



Black/Purple=Students of Color Red=White Students
The Color of Drinking Comments and Quotes

Describe the alcohol culture at UW-Madison:

"Felt the alcohol culture for freshman is what get people to feel isolated, first-years are told about this **"amazing Wisconsin experience"** that will have you drunk on Friday nights, and Saturday mornings (for football), but this perceived idea of what it **means to be a badger** is off and very unhealthy."

"There is a huge alcohol culture in UW-Madison. It is such **a norm to go out a party and drink**; you start to become numb to the idea of not going out every weekend. I didn't realize how much access we have to alcohol and opportunities to drink until I talked to my twin sister who told me that she could count on her hand the amount of times she drank her first year of college."

"People drink basically everyday at UW-Madison and if you don't, then you are basically **forced to drink** at different events when going out. My freshman year, I was **forced to drink alcohol** as about ten people stood around me until I drank (one of which was forcing the bottle into my mouth). This past year I went out and this guy says to me, "I would love to see you take this shot" as he and his friends stood around me **staring me down like I was an animal** and being an **African American woman**, I am sure you can imagine how that made me feel. I ended up not taking the shot but I did leave the bar and **no person should be forced out of a bar just because they don't want to do what everyone else is doing**. Every time I go out, there has never been a time where someone did not force me to drink or take a shot of something."

"Obviously, we already know that there is a well-established drinking culture here at UW-Madison. It can be easy to be sucked into it in an effort to **"fit in"** but you certainly don't have to do it to still have friends. I would say most people here on campus partake in the occasional drink or two as a way to relax and have fun with friends."

"It's toxic literally, and as a person of color it's frightening. White people on campus will call you **disgusting names** and use **racially charged language** when **under the influence**."

"Lit AF (As F**k)"

"Oftentimes the **people that are targeted** by violent or angry drunk students are **students of color** or those in **minority groups**."

"Alcohol is a **large part of the culture** here in Madison. One who does not drink may feel **left out**."

"The alcohol culture is very **white driven**. People of color do not feel safe on this campus when alcohol is involved because people's true thoughts about people of color come out. I have had many friends that have been **harassed by drunk white males**. They have been called the **n word** or have been told **they don't belong** on this campus. As a student of color, I **no longer attend parties due to the constant feeling of being harassed**. However, it is something that is **impossible to escape on this campus**."

"At the UW alcohol is obviously a big part of the culture, however I feel like with it being such a big part, students here **are smarter** about it and **when they drink it is healthier** than students from other schools. For example, when friends visit from other schools where drinking and parties are less common, they drink a ton and put themselves in dangerous situations because they think that they must make the most of their weekend here. Whereas **students here have more accessibility** to it and so make better decisions when exposed to it."

"P.S... **police officers and adults also react VERY differently to drunk students depending on their demographics. Fix that.**"

"There are many subsets, but the most publicized and dangerous is heavy drinking at frats, sororities, and some apartments. Underage and of age people will get drunk before going out to either bars or parties where they drink more. **The expectation at this school is that you drink**. The university does a terrible job at handling this. Their alcohol awareness material is outdated and mis-targeted. **Their punishment policies and restrictions lead to more dangerous consumption and more students getting hurt.**"



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"I try to avoid alcohol when I lived in Sallery Hall my freshman year and in an apartment two blocks away from State Street my sophomore year. But it's everywhere. However, I try to limit my interactions by trying to **avoiding State Street and Langdon**, especially since those places tend to be pretty white. I have attended a few parties as an underclassman. In these parties, it's mainly people of color. Alcohol culture is prominent in those spaces as well. Because I didn't like the culture, I rarely attend those parties now."

"I think that there is a strong Party culture here. When people are drinking, there's always that **encouragement to excessively drink**. I've encountered too many people that make **blacking out seem like a normal acceptable repeated behavior** and it makes me concerned about how many other students on campus participate in the culture like this."

"**Toxic, unmediated, unsafe** for both the young students who enter the school and are thrown into a culture of overdrinking, and for the **students of color whose safety and position on campus become collateral to it**. It makes me **mistrust my peers** in the classroom and **resent the administration for turning a blind eye**, especially in the **wake of rising sexual assault and racially based aggressions**."

"Most undergraduates binge drink at **minimum every other week**. They often **come to class hungover**. This is **viewed as normal and just what you do during college as an undergrad**."

