the following conditions:

- Gatherings of 20 people or less;
- Only open to students/staff at one specific quad/University apartment;
- Not charging admission;
- Serving only Low Risk Foods in a sanitary manner and eaten or discarded within two (2) hours;
- Food/beverages are given away, not sold;
- Residential Life staff and/or organizing group assumes liability in regards to the safety and wholesomeness of the food items provided and responsibility, including financial, for complying with policy and food service health and safety laws;
- Food should be purchased from UAlbany Dining whenever possible, but may be purchased from an outside vendor as long as the items are Low Risk Foods;
- The Res Life staff serving Low Risk Foods takes all precautions that food products are reasonably protected from unnecessary handling or airborne contamination by using

gloves, tongs, covers etc.

- If the food is prepared at home, a sign is clearly posted stating:

**NOTICE**

**THIS FOOD HAS BEEN  
HOME PREPARED AND HAS  
NOT BEEN INSPECTED.**

## **VI. Campus Employees Offering Food in Offices**

Complimentary food items may be provided by campus employees for sharing with their coworkers in their department or office with the understanding that each employee is responsible for the wholesomeness of the food items he or she provides, and takes all precautions that food products are reasonably protected from unnecessary handling or airborne contamination by using gloves, tongs, covers etc.

## **VII. Alcohol**

UAlbany Dining holds the license to serve alcohol on campus. The [UAlbany Alcohol Policy](#) regulates the serving and sale of alcoholic beverages on campus. Review the UAlbany Alcohol Policy to insure all necessary requirements are met before arranging for alcohol service on campus.

## **VIII. Off Campus Food Vendors**

All food and beverages served on campus for events must be provided through UAlbany Dining unless UAlbany Dining determines that it is unable to provide the requested service thereby it may issue a [waiver](#). Off-campus food vendors are generally not permitted access to University controlled space. Such restricted access includes events where payment for the catering services is to occur, as well as events where no monies will be exchanged, such as a sponsored event.

If UAlbany Dining waives its right to provide food and service for an event -- *which is extremely rare* -- the off campus food vendor must provide the following documentation (as applicable):

- Obtain a Food Service Permit for UAlbany from the [Albany County Health Department](#)
- Obtain a Certificate of Insurance, which documents the following:
  - Commercial auto insurance of \$1,000,000 single limit for bodily injury and property damage;
  - General liability per occurrence limit of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and general aggregate limit of \$2,000,000;
  - Additional insured on a primary non-contributory basis to include University Auxiliary Services at Albany, Inc., the University at Albany, the University at Albany Foundation, Empire Commons Student Housing, Inc., the State University of New York, the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York and the State of New York;
  - Liquor Liability Coverage (only if alcohol will be served).

- Review the [Sterno Use Policy](#) and then complete the [Sterno Type Cooking Fuel Use Permit](#) that must be approved by the University's [Office of Environmental Health and Safety](#).
- Comply with the [UAlbany Alcohol Policy](#).

In addition, event organizers must provide the following documentation (as applicable):

- For off-campus groups only: A signed UAlbany [Revocable Permit](#) from the Division of Finance and Administration
- For groups hosting events outdoors: [Tent permit](#) from the [Office of Environmental Health and Safety](#)
- For all groups: Documentation of support from Office of Facility Management for trash and recycle removal (518-442-3480)
- For all groups: A \$50/hour room set-up/clean-up fee if UAlbany Dining dining areas are used for the event.

The process to use an off campus vendor can take up to three months, so please plan accordingly. Submit the waiver form entitled, [Request for Approval to Serve Food from Non-UAlbany Dining Sources Form](#), to the UAlbany Dining Office Manager, CC B36, 518-442-5985 at least twenty (20) business days before your event.

## **IX. Donated Food**

If an organization wishes to use donated food that is potentially hazardous, it must submit the waiver form entitled, [Request for Approval to Serve Food from Non-UAlbany Dining Sources](#), to the UAlbany Dining Office Manager, CC B36, 518-442-5985 at least twenty (20) business days before an event to determine if the item(s) meets acceptable specifications. If the donated food is low risk, the waiver is not required.

