STUDENT CONDUCT

Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities
Students are citizens and members of the University academic community. A citizen's rights and liberties under the Constitution must always be applied in light of the special characteristics of the environment in which the rights are to be exercised. Central to the special characteristics of the environment of a state supported university campus is the special authority of University officials designated by the Board of Regents to control, preserve, and manage University property and affairs and to maintain order and discipline. Therefore, the WKU Student Code of Conduct was established to ensure that disruptions to the University community are handled in an educational, fair, and dignified manner. The University expects students, parents, and the greater community to respect its rules and procedures governing the WKU community and will resist any unwarranted attempts to influence University policies and procedures.

The University demands high standards of personal conduct and encourages each student to maintain integrity through self-discipline. The University adopts rules and regulations that are necessary for the orderly, harmonious, and beneficial functioning of the University community. Accordingly, each student must respect the rights of others and should abide by the spirit as well as the letter of regulations of the University and laws of the community, state, and nation.

Any question of interpretation regarding the WKU Student Code of Conduct shall be referred to The Office of Student Conduct. The WKU Student Code of Conduct shall be reviewed every two years under the direction of the Director of Student Conduct.

Maintenance of Student Records
The Office of Student Conduct maintains disciplinary records on students of Western Kentucky University. All student records maintained by the Office of Student Conduct are held in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). These records are kept under lock and in confidence in said office with access to these records being available only to the appropriate University officials. Non-Current records, more than five years old, shall be destroyed or expunged. Current disciplinary records which are pending or resulted in a suspension or expulsion shall be retained.

Purpose of the Student Code of Conduct
Western Kentucky University developed a Student Code of Conduct in order to fulfill its mission and promote a positive environment for all members of the University community. As a member of the University community, a student is granted rights and responsibilities, which are defined within the Student Handbook. It is the responsibility of every student to become familiar with the WKU Student Code of Conduct and the rights and responsibilities of students. Ignorance of the WKU Student Code of Conduct is not acceptable justification for violation of any campus policies or procedures.

The regulations within the Student Code of Conduct are intended to govern the student conduct at Western Kentucky University. The University will take disciplinary action against a student for an off-campus offense only when the nature of the offense is such that, in the judgment of the Director of Student Conduct, the continued presence of the student on campus is likely to interfere with the educational process and the orderly operation of the University. Students who violate the law may incur penalties prescribed by civil and criminal authorities. However, the University reserves the right to review student incidents independent of action by civil and criminal authorities and apply the University's disciplinary process as it serves the educational mission of WKU, a function separate and distinct from civil and criminal proceedings. Below are statements of policy regarding the rights, responsibilities, and code of conduct for Western Kentucky University.

Rights
1. The right as citizens. Students have the right to enjoy the same freedoms as are guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and to expect an education of the highest quality.
2. The right to speak on University property provided that his/her behavior does not infringe on the rights of others as further defined in the University policy on time, place, and manner of meetings, assemblies, and demonstrations.
3. The right of freedom to hear and participate in dialogue and to examine diverse views and ideas.
4. The right to participate in all areas and activities of the university, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, age, uniformed services, veteran status, or physical or mental disability in admission to career and technical education programs and/or activities, or employment practices in accordance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Revised 1992, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
5. The right to engage, either individually or in association with others, in off-campus activities, exercising rights as a citizen. When so engaged, in a context in which the participant is identified as a student, there exists a responsibility to make clear that the student does not represent the University.
6. The right of due process in the student conduct procedure in accordance with rules of procedures prescribed in the Student Code of Conduct.

Responsibilities
1. The responsibility of assuming the consequences of one's own actions.
2. The responsibility to insure that no student organization, constitution or other organizational document includes discriminatory clauses pertaining to race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, age, uniformed services, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.
3. The responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and the administration.
4. The responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire university community.
5. The responsibility for knowledge of and observance of established University policies presented in official University publications.

Student Code of Conduct
The Student Code of Conduct educates students about appropriate behavior and fosters a community in which academic success can occur. The following Student Codes of Conduct are the regulations that apply to ALL WKU students, including the regional campuses:
1. Dishonesty. Dishonesty, such as cheating, plagiarism, misrepresenting oneself or an organization, knowingly furnishing false information to
the University, or omitting relevant or necessary information to gain a benefit, to injure, or to defraud is prohibited.

2. Drugs. Use, possession, production, manufacture, sale, possession with intent to sell, trafficking or distribution of narcotics, dangerous drugs or controlled substances, as defined in KRS Chapter 218A. Specific violations related to this code include, but are not limited to marijuana, drug paraphernalia, anabolic steroids, dispensing prescription or prescription drug not prescribed to the student; driving while impaired by any drug, whether it be legal or illegal; and drug related activities used to induce an altered state is strictly prohibited. The manufacture or distribution or attempted manufacture or distribution of narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances on or off University property is prohibited.

   a. Any student with a violation of the Drug Policy while enrolled at the institution may be removed from student housing and/or suspended from the University. Any student who is found to be manufacturing or distributing drugs on or off campus may be suspended or expelled from the University.