"Obscene. While there are spaces for those who aren't interested in drinking to do as they wish, the impact and spillover of **horribly drunk, entitled, and pervasively white students** has followed me since my first day at this university. It is **encouraged by students with inherent societal power, ignored by those with the authority** to influence it, and **systemic oppression within our society** and this university itself silences those who would like to change it. Most of all, it is a vehicle by which immature and insecure white males are able to **silence and take advantage of women and encourages women to perceive this abuse as a status symbol in the name of state pride**."

"It is very **normative**. I would say it is described as "**normal**" to **drink and to drink a lot**. A lot of what makes the alcohol culture here is the idea that drinking a lot to get really drunk and party is "cool." People **take pride** in being named the **#1 Party School** in the country. Alcohol is associated with the social scene as well. I wouldn't say it is bad though, it is just the culture, especially being in Wisconsin where alcohol is such a big part of life."

"There's also a certain amount of general privileged behavior that accompanies the alcohol culture. Students will binge drink and **drunkenly lack regard for other people/property/etc**."

"For context, I am a fifth-year senior Caucasian male writing this. I also do occasionally enjoy an alcoholic drink. While trying to avoid hyperbole, I really do believe that alcohol is a focal point at UW-Madison. I believe this for a couple reasons. First, as a student comes to UW-Madison, it really is largely assumed by most friends and family of that student (and their peers at UW) that they will engage in drinking upon their arrival. I encountered this before I came to UW-Madison, as parents would give me a particular "look" when I told them which school I was headed to. With a smile and their tongue firmly in their cheek, they would always say "**oh boy, you're going to have fun there!**" -- Where I knew what they were getting at. Second, I see alcohol being a **focal point in the way that alumni oftentimes act when returning to UW-Madison's campus** for events. Especially when it comes to football gamedays, it seems like it is **parents or other, older alumni** that get the most out of hand during tailgating or while out at the bars following a game. I have encountered more **drunken, stumbling dads and moms** than I can count on football Saturdays, while their younger UW student counterparts go walking by. It seems like the legend and lore of "the good old days" that older alumni had cause them to drink much more than they can handle upon their return to campus. All in all, while I am not by any means directly opposed to alcohol, it seems that **alcohol is quite celebrated on UW-Madison's campus**, to the point of **promoting unhealthy habits in young people that they will carry into their later adult lives**."

"And when mixed with the **social climate** of the campus, it's almost unbearable. **Alcohol and racism** don't mix."

How has your personal alcohol use or the alcohol use of others impacted your overall sense of belonging at UW-Madison?

"It seems that drinking is part of the "Wisconsin experience", we even have shirts sold by the University bookstore that say so. Because I don't drink due to religious reasons, I feel like I do not belong in this culture."

"Drinking alcohol is an activity I partake in with my friends, however I would still be friends with them if I didn't drink too. It is just an activity that we do other."

"Before coming to college, I rarely drank alcohol. I started drinking alcohol when I got to UW-Madison, mainly because it's what everyone was doing at social events. When I am at said events, I feel more connected to everyone when I am drinking alongside them."

"I think in a positive way, a lot of people are really studious and buckled down during the week so they are more social on the weekend. So I think drinking or just "going out" in general has been a positive thing because I have gotten to know more people that I don't typically chat with during the week."

"Choosing not to drink makes me feel isolated in social gatherings. I end up leaving early because I'm the only one still sober, which is not ideal. Conversation with others typically revolves around the last time someone got drunk, got wasted, or was hung over. I have nothing to contribute."

"Going out is a way to see all of your friends in a fun environment. A lot of my friends go to the same bars so I'm guaranteed to see friends out on most weekends."

"The privileged culture around drinking and the idea that it is the normal thing to do and how people have fun in college makes me feel like I am not experiencing college the way I am supposed to and that I don't relate to my peers."

"I feel like an outcast sometimes because, while I like to go out and drink, I am very focused on school and sometimes would prefer to stay in to study; a lot of people don't understand that."

"I personally don't like to drink because I have an addictive personality, and I tend to enjoy drinking but do not like the effects that it can leave me with. This means that the entire campus can sometimes feel like a trap that is trying to get me to give in, and eventually lose myself."

"I feel as though I fit in and belong."

"It's hard to feel as if you belong when you don't always want to participate in one of things that often defines this institution."

"I'm not always about drinking, and see through it as "lame" sometimes. It disconnects me from certain situations."