Money donated to purchase food, or a discounted price for food products, is not considered a food donation.

## **X. Sale of Commercially Produced Food**

The selling of commercially produced or packaged food items on campus is not permitted without a subcontract agreement with [UAlbany Dining](#). The only exception is for fundraising tabling events by recognized student groups as indicted above (see § I.)

## **XI. Exclusive Contract for Beverages and Snacks**

In addition to UAlbany Dining, UAS has exclusive vending contracts with Coke (beverages) and Prestige (snacks). Under these contracts, only Coke beverages and Prestige snacks products are generally authorized to be given away or sold on campus. These exclusive contracts thereby prevent samplings, promotions, and distribution of non-Coke beverages (soft drinks, sports drinks, juice or juice based products, ready to drink coffee/tea, bottled water etc.) or non-Prestige snack items (chips, breakfast bars, candy etc.). Private events and meetings are encouraged to comply with this agreement. Please contact [UAS](#) for a list of products and pricing.

## **XII. Food Policy Violations**

The primary intent of this policy is to keep the campus community safe. Any violation of this policy is considered serious and will be referred to UAS for review.

## **XIII. Exceptions**

This policy does not preclude food prepared off-campus to be sold to individuals, and delivered to the campus (e.g., pizza delivery services) for individual consumption, vending machines that are placed and operated under contract with UAS, and packaged food sold for individual consumption through the University Bookstore.

#### **XIV. Disclaimer**

This document is strictly a campus food policy. Please check with the various University departments to adhere to all University policies and procedures when hosting an event or meeting at UAlbany (e.g., [Office of Environmental Health and Safety](#), [University Police Department](#), [Office of Student Involvement](#), [Parking and Mass Transit](#) etc.).

#### **XV. Definitions and Examples**

- Low Risk Foods are defined as food and beverages that:
  - Do not require a holding temperature of heat or refrigeration to retard spoilage within a normal serving time; and/or
  - Are commercially packaged, preferably hermetically sealed containers and in the original container; and/or
  - Are individually wrapped or contained; or
  - Fruits sold in the natural form [i.e., whole] and washed before serving.

*Examples of Low Risk Foods and Beverages include:*

Candy  
Chips  
Cookies  
Whole Fruit  
Non-Cream Filled Baked Products  
Popcorn  
Trail Mix  
Chocolate  
Peanut Butter  
Popsicles  
Cheese pizza  
Hard pasteurized cheese  
Bagels  
Crackers  
Vegetable Platter  
Canned or bottled beverages

- Potentially Hazardous Foods are defined as:
  - Foods that are natural or synthetic and that need to be held at 41°F or colder or 135°F or hotter because they are in a form capable of supporting the rapid and progressive growth of infectious or toxigenic bacteria; the growth and toxin production of *Clostridium botulinum* or the growth of *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
  - Foods of animal origin that are raw or heat-treated.

*Examples of Potentially Hazardous Foods include:*

Deli trays  
Cheese or meat sandwiches  
Soft unpasteurized cheese

Cut fruit  
Custards  
Raw or cooked hamburgers and hot dogs  
Barbecue pork and chicken  
Macaroni salad  
Deviled eggs  
Ice cream  
Salads  
Seafood or shellfish  
Vegan proteins (e.g., tofu, tempeh, seitan, beans)

*Source: U.S. Food and Drug Administration. 2001. Food Code. The complete publication is available on-line at:  
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/RetailFoodProtection/FoodCode/default.htm>*

### **Contact Information**

For all food-related questions and catering bookings, contact [UAlbany Catering](#)/518-442-5985.

Questions about this policy, contact [UAS](#)/518-442-5950.

Please visit the [UAlbany Catering webpage](#) for more helpful information on planning a campus event, special student discounts, menus etc.