

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Gambling, Door Prizes, Raffles and Drawing

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The following FAQs are intended to help [UW Medicine workforce members](#) navigate the applicable laws, policies and rules governing gambling activities. The Washington State Law on Gambling (referenced at the end of these FAQs) defines Gambling as: *“staking or risking something of value upon the outcome of a contest of chance or a future contingent event not under the person’s control or influence, upon an agreement or understanding that the person or someone else will receive something of value in the event of a certain outcome.”*

Certain activities, such as gambling, are incompatible with the proper discharge of your duties at UW Medicine and are therefore prohibited in the workplace. In addition, for UW Medicine workforce members who are also state employees, the State Ethics Law similarly views gambling activities in the workplace as incompatible with official state duties – even an occasional or limited use of state facilities for gambling activities can undermine public confidence in state government.

Other activities, such as raffles, drawings and door prizes are prohibited in the workplace unless specifically authorized by your entity’s senior leadership. Entity resources cannot be used for these activities unless approved by your entity’s senior leadership. Prizes won while attending conferences and other work-related events are the property of your entity.

You are encouraged to think about the optics of participating in any activities in the workplace which may result in private gain (ask yourself, *“How would this activity look to the public?”*). If you have questions about whether a particular activity is prohibited, consult with your department chair, director, supervisor, or manager before undertaking such an activity, or contact UW Medicine Compliance at [comply@uw.edu](mailto:comply@uw.edu) / 206.543.3098.

**1. Are you saying that sports and other betting pools are prohibited in the workplace?**

Yes — do not engage in sports pools, betting pools or other forms of gambling in the workplace. Examples of prohibited activities include betting on the Super Bowl, UW athletic events, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Brackets for the annual basketball tournament (“March Madness”), National Basketball Association (NBA) Playoffs, election pools, and any other sports pools or betting pools.

**2. Can employees ever pool their funds at work where the participants can vie for the money as a prize?**

No — you may not engage in any kind of gambling activity in the workplace or activities in which one pays money in exchange for a chance to win the larger pool of funds. You can, with management approval, organize morale-building events — but avoid any pooling of money for prizes.

**3. Can I go offsite to buy a lottery ticket on my lunch break?**

Yes — since the lottery ticket is purchased away from the workplace and on your own time.

**4. Can several of us pool our funds to send someone out to buy lottery tickets?**

No — you cannot pool funds in the workplace to support any gambling activities. You could, however, make arrangements to collect money for this activity when you and the others are away from work and on your own time.

**5. I went to a work-related conference paid for by UW Medicine. Each attendee was automatically eligible to win a door prize and I won a tablet PC donated by a vendor. Can I personally keep it?**

No — you may either decline to accept the tablet PC, or you may contact UW Medicine Advancement at **206.543.8205** to have the prize processed as a gift to your entity. Depending on the circumstances, your department may be able to retain the device while its value may be counted towards UW Medicine fundraising goals.

**6. What if I had paid my own way to the same conference, including travel, lodging and conference registration fees and had gone on my vacation time? Could I keep the door prize?**

Yes — the prohibitions only apply to work-sponsored conference attendance; not to activities undertaken on your own time and expense. However, it is never appropriate to use your UW Medicine business cards to enter any kind of drawing, regardless of whether you have paid your own way or UW Medicine has paid for the conference.

**7. A vendor, company or entity wants to present on-site and they have a door prize to giveaway. Is this permitted?**

No — vendors should never offer or provide door prizes when they come on-site; you may not accept any vendor-supplied prizes, or any other personal gifts from vendors; however, you are permitted to accept free, local education provided by vendors, including on-site vendor visits that are educational or instructional in nature.

**8. If a vendor or outside entity gives UW Medicine a gift, can it be utilized for employee morale?**

Contact UW Medicine Advancement at **206.543.8205** to determine if/how UW Medicine or the UW Medicine entity will best be able to accept, register and use the gift.

**9. A UW Medicine entity is putting on a fundraising event, which will include the opportunity to bid on various auction items and/or participate in a raffle or drawing. All proceeds will benefit my entity. Is this permitted?**

Yes — if your entity is doing the fundraising or is holding an auction, raffle, and/or drawing to promote an entity goal, then these types of activities are permitted as long as they have been approved by senior leadership.

## References

UW Medicine Compliance Gifts, Food, and Meals from External Sources – FAQs:

<https://depts.washington.edu/comply/resources/frequently-asked-questions-faq/gifts-food-and-meals-from-external-sources-faq/>

UW Medicine Workforce Code of Conduct:

[https://depts.washington.edu/comply/docs/UWM\\_CodeofConduct.pdf](https://depts.washington.edu/comply/docs/UWM_CodeofConduct.pdf)

UW Medicine Advancement:

<https://depts.washington.edu/uwsom/administration-and-finance/advancement>

UW Administrative Policy Statement 47.2 – Personal Use of University Facilities, Computers and Equipment by University Employees: <http://www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/APS/47.02.html>

Washington State Ethics in Public Service Act, RCW Chapter 42.52:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=42.52>

Washington State Executive Ethics Board Advisory Opinion 02-05 – Use of State Facilities to Gamble:

<https://ethics.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/documents/AO%2002-05.pdf>

Washington State Executive Ethics Board Advisory Opinion 98-10 – Door Prizes:

[https://ethics.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/documents/advisory\\_opinions/98-10.pdf](https://ethics.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/documents/advisory_opinions/98-10.pdf)

WA State Law on Gambling:

<https://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=9.46>