"As a minority, many alcohol related events are attended my white people in majority. It is often disheartening to look around and be the only person of color."

"The mainstream publicized culture is a party culture. If you do not take part you are an outsider."

"When people drink, they're true views come out. One day I and a group of friends were told to "Go back to Africa". One day someone told me they wanted to play basketball with me because I'm black. I feel little microaggressions like that constantly and it makes me not want to be around the white community of this campus at all."

"Like I am so different because I don't drink heavy."

"Because I don't drink that often, I am not included in as much. I'm also not allowed to some houses because I am Muslim."



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Has alcohol use impacted your health (physical, mental, overall well-being) in the time you have attended UW-Madison?

"I was diagnosed with depression before I came to campus and as a result I used alcohol to deal with it. It progressively got worse as I started to drink more. It was to the point I was contemplating suicide again, the drinking culture here isn't good for a person who doesn't know how to deal with depression and is looking for an outlet such as myself."

"I felt encouraged to drink for stress relief instead of seeking help for mental health, or for pursuing health stress-relieving activities."

"It can be overwhelming when I am walking home at night and there are large groups of drunk students walking past me. As someone who lives with Generalized Anxiety Disorder, this can be extremely stressful, and I often won't leave my house on game days because I fear something bad happening. I have been verbally assaulted and called a nigger and bitch before, so I try to avoid this happening again by simply not leaving my home."

"I have general anxiety disorder and drinking makes that a lot worse."

"It's like I have to put on a performance in order to fit in, and that takes a toll on me."

"Tore meniscus and broken fibula due to drinking-related injuries."

"The temptation to use alcohol as an escape from difficult life situations instead of processing and coping soberly."

"Some (minor) weight gain could probably be attributed to alcohol. Consumption has led to emotional episodes, on rare occasion."

"I feel unsafe in game days leaving my house to go to the library or study space. Due to that I end up staying home unable to concentrate and effectively study."

"Alcohol sometimes makes you feel sluggish the next day and unable to function, it can also make me say/do things I may regret in the morning."

"I was sexually abused."

"The area I live has lots of noise so I can't sleep as well. Also I have to worry about if my roommate comes home after drinking."

"The connection between alcohol consumption, mental health, and sexual health all intersect for me. I realize that due to my depression, it is not a good idea to binge drink, so I avoid it to keep my inner peace. I know that if I am wanting to have sex with a partner, I will not consume alcohol out of respect for myself and my partner due & in order to obtain consent."

"It has lead me to partake in things I wouldn't have sober. Then when I am sober I feel regret and self-conscious about my decisions I made while drunk."

"My mental health and overall well-being has been impacted as many places of alcohol consumption rarely integrate an inclusive environment."

"It has negatively impacted my overall well-being. It has caused more mental stress from bad decision making due to consumption as well as injury. It also causes me financial stress."

COLOR
of DRINKING

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Detail your experiences with microaggressions at this University in the box below. Examples can include, but are not limited to: alcohol-related experiences, classroom interactions, on/off campus living, etc.

"People always think I'm stealing. It's hard to be accepted when it comes to group projects because people think you are lazy. I've had some White people purposely stare at me to start fights."

"During Halloween, many people will put on Mexican costumes which I find offensive and while intoxicated will make lots of jokes about the culture."

"A kid was drunk and told my friends and I to 'go back to Africa'. Teachers have dismissed or invalidated opinions because race was brought up. I have gotten dirty looks just moving in spaces as a black person. I have gotten dirty looks for wearing a wave cap to go get food. I have been in spaces where non-black people have said the n-word and tried to justify their use for it. The entire alcohol culture is rooted in the privilege to not have to worry or even acknowledge race, sexual orientation, or gender when moving in spaces."

"Living in the dorms I had many incidents of microaggressions. Freshman year my roommate said he thought that I would sell drugs out of the room because I was black. I have also heard the N word being said by white people more times than I can count."

There was a headdress painted on Ingraham Hall. I found it just as I came from a horrible test. It really was a bad start to my day. My friends and Native community members were mocked at a healing ceremony. Some sent an email, questioning my native ness after speaking about the indent at Dejope. I have overheard so many conversation speaking of Natives as dead, or as stupid/ not worthy to attend the UW. The only reason they are here is because of scholarships. Also that we complain too much, even though all we ever asking for is to be heard. Due to the Native population being so small, we get ignored or worse, forgotten about."

