



Student Code of Conduct

Policy Type: Board of Visitors

Responsible Office: Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, Office of the Provost

Initial Policy Approved: 05/10/2013

Current Revision Approved: 07/23/2014

Policy Statement and Purpose

VCU Creed: Philosophy for a University Community

Academic institutions exist, among other reasons, to discover, advance and transmit knowledge and to develop in their students, faculty and staff the capacity for creative and critical thought. At Virginia Commonwealth University, members of the community should strive to exemplify the following specific ideals in addition to other worthy ideals:

- To demonstrate academic and personal integrity.
- To respect the rights and property of others.
- To be open to others' opinions.
- To uphold academic freedom and freedom of intellectual inquiry.
- To appreciate diversity and to value and learn from the uniqueness of each person.
- To uphold the right of all persons to be treated with dignity and respect and to refrain from all forms of intimidation, harassment and illegal discrimination.
- To demonstrate and respect intellectual courage in situations that demand it.

Students are required to engage in responsible social conduct that reflects credit upon the University community and to model good citizenship in any community.

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Who Should Know This Policy

University students, faculty and staff are responsible for knowing this policy and familiarizing themselves with its contents and provisions.

Definitions

Accused Student

The term "Accused Student" means any student or student organization accused of violating this Student Code of Conduct.

Accuser

The term "Accuser" means any person or entity that submits a charge alleging that a student violated the Student Code of Conduct.

Conduct Appeal Board

The term "Conduct Appeal Board" means any person or persons authorized by the Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity or designee to consider an appeal from a Student Conduct Board's determination.

Faculty

The term "Faculty" means any person hired by the University to conduct classroom or teaching activities or activities involving research, administration or clinical responsibilities or who is otherwise considered by the University to be a member of its faculty.

May

The term "may" is used in the permissive sense.

Member of the University Community

The term "Member of the University Community" includes any person who is a student, faculty member, staff member, University official or any other person employed by the University. A person's status in a particular situation shall be determined by the Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity or designee.

Policy

The term "Policy" means the written regulations of the University as found in, but not limited to, the Code of Student Conduct, the Sexual Misconduct/Violence and Sex/Gender Discrimination policy, the Residential Life and Housing Contract, the VCU Alcohol and Drug Policy, Student Conduct in Instructional Settings, Procedures for Registering Student Organizations, the University Computer and Network Resources Use Policy, the Undergraduate/Graduate Bulletins as found on the University web page, or other University publications or resources.

Preponderance of Evidence

The term “Preponderance of Evidence” is the standard of proof that applies to student conduct proceedings or determinations. A finding of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct must be supported by evidence that is more likely than not that the violation was committed.

Sanction Review Board

The term “Sanction Review Board” means any person or persons authorized by the Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity or designee to determine appropriate sanctions.

Shall

The term “shall” is used in the imperative sense.

Staff

The term “Staff” means any person hired by the University as an hourly or classified staff member.

Student

The term “Student” includes all persons taking courses through VCU, either full-time or part-time, on-line or in-person, single or dual enrolled, pursuing undergraduate, graduate or professional studies. “Students” also includes all persons who withdraw after allegedly violating the Student Code of Conduct, persons who are not enrolled officially for a particular term but who have a continuing relationship with VCU, persons who have been notified of their acceptance for admissions, or persons living in VCU residence halls who may not be enrolled in this institution. This Student Code of Conduct applies at all University locations.

Student Conduct Administrator

The term “Student Conduct Administrator” means a University official authorized by the Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity or designee, on a case-by-case basis, to administer the Student Code of Conduct. A Student Conduct Administrator may investigate, determine and sanction a student for the same case.

The Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity or designee is the person designated by the University President or designee to be responsible for the administration of the Student Code of Conduct.

Student Conduct Board

The term “Student Conduct Board” means any person or persons authorized by the Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity or designee to determine whether a student has violated the Student Code of Conduct and to recommend sanctions that may be imposed when a violation has been committed.

Student Organization

The term “Student Organization” means any student group registered with the University.

University

The term “University” means Virginia Commonwealth University, hereafter referred to as “VCU.”

