Wet Lab Proposal
University of Montana

A “Wet Lab” will be conducted on the University of Montana Campus by the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) in coordination with UM and Community Partners. The Wet Lab is an experiential event which will educate UM students in the effects of alcohol consumption, alcohol safety, assault prevention and DUI prevention.

Partners

- ASUM Legal Services
- UM Police Department
- Curry Health Center Wellness
- SARC
- Missoula City Police Department
- Missoula County DUI Taskforce

Purpose

- Education

Students will increase their knowledge of alcohol consumption and its effects on motor skills and mental judgment. They will also learn about alcohol and safety, Driving Under the Influence, the Student Conduct Code, and the possible consequences of alcohol consumption.

- Culture of Safety

Collaboration between the MHP, UM students, UM police, ASUM Legal Services, and other University and Community partners will promote a campus culture of alcohol safety. The event will create awareness of the responsibilities of drinkers and bystanders, and the resources available to
them, to prevent the consequences of alcohol impairment and alcohol abuse.

**Description**

Campus and community partners, including ASUM Legal Services and the UM Police Department, will host an alcohol education event for up to 10 student advocates over the age of 21. A diverse group of participants will be selected by the partners. Supervised by MHP Trooper, UM Police Officers, City police officers and health professionals, the participants will consume a controlled amount of alcohol. The participants will then participate in a demonstration of the perceived vs. actual effects of alcohol consumption, including field sobriety tests. The event will also accommodate a limited number of student and staff observers who will participate in alcohol education but not alcohol consumption.

The event will take place on the UM campus in University Center rooms 330-331 on April 9, 2020.

The educational event will include instruction on laws, student code of conduct, and the physiological and mental effects of consumption of alcohol, as well as bystander training.

Wet Labs have been used by the MHP to train law enforcement officers: [May 2016 Wet Lab gives local officers DUI training.](#)

Montana State University hosts a Wet Lab each Spring:

- [ASMSU Legal Services Facebook post](#)
- [MHP Trooper Wet Lab Educates College Students.](#)

A Wet Lab was used last year as a promotional event to publicize proposed changes in DUI laws: [MHP uses Wet Lab to advocate.](#)
Outcomes

Student Participants and Chaperones will:

- Analyze the results of the perceived vs. actual physiological effects of alcohol consumption; apply and articulate harm prevention strategies for alcohol consumption.
- Understand Alcohol related laws and regulations, including DUI and student code of conduct regulations
- Understand the procedure for field sobriety tests, DUI arrests, and the legal consequences of alcohol impairment
- Build rapport and collaborate with law enforcement and other University departments to improve prevention strategies and bystander peer support
- Develop communication skills for outreach and safety advocacy on campus in our community

Campus and Community Partners will:

- Collaborate to increase inter-Agency relations and communication on all subjects, but regarding alcohol consumption issues in particular
- Enhance their public profile and accessibility to students

Pre- and post- event survey assessments will be administered to document on these outcomes as well as evaluate observer and participant satisfaction and impressions.

Protocol and Procedures

1. Event will be scheduled from 1pm-5pm on a weekday
2. Student Participants who volunteer will be screened for appropriateness and safety, including but not limited to the following restrictions: age, risk-behavior history, interacting medications, etc.
3. Student Participants will be served a controlled amount of alcohol over a designated period of 2-3 hours;
4. During this period of time, there will be an educational program on the physiological, mental and legal effects of alcohol consumption. This program will include law enforcement, attorneys, and health care professionals.
5. Law enforcement officers will supervise and conduct sobriety testing.
6. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided on site by UM Dining.
7. In addition to law enforcement, there will be health professionals present and at least Chaperones to assist with testing.
8. Transportation after the event will be provided; the student volunteers will sign an agreement stating that they will not drive to the event, nor after conclusion of the event.