3. Alcohol. Western Kentucky University complies with the alcohol regulations of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Members of the university community recognize that a violation of any federal, state and local laws governing the use and possession of alcoholic beverages, including off-campus is prohibited. Examples may include but are not limited to Driving under the influence (DUI), being assessed as intoxicated in public (AI or PI) and underage possession/consumption. The University prohibits the possession, furnishing or use of alcoholic beverages (including wine and beer) by students on campus and/or guests of students in residence halls. The University prohibits the use of rapid consumption devices or drinking games including, but not limited to, kqgs, bongs, funnels, and beer pong.

As a member of the WKU community, students agree to:

   a. Abide by all state laws and university policies governing the use of alcoholic beverages and drugs;
   b. Support, in their decisions and behavior, an environment in which individuals can make informed, healthy, and responsible decisions about alcohol and drugs;
   c. Discourage the illegal or irresponsible behavior of others; and
   d. Assume responsibility for their decisions and behaviors and accept the consequences resulting from those decisions and behaviors.

Any student found in violation of the Alcohol Policy three times in any one-year period may be suspended from the University for a minimum of one semester.

4. Sexual Misconduct/Assault. Actual or attempted sexual contact with another person without that person's consent is prohibited. Sexual misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

   • Intentional and unwelcome touching, coercing, or an attempt to coerce, and forcing;
   • Involvement in any sexual contact when the victim is unable to consent;
   • Forcing another individual to touch a person's intimate parts (defined as genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breasts);

   • Sexual intercourse without consent, including acts commonly referred to as 'rape'.

Additionally, sexual misconduct includes behaviors outlined in the University's policy on sexual discrimination and harassment. Lack of consent occurs when the acts are committed either by force or intimidation or by taking advantage of the victim's mental incapacity or physical helplessness. Report it! (http://www.wku.edu/handbook/reportingsa.php)

5. Weapons. Possession or use of firearms, explosives (including fireworks), dangerous chemicals or other dangerous weapons or the brandishing of any weapon or any other object in a menacing or threatening manner on institutionally owned or controlled property is prohibited.

The owner of a private vehicle is prohibited from possession or storing a weapon in the vehicle while it is operated or parked on University property, including University parking areas, either on campus or at any off-campus facility owned, leased, or operated by the University.


Weapons may be defined as an object, instrument, device, or substance designed to inflict a wound, cause injury or incapacitate. Weapons may include, but are not limited to all firearms, pellet guns, stun guns, paintball guns, air guns, slingshots, martial arts devices, knives and clubs.

The above information is provided solely for your convenience and is not intended to constitute a formal legal understanding or legal advice. If you have any additional questions on storing or transporting deadly weapons in a vehicle while on campus, including whether a particular means of storage or transportation would violate the Student Code of Conduct against weapons on campus pertaining to carrying a concealed deadly weapon, you may wish to consult the University Police Department. Unauthorized weapons will be confiscated and disposed of properly by WKUPD.

6. Identification. Refusal to provide proper identification upon request. Students are expected to carry their valid student identification at all times and to present it upon request by University officials including, but not limited to University Police, faculty, residence life staff, and other staff of the institution. The University may confiscate any ID card that has been misused, duplicated, or altered. Cards may be retained temporarily while their validity is checked. A student may possess only one ID card. Use of the ID card by any person other than the person to whom it was issued or use of the card under false pretenses is a violation of the Code of Conduct.

7. Theft. Theft and/or possession of stolen property is prohibited. Such property may include, but is not limited to, parking decals, and personal or university property. Theft of property having substantial value may result in serious disciplinary action for a first offense.

8. Hazing. Hazing refers to practices that are a part of initiation into an affiliation with any organization. Hazing is considered a serious violation of the Student Code of Conduct and is prohibited in all forms. This code of conduct is based on fair and equal treatment with consideration and respect for all students and applies to organizations and individuals alike. Any person receiving bodily injury by hazing or mistreatment shall have a right to sue, civilly, the person or persons guilty. Western Kentucky University defines hazing as any action, physical abuse or
creation of a situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of a participant by any person. A participant is defined as a university student, or any pledge. A person is defined as a university student, member, alumnus, affiliate alumnus, guest of any campus organization, or other individuals.

Physical Abuse:

- Forced or coerced use or consumption of liquor, drugs, or any other vile substance.
- Calisthenics (push-ups, sit-ups, jogging, runs, etc.)
- Paddling
- Line-ups

Mental Abuse:

Hazing is defined by exacting degrading and disagreeable work, ridicule or abusive and humiliating conduct that tends to bring the reputation of the organization or University into disrepute. Any action that intentionally prevents students from fully participating in the academic process is also considered hazing.