University Official

The term "University Official" includes any person employed by the University, including faculty or staff, who performs assigned administrative or professional responsibilities.

University Premises or Property

The term "University Premises or Property" includes all land, buildings, facilities and other property in the possession of or owned, used, or controlled by the University (including adjacent streets and sidewalks). All other locations shall be considered "off-campus."

Contacts

The Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity officially interprets this policy. The Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity is responsible for obtaining approval for any revisions as required by the policy *Creating and Maintaining Policies and Procedures* through the appropriate governance structures. Please direct policy questions to The Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

Policy Specifics and Procedures

All complaints of alleged sexual misconduct committed by University students, as defined in the University's Sexual Misconduct/Violence and Sex/Gender Discrimination policy, are governed exclusively by the rules and procedures in the Sexual Misconduct/Violence and Sex/Gender Discrimination policy. All those seeking information regarding the adjudication of sexual misconduct complaints against University students shall refer to the Sexual Misconduct/Violence and Sex/Gender Discrimination policy, not the Student Code of Conduct.

Prohibited Conduct

The University Student Code of Conduct shall apply to all conduct that occurs on University premises, at VCU-sponsored activities, and at off-campus locations. The Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity or designee shall decide whether the Student Code of Conduct shall be applied to conduct occurring off campus, on a case-by-case basis, at her/his sole discretion.¹ The Student Code of Conduct governs all campuses; however, students are advised to consult local campus (i.e. VCU Qatar) publications for additional information or rules pertaining specifically to those campuses that may create hearing boards or processes for these campuses, consistent with the Student Code of Conduct. Each student shall be responsible for his/her conduct from the time of application for admission through the actual awarding of the degree (and even if conduct is not discovered until after a degree is awarded). The Student Code of Conduct shall apply to a student's conduct even if the student withdraws from school while a disciplinary matter is pending.

The following conduct, committed or attempted, is prohibited for all students and student organizations, and is subject to disciplinary sanctions:

1. Abusive Conduct

- a. Assault – Words or actions that would cause an individual(s) to fear for his/her immediate safety. Words constitute assault when they are accompanied by the ability to inflict immediate harm.
- b. Battery – The use of physical force against an individual or group.
- c. Sexual misconduct – Refer to the Sexual Misconduct/Violence and Sex/Gender Discrimination policy. Offenses include, but are not limited to, sexual harassment, non-consensual intercourse (or attempts to commit same), non-consensual sexual contact (or attempts to commit same), and/or sexual exploitation.
- d. Stalking/harassing - Unwanted or unsolicited repeated contact, regardless of type, with another person or persons. Additionally, the contact may cause the other person or persons reasonable concern for their safety, physical or mental health, life, or property.
- e. Endangering health or safety - Taking or threatening actions that endanger the safety, physical or mental health, or life of any person(s) or creates reasonable fear of such action.
- f. Hazing - Subjecting a person(s) to any mental or physical requirement, request, or obligation that could cause discomfort, pain, fright, disgrace, injury, that is personally degrading, or that violates any federal, state, or local statute or University policy; the willingness of the individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.
- g. Recording and/or disseminating images without consent - Using electronic or other means to make or disseminate a video or photographic record of any person(s) where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy without the person's consent and when such a recording is likely to cause injury, distress, or damage to reputation.
- h. Disorderly conduct - Disrupting or preventing the peaceful or orderly conduct of classes, lectures, meetings, or other University functions, or interfering with the lawful freedom of other persons, including invited speakers, to express their views, or interfering with the performance of the duties of University personnel.
- i. Riotous behaviors - Participating in on-campus or off-campus riots or disturbances with the purpose to commit or incite actions that present a clear

and present danger to others, cause physical harm to others, or damage property. This does not prohibit peaceful demonstrations, peaceful picketing, or a call for a peaceful boycott, or other forms of peaceful dissent.

2. Acts of Dishonesty

- a. Furnishing false information to any University official, faculty or staff member or office.
- b. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any University document, record or instrument of identification.

3. Academic Misconduct

- a. Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process. The [Honor System](#) addresses academic expectations, rights, responsibilities, violations, hearing processes, sanctions, and records.

