# BAC TO BASICS

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**BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION (BAC)** is the percentage of alcohol in the blood. Knowing how to manage BAC helps to stay in control while drinking.

#### THE GOLDEN ZONE

In the golden zone, BAC is low and a person may experience effects like increased relaxation and sociability with limited risk of negative outcomes. See the BAC charts below to learn how to *estimate* your personal BAC.

Maximum
benefits and less
risk of negative
outcomes.

Judgement and
decision-making
become impaired.
greater risk of
negative outcomes.

BAC.00

BAC.05

BAC.08



#### **ESTIMATING BAC**

Alcohol is absorbed differently in different people, but these charts can help estimate BAC when drinking. Actual BAC depends on many factors, like: sleep, illness, and other drugs. If you suspect someone is in danger, get them help.

#### BAC AFTER ONE HOUR

NUMBER OF STANDARD DRINKS													
	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	5	6	7	8	
100	.03	.07	.12	.16	120	.02	.05	.08	.11	.14	.17	.20	
110	.02	.07	.11	.15	140	.01	.04	.06	.09	.12	.14	.17	
(Sg) 120	.02	.06	.10	.13	କ୍ରି 160	.01	.03	.05	.08	.10	.12	.15	
(Sg1) 130 MEIGHT (183)	.02	.05	.09	.12	160 180 200 200	.00	.03	.05	.07	.09	.11	.13	
≥ 140	.02	.05	.08	.11	≥ 200	.00	.02	.04	.06	.08	.10	.12	
150	.01	.04	.07	.10	220	.00	.02	.04	.05	.07	.09	.10	
170	.01	.04	.06	.09	240	.00	.02	.03	.05	.06	.08	.09	
190	.01	.03	.06	.08	260	.00	.01	.03	.04	.06	.07	.08	
	F	EMA	LES			MALES							

## RESOURCES FOR SUPPORT

Identify strategies for successful change of alcohol, marijuana, or other drug use with a **confidential** *WahooWell* survey and meeting.

studenthealth.virginia.edu/wahoowell

Connect with *Hoos in Recovery*, a UVA community for people in recovery or considering recovery from alcohol or drug use disorders.

virginia.edu/hoosinrecovery

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): Join a support group, or get one-on-one support and referrals to other services. Call (434)243-5150 to see how CAPS can best support you.

Subscribe to **Wahoo Weekender** emails for substance-free weekend activities. Email **sympa@virginia.edu** with the subject "subscribe wahooweekender".

#### **TIPS FOR MANAGING BAC**



**Pace & Space:** Sip a drink and alternate with water or other caffeine-free drinks. It is not recommended to have more than one alcoholic drink per hour.

**Eat Before and While Drinking:** Alcohol is absorbed into the bloodstream more slowly when there is food (especially protein, like meat or cheese) in the stomach.

**Avoid Mixing Alcohol with Other Drugs:** Some drugs (e.g. allergy antihistamines, antibiotics, and caffeine) can increase alcohol's effects. Caffeine and other stimulants can increase the risk of dangerous choices. Not sure about a drug? Ask your doctor or pharmacist.

**Use Caution when Sick or Tired:** Alcohol is processed slower when a person is sleep deprived or ill.

**Be Aware of New Environments:** Alcohol can cause greater impairment when drinking different beverages or in new locations. Tolerance depends, in part, on environmental cues (place, people, & beverages), not just the amount of alcohol consumed.

### HOO KNEW?

Almost all of UVA students who drink use five or more protective behaviors. \*

95% eat before and/or while drinking

**89%** stay in a group (use the buddy system)

**87%** make plans to get home safely or use a designated driver

82% avoid mixing alcohol with other drugs

75% avoid drinking when sick or tired

\*From the February 2017 Health Surevy with responses from 1,010 UVA students



Most UVA students have 2 or fewer drinks on a typical Friday night.\*\*

\*\*From the February 2019 Health Survey with responses from 808 UVA students

If choosing to vape, it is important to remember that vaping products contain a highly addictive stimulant, nicotine. Nicotine can have negative effects on the user. Making informed decisions in what behaviors to take part in can help keep students safe.