"I have been frequently confused with other south Asian students who do not look like me by intoxicated people. One time a very drunk white guy (college student) told me he rules Saudi Arabia (where I am not from) and used the n word. I've heard lots of white students use the n word. I've frequently heard people complain about their TA's accents. I've been harassed by presumable straight white men because I am queer."

"I feel like people stare at me as if there was something on my face. People have also asked me where my family is from in a sneaky way suggesting that they would like to know what my racial background is."

"Folks asking where I am from or asking if I am a specific Asian ethnicity. Becoming the token POC in a classroom or social space and being expected to be able to speak for all POC."

"A lot people in Wisconsin stare sometimes I feel like just because I am black. They say things related to our culture (hair, clothes, music) forms of cultural appropriation that make me uncomfortable at times. I think a lot of people say things, and don't mean it in a mean way they are just not culturally aware because they never had to experience being a minority."

"Always asked about where I'm from, get remarks and threats made at me because of being Mexican, had people make fun of me right in front of me because I'm Mexican, been asked if I'm an illegal immigrant or if anyone in my family is, have been told that I'm going to be deported."

"In group settings, people avoid talking to you, making eye contact, or blatantly ignore you when talking about an activity or assignment related to class. Instructors that help other students more than they help you. Give longer more in depth evaluations to students they favor. Pass over you when having open class discussions."

"Being interrogated about my ethnicity and that my views are skewed because of my culture."



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"Where are you from?" "I'm from NYC." "No, but where are you really from" This gets really annoying. Also, being in a study room with multiple friends and having a drunk "friend" on the floor come in and yell the n word. Being in a classroom and having people make it sound like my grade is normal for people like me. "There should be more churches than mosques." etc."

"Even from my closest friends there is often jokes or comments made about my religion and race. I. Most off all I find that people refer to me as "one of the good ones" since I was born in the US. Moreover, I notice that people also have been mistaken for Latino on multiple occasions and had people say some racial epithets and derogatory comments people have very little hesitation when it comes to prejudices against Asians or other minority groups than Hispanic or African-American/African. I am not trying to minimize the plight of those groups, but I think in our current political climate people don't feel the need to censor their prejudice."

"I've been told to remove my turban at sporting events (by other attendees). At house parties and bars people will often touch my turban without permission. I've been called a terrorist, towel head, Arab, and other slurs before."

"Being Indian, I'm often associated with the actions of other Indians. This doesn't happen to white folks as they are judged as individuals and not as a race. For instance, when Ajit Pai repealed net neutrality, I found racist comments directed at me for him being Indian. Comments like, "shouldn't you be ashamed of this dude?" and comments on this line."

"People asking me "where are you REALLY from"; people telling me I look exotic, have a little flavor, etc. People saying I'm not really Latina. People treating me like I'm dumb in physics class. The list goes on and on!"

"In several of my engineering classes, other students would greet me by speaking African American Vernacular English or with Madea (Tyler Perry Madea) references. I gave them no indication whatsoever that is how I wanted to be greeted other persons have touched my hair without my permission."

"Being told that it's not fair I get a scholarship for being Asian while middle class white people get nothing. Being told I'm attractive unlike other Asian girls. My white friend commenting on how she found our other friends (who are black) more attractive than other black people because they sound educated."

"Most often happens when people are under the influence. Drunk white people always say the n word at parties not directly to me but to their friends or to sing with songs. Also guys that approach me at parties that are not the same racial identity as me always mention something about my race."

"White teachers don't take me seriously even when I understand the content better than them. I hear people complaining about policies for inclusion and about the presence of students of color on campus near/in the common areas of my residence hall."

"Professors mostly; one has commented on how articulate I am. Another professor accused me of plagiarism (when I didn't) because she didn't think I had the capabilities to write well."

"In my Clac 3 class, I was the only black girl that was part of WES. We were split up into groups to work together. My group decided to start a group chat and they passed the phone to everyone but me."

"In group settings, people avoid talking to you, making eye contact, or blatantly ignore you when talking about an activity or assignment related to class. Instructors that help other students more than they help you. Give longer more in depth evaluations to students they favor. Pass over you when having open class discussions."

"Being told I have only been accepted to UW because I am a person of color. I have had a class where the TA asks us to stand in front of the class and has the class guess our heritage. People will not sit next to me on a bus. People assume I speak Spanish. Often in class I am asked to speak for my whole race."

"A girl had put chop sticks under my pillow because she thought it was funny."