4. Alcoholic Beverages/Drugs

- a. Alcoholic beverages – The unlawful possession, distribution, sale or use of alcoholic beverages or public intoxication are prohibited. Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstance, be used, possessed by or distributed to any person under twenty-one (21) years of age. The possession and/or use of alcohol in University facilities and at University events by those individuals twenty-one (21) years of age or older, may be subject to additional University regulations and restrictions. Any violation of the [Alcohol and Other Drugs](#) is also considered to be prohibited conduct under the Student Code of Conduct.
- b. Drugs – Possession, use, manufacture, sale, dispensation, or distribution of any illegal drug or controlled substances are prohibited except as expressly permitted by law. Any violation of the [Alcohol and Other Drugs](#) is also considered to be prohibited conduct under the Student Code of Conduct.
- c. Paraphernalia – Possession of drug paraphernalia is not permitted in University residences or other University buildings. Paraphernalia includes but is not limited to roach clips, bongs, pipes, blow tubes, hookahs, bowls, and any type of water pipe or object filled with water through which smoke is drawn.

5. Failure to Comply

- a. Failure to comply with a reasonable request or directive of University Officials. This includes, but is not limited to, failure to present a University identification

card, failure to keep or attend a required meeting, or failure to leave any University premise when requested by a University Official.

- b. Failure to observe rules and regulations issued by the University, including all publications, notices, and electronic communications.
- c. Failure to complete or comply with a university imposed sanction.

6. False Reports

- a. It is a violation to make an intentionally false report of any Student Code of Conduct or other policy violation, and it may also violate state criminal statutes and civil defamation laws.

7. Weapons

- a. Possession or carrying of any weapon by any person, except a duly authorized law enforcement personnel, is prohibited on university property, including but not limited to, academic offices, administrative office buildings, medical venues, clinics, laboratories, research facilities, residence halls, dining facilities; or while attending sporting, entertainment or educational events.
- b. For purposes of this document, in addition to items defined as weapons by the [Virginia Commonwealth University Weapons Regulation](#), anything used by a student to injure or attempt to injure another person is considered a weapon.

8. Fireworks/Explosives/Dangerous Chemicals

- a. Unauthorized possession or use of fireworks, explosives or dangerous chemicals is prohibited.

9. Gambling

- a. Participation in any form of illegal gambling as delineated in the [Commonwealth of Virginia Code 18.2.325](#).

10. Theft or Unauthorized Use of Property

- a. Theft - Theft, attempted theft, or possession of stolen property, services or possession of tools with criminal intent.
- b. Unauthorized use of university property or services.

- c. Climbing - Unauthorized climbing inside or outside campus buildings or structures.
- d. Defacing/vandalizing - Defacing (e.g., graffiti) or vandalizing University land, buildings, equipment or property.
- e. Damage or destruction of property - Actual or threatened damage or destruction of University property or property of others, whether done intentionally or with reckless disregard.
- f. Unauthorized presence or entry - Entering or being present in University buildings, rooms, or other areas without proper authorization.
- g. Tampering - Tampering with University equipment, including but not limited to, any elevator, wiring, plumbing, doors, locking mechanisms, University keys, access cards, or other University equipment without authorization from a University Official.
- h. Misuse of fire-fighting equipment/disregard of fire alarm signals/arson - Misuse or tampering with fire-fighting equipment, disregard of a fire alarm signal or refusal to evacuate a building, tampering with detection or suppression equipment, initiating a false fire alarm or unauthorized burning of any material in any University building or on University property.
- i. Obstruction - Blocking of the free flow of pedestrians or vehicular traffic on University premises or at University sponsored or supervised functions.

11. Abuse of Computer Facilities and Resources

- a. Violations include, but are not limited to, unauthorized entry, unauthorized transfer of a file, use of another individual's identification and/or password, use of computing facilities and resources to interfere with the work of another University member, use of computing facilities and resources to send obscene or abusive messages, use of computing facilities and resources to interfere with the normal operation of the University computing system, use of computing facilities and resources in violation of copyright laws, or any violation of the [University Computer and Network Resources Use Policy](#).