- Theft of any property
- Sleep Deprivation
- Forced Nudity
- Personal Servitude
- Forcing a violation of University policies and federal, state, or local laws

9. Harassment. Any physical, behavioral or verbal abuse of a person based upon race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, age, uniformed services, veteran status, or physical or mental disability is prohibited, where:

a. Tolerance of or participation in the offensive conduct explicitly or implicitly becomes a condition of employment or participation in a university course, program or activity; or
b. The conduct is sufficiently egregious, pervasive or persistent to interfere with an individual’s work, academic or program participation; or

c. The conduct creates an environment that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or offensive.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to stalking, cyber stalking, cyber bullying/harassment, and retaliation as a result of complaints or alleged misconduct. (Refer to the Discrimination and Harassment Policy [http://wk.edu/policies/hr_police/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf])

10. Unruly Conduct. Disorderly, abusive, or lewd acts that result in physical altercation, fighting and indecent or obscene conduct that cause physical injury or threaten others, or interferes with any individual’s rightful act is prohibited. This responsibility also applies to events sponsored and supervised by recognized student organizations, on or off campus.

11. Disrupting the Academic and or Disciplinary Process. Interference or disruptive activity that impedes, impairs, or obstructs teaching, research, administration, disciplinary process, failing to comply with the outcomes imposed under the Student Conduct Code, or other University missions, processes, functions or other authorized activities including its public service function of other authorized activities on University premises or which inhibits full exercise of rights by others is prohibited.

12. Class Attendance and Classroom Conduct. Regular classroom attendance is expected of all students. Although role may not be taken grades are based on the performance of assigned work and this may include class participation and attendance. A professor has the authority to determine acceptable classroom conduct for his or her students as long as those decisions do not infringe on the student’s rights. Disruptive classroom behavior may also be considered unruly conduct (see item 10).

13. Technology Use Ethics. Any violation of the Technology Ethics Policy as created by the Department of Information and Technology is considered a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

14. Shared Responsibility for Violations. Enticing, inciting others, abetting, conspiring, being an accessory, or passively witnessing/ participating in any act prohibited by the student conduct code is prohibited.

15. Requests or Orders. Refusal to comply with directions, requests, or orders by University officials or law enforcement or failing to identify oneself when requested to do so is prohibited. Upon the request of the student questioned, the authorized university official must show identification and state the source of his/her authority. Among those officials who may request a student’s ID card are staff members from: Residence Life, Downing Student Union, WKU Food Services, Faculty and Staff, Book Store as well as any staff member within the Division of Student Affairs.

16. Misuse of Property. Unauthorized entry or use of institutional facilities and property; unauthorized possession or duplication of university keys, parking decals or access cards; tampering with fire equipment; or propping open of exterior residence halls doors or any door to any institutionally owned or controlled property is prohibited. Students may not use University property for any activity prohibited by Federal, State or local laws.

17. Destruction of Property. Any act of vandalism, malicious, or unwarranted damage or destruction to any institutionally owned or controlled property is prohibited.

18. Recreational Mobility. Skateboards, skates, and bicycles may be used on sidewalks for safe transportation purposes only. When using sidewalks, remember pedestrians have the right of way. They may not be used inside buildings or within 50 feet of building entrances. Motorized scooters, mopeds, motorcycles, and similarly motorized vehicles are not to be used on sidewalks or in pedestrian traffic areas. Motorcycles, scooters, mopeds, and other motorized vehicles must park in parking lots in designated cycle parking areas. Registration with WKU Parking and Transportation Services department is required for all motorized vehicles. On campus housing residents may only bring one motorized vehicle to campus.

Excessive speed, stunt riding, or any other use of skateboards, skates, bicycles, or motorized vehicles that may cause property damage and/or endanger self or others is prohibited. Bicycles should be parked at any of the bicycle racks established throughout campus. Bicycles chained to trees, fences, handrails, etc., may be impounded. Users may not ride on stairways, patios, dock areas, benches, picnic tables, or irregular surfaces. Any person causing damage to University property through use or misuse of recreational equipment may face prosecution through the
University student conduct process and/or the legal process to recover damages.

19. Obstruction of Access. Obstruction or disruption, which interferes with the freedom of movement, either pedestrian or vehicular on institutionally owned or controlled property is prohibited.

20. Parking and Transportation Regulations. Traffic rules and regulations as published by the university will be administered by The Office of Parking and Transportation. Students are required to observe these regulations as a condition of their enrollment. Any behavior that is of an unruly or disrespect to their authority will be deemed a violation of the Code of Conduct.

21. Fraud. Knowingly passing a worthless check, money order or fraudulent use of credit cards including attempts to obtain any item of value under false pretenses or falsification of official university documents is prohibited.

22. Forgery. Forgery, alteration or misuse of University documents, records including, but not limited to, electronic records, transactions and/or communications, or identification, including student identification cards is prohibited.

23. Gambling. Participation in any form of illegal gambling is prohibited.

24. Violation of Laws. The commission of acts which constitute a violation of local, state and federal laws. The University will review any conduct reported by members of the University community, law enforcement personnel, or citizens as being in violation of the law. Any student convicted of a criminal offense is subject to university disciplinary action.

25. Violation of General Rules and Regulations. Violation of any University policy, guideline, campus rule or regulation of conduct