12. Retaliation

- a. Any adverse action taken against a person because of the person's participation in a complaint or investigation of misconduct.

13. Involvement in a University Violation

- a. Presences during any violation of the Student Code of Conduct in such a manner to condone, support, or encourage that violation.
- b. Students should not remain passively in the presence of violations. Students are encouraged to notify the proper authorities if they observe or have knowledge of other students violating the Student Code of Conduct.

14. Violation of other disseminated university regulations, policies, or rules. Examples of such regulations include, but are not limited to, University computing policies, Residential Life and Housing policies, and recreational sports facility policies.

15. Violation of any federal, state or local law.

VIOLATION OF LAW AND UNIVERSITY DISCIPLINE

University disciplinary proceedings may be instituted against a student or student organization charged with conduct that potentially violates criminal or civil law and the Student Code of Conduct (that is, if both possible violations result from the same factual situation). Proceedings under the Student Code of Conduct may be initiated and carried out prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil or criminal proceedings at the sole discretion of the Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity or designee. Determinations made or sanctions imposed under this Student Code of Conduct shall not be subject to change because of the criminal or civil outcomes.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AUTHORITY

The Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity or designee shall determine the composition of the Student Conduct Boards, Sanction Review Boards and the Conduct Appeal Boards and will determine which administrator or board shall be authorized to hear each matter. The Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity or designee may develop procedures for the administration of the student conduct system and procedural rules for the conduct of Student Conduct Board Hearings that are not inconsistent with the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct. Decisions made by a Student Conduct Board, Sanction Review Board and/or Student Conduct Administrator shall be final, pending the normal appeal process.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All Accusers and Accused Students are provided the following rights and responsibilities throughout the University student conduct process:

1. The right to receive written notification of any alleged violation.
2. The right to know the source of any allegation.
3. The right to know the specific alleged violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
4. The right to know any sanctions that may be imposed by the University if found responsible for specific violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

5. The right to be accompanied by an advisor of their choice and at their own expense during the University student conduct process; for advisory purposes only, not for legal representation.
6. The right to present his or her own information. Advisors are not permitted to speak or to participate directly in the University student conduct process unless authorized by the Student Conduct Administrator. When selecting an advisor, students should be cognizant of any scheduled meetings or hearings, delays in the University student conduct process will not be allowed due to the scheduling conflicts of an advisor.
7. The right to have the opportunity to respond to any allegation and provide witnesses and/or pertinent additional information.
8. The right to refrain from making any statement concerning alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct.
9. The right to know that any statements made by the Accuser and/or Accused Student can be used during the University student conduct process.

CHARGES AND STUDENT CONDUCT BOARD HEARINGS

Any member or entity of the University community or others outside of the University may file charges against a student or student organization for violations of the Student Code of Conduct. Any charge should be submitted as soon as possible after discovery of the alleged violation. Absent extraordinary circumstances, the written complaint must be filed within six (6) months. A charge shall be prepared in writing and directed to the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (OSCAI) or other designated office. Once the charge has been submitted, the Director of OSCAI or designee will review the charge and appoint a Student Conduct Administrator to complete an investigation.

A Notification Letter will be sent to the VCU e-mail address of the accused student including the specific violations for which the student has been charged, as well as instructions to contact the Student Conduct Administrator to schedule a meeting. An accused student will have five (5) business days from the date of the Notification Letter to contact the Student Conduct Administrator to schedule a meeting. If the student fails to respond to the Notification Letter or does not attend the scheduled meeting, the University may choose to proceed with consideration of the charges without the student's presence.

The Student Conduct Administrator will complete an investigation concerning the allegations stated in the Notification Letter. The Student Conduct Administrator will attempt to meet with the accused student. The Student Conduct Administrator may meet with the accuser as well as with any witnesses and examine additional information.² The Student Conduct Administrator then will determine if VCU's Student Code of Conduct has been violated or if the matter can be closed. Based upon all of the examined information and witness statements, the Student Conduct Administrator will make a determination of responsibility using the standard of preponderance of the evidence. Based upon the determination of the Student Conduct Administrator, the student will have the following options:

1 - No Violation Established by the Administrator:

The Student Conduct Administrator will notify the student that the University will be taking no action at this time concerning the allegations.

2- Violation Established - Administrative Adjudication:

Accused student accepts responsibility and sanctions

The student accepts responsibility for violating specified provisions of VCU's Student Code of Conduct and agrees to complete the specified sanctions as determined by the Student Conduct Administrator. Students agreeing to this option will not be afforded an appeal of this decision, since it will have been accepted by the student.

3 – Violation Established - Sanction Review Board (SRB):

Accused Student accepts responsibility, but disagrees with sanctions

The student accepts responsibility for violating specified provisions of VCU's Student Code of Conduct, but disagrees with the sanctions proscribed by the Student Conduct Administrator. The student may then choose to have the sanction determined by the Sanctions Review Board (SRB). The request to the SRB must be submitted in writing and completed within five (5) business days from the date of notification to the student of the Student Conduct Administrator's determination. The SRB will be comprised of three (3) University Community members with at least one (1) student and one (1) administrative or instructional faculty member.

The SRB will review the accused student's written statement concerning his/her sanction, as well as a written statement from the Student Conduct Administrator explaining the recommended sanctions. Based upon this review, the SRB will notify the accused student, and if necessary the accusing individual, in writing of sanctions via their VCU e-mail address. The Sanction Review Board will assign the sanction they deem appropriate; sanctions may be more severe than those recommended. Decisions of the Sanction Review Board are final and not subject to additional appeal. The Decisions by the SRB that result in a student being suspended or expelled from the University must be approved by the Vice Provost for Student Affairs or designee.

4- Violation Established – Student Conduct Board:

Accused student disagrees with finding of responsibility

The student denies responsibility for violating the specified provisions of the Student Code of Conduct. In such circumstances, the OSCAI will proceed to schedule a Student Conduct Board hearing to consider the information and evidence and make a determination concerning the allegations and, if necessary, any sanctions. The Student Conduct Board will be comprised of three (3) University Community members with at least one (1) student and one (1) administrative or

instructional faculty member. One member will be designated as the Chair and will be responsible for administering the hearing and recording the decision. The accused student will be notified of the date, time and location of the hearing by the OSCAI at least five (5) business days prior to the scheduled Student Conduct Board hearing. If the accused student (and/or the accuser, if appropriate) fails to attend the scheduled Student Conduct Board hearing, the hearing will proceed in the student's absence and his/her ability to appeal the Student Conduct Board hearing decision may be limited.

A Student Conduct Board hearing will consist of the following components:

- Introduction and procedural rules.
- Introductory statement and presentation of information by Student Conduct Administrator and/or Accuser.
- Witnesses presented by the Student Conduct Administrator and/or Accuser.
- Introductory statement and presentation of information by the Accused Student.
- Witnesses presented by the Accused Student.
- Closing statement by Student Conduct Administrator and/or Accuser.
- Closing statement by Accused Student.
- Closed session deliberation by Student Conduct Board.

Witnesses will provide information to and answer questions from the Student Conduct Board. Questions may be suggested by the Accused Student and/or the Accuser to be answered by each other or by witnesses. This process will be conducted by the Student Conduct Board with such questions directed to the chairperson, rather than to the witness directly to preserve the educational tone of the hearing and to avoid creation of an unnecessarily adversarial environment. Questions of whether potential information will be received shall be resolved by the discretion of the chairperson.

All procedural questions are subject to the final decision of the chairperson of the Student Conduct Board.

There shall be a single verbatim record, such as a digital recording, of all Student Conduct Board hearings excluding deliberations. The record shall be the property of the University.

For charges of a sensitive nature, whether the alleged victim is serving as the complainant or as a witness, alternative testimony options will be made available, such as placing a privacy screen in the hearing room, or allowing the alleged victim to testify from another room via electronic means.

The Student Conduct Board will determine, by majority vote, if the student is responsible for the allegations based on a preponderance of the evidence presented at the hearing. The Student Conduct Board will notify the Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity or designee of the determination and any recommended sanctions. The Director of Student Conduct and

Academic Integrity or designee will determine the final sanctions and notify the accused student, and if appropriate the Accuser, within five (5) business days of the Student Conduct Board hearing in writing via their VCU e-mail address of the determination and any sanctions.

Appeals of the SCB's decision must be made by the accused student in writing ([see Section 5: "How to Appeal"](#)) within five (5) business days following the date of the notification of determination to the OSCAI. The OSCAI will then forward the appeal as well as a written statement from the Student Conduct Administrator to a Conduct Appeal Board (CAB). The CAB will be comprised of three (3) University Community members with at least one (1) student and one (1) administrative or instructional faculty member. The CAB will review the accused student's written appeal as well as any written statement from the Student Conduct Administrator and/or accusing individual. The CAB will then make one of two recommendations to the Vice Provost for Student Affairs (VPSA) or designee concerning the appeal: (1) Uphold the Student Conduct Board determination, or (2) Remand the matter back to the Student Conduct Board. The VPSA or designee will review the recommendation of the Student Conduct Appeal Board and make a final determination concerning the accused student's appeal and notify the accused student of that outcome.

5-Formal Appeals Process

All appeals to the Sanction Review Board and Conduct Appeal Board must be completed in writing using the appropriate Appeal Form (provided by OSCAI). All appeals must be submitted within (5) business days following the date of the decision notice to the OSCAI. The appeal must contain any and all information, including any new evidence, should that be the selected criteria. Appeals to the CAB may only be based on the following two criteria:

1. New and pertinent evidence has come to light.
2. A procedural error that would have impacted outcome of case has occurred.

After receipt of the appeal, the Student Conduct Administrator and/or Accuser also may submit a statement responding to the claims or issues as presented by the written appeal. The written appeal and all other written statements will be submitted by the OSCAI to the appropriate body.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Interim Suspension

Interim Suspension is the immediate removal of a student from the University, including but not limited to, facilities, programs, privileges, classes, and premises until final disposition. Interim suspension may be imposed: (a) to ensure the safety and well-being of members of the University community or preservation of University property; (b) to ensure the student's own physical or emotional safety or well-being; or (c) if the student poses an ongoing threat of disruption of, or interference with, the normal operations of the University. The student will be notified in writing by electronic means of the interim suspension and the

reason for the suspension by the Director of Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity or designee. The student will have three (3) days to appeal his/her interim suspension in writing to the Vice Provost for Student Affairs or designee. If the student does not appeal the interim suspension or if the appeal is denied, the regular student conduct process shall proceed on the normal schedule, up to and through a Student Conduct Board hearing and a Conduct Appeal Board hearing, if required. Additionally, the University may administratively withdraw the student from their classes during or, if appropriate, retroactively following this process.

Revocation of Admission

Revocation of Admission entails rescinding the offer of University admission that had been awarded under circumstances of fraud, misrepresentation, or other violation of University standards in the student's matriculation to the University.

Revocation of Degree

Revocation of Degree entails rescinding the award of a University degree that had been awarded under circumstances of fraud, misrepresentation, or other violation of University standards. For more detail refer to [VCU Procedures for Degree Revocation](#).

SANCTIONS

Upon a final finding of responsibility of a Student Code of Conduct violation, sanctions may be imposed upon a student by the Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, Student Conduct Administrator, the Sanction Review Board or by the Vice Provost for Student Affairs or designee. More than one of the sanctions listed may be imposed for any single violation. A student assigned any sanction and who fails to complete the sanction will be considered to have committed another violation of the Code. Violations involving impairment from the voluntary use of alcohol and/or use of drugs, (other than medically necessary) shall be considered an aggravating, and not a mitigating, factor in sanctioning. All sanctions become part of a student's permanent University disciplinary record. The University may withhold awarding a degree, or any other academic achievement, otherwise earned, until the completion of the process set forth in this Code, including appeals and the completion of any and all sanctions imposed.

The following sanctions **are not** recorded on a student's transcript. These sanctions are not reported to external agencies as a University disciplinary action, unless required by law.

Censure

Censure is a written notice warning the student to avoid a recurrence of any conduct that violates the Code and/or any University policy.

Disciplinary Probation

Disciplinary probation is a specified period of time, a minimum of one semester, requiring the student to avoid a recurrence of any conduct that violates the Code and/or any University policy that may result in additional university sanctions including suspension or expulsion.

Educational Experiences

Educational experiences are learning opportunities, including but not limited to, community service, drug and alcohol education, and written papers, designated to be completed by the student. In addition, an alcohol and drug assessment and/or behavioral health assessment may be completed by a qualified medical or mental health professional and released to an appropriate University official.

Loss of Privileges

Loss of privileges is a denial of services, privileges, and benefits which may impact participation in extracurricular activities, residence in University housing, University employment, Honors College, leadership within student organizations, academic activities, and study abroad, for a designated period of time.

Fines

Previously established and published fines may be imposed.

Bans, Deactivations and Holds

Bans, deactivations and holds are restriction of access to University services, activities, facilities and registration.

Restitution

Restitution is monetary reimbursement to the University and/or a member of the University community or others to cover the cost of damage, injury, or loss of community or personal property as a result of a violation.

No Contact

The student is instructed not to have direct or indirect contact with the victim(s) of the violation(s). This includes but is not limited to contact in person, through electronic means, or through a third party.

University Policy Sanctions

University Policy Sanctions are any sanctions not specified in the Code, but which are applied to a student as a result of prohibited behavior of another University policy.

Deferred Suspension

Deferred suspension is a designated period of time during which a student is given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to abide by the Code's articulated behavioral expectations.

The following sanctions **are** recorded on a student's transcript. These sanctions are reported to external agencies as a University disciplinary action and as required by law.

Suspension

Suspension is removal of a student for a defined period of time, for a maximum of six consecutive semesters, during which a student loses all University privileges including, but not limited to, facilities, programs, privileges, classes, and premises. All students who do not attend VCU for three or more successive semesters, excluding summer sessions, must submit an application for readmission.

Expulsion

Expulsion is permanent dismissal from the University, administrative withdrawal from classes and loss of all University privileges.

The following sanctions may be imposed upon student organizations: Censure; Disciplinary Probation; Educational Experiences; Loss of Privileges; Fines; Bans, Deactivations and Holds; and Restitution.

NOTIFICATION OF SANCTIONS

Sanctions and other material related to student conduct processes are part of the educational record of the accused student and are protected from release under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law. However, the University observes the legal exceptions to FERPA.

The University may release publicly the name, nature of the violation of a University policy that is a “crime of violence,” including: arson, burglary, robbery, criminal homicide, sex offenses, assault, destruction/damage/vandalism of property, and kidnapping/abduction. The University shall release this information to the complainant in any of these offenses regardless of the outcome.

INTERPRETATION AND REVISION

Any question of interpretation or application of the Student Code of Conduct shall be referred to the Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity or designee for final determination.

The Student Code of Conduct shall be reviewed every five (5) years under the direction of the Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This Student Code of Conduct has drawn material from Edward N. Stoner’s and John Wesley Lowery’s *A Twenty-First Century Model Student Code of Conduct*, Brett A. Sokolow’s *NCHERM Model Sexual Misconduct Policy* and a review of other university student codes of conduct.

Forms _____

There are no forms associated with this policy and procedures.

Related Documents

1. VCU Policy: [Sexual Misconduct/Violence and Sex/Gender Discrimination](#)
2. VCU Policy: [Honor System](#)
3. VCU Policy: [Alcohol and Other Drugs](#)
4. VCU Policy: [University Computer and Network Resources Use Policy](#)
5. VCU Policy: [Procedures for Degree Revocation](#)

Revision History

This policy supersedes the following archived policies:

July 23, 2014, New Policy	<i>Student Code of Conduct</i>
April 3, 2015	<i>Student Code of Conduct</i> (Minor SCHEV requirement revision added)
January 26, 2017	<i>Student Code of Conduct</i> (minor revision to reflect current policy names and updated hyperlinks)

FAQ

There are no FAQ associated with this policy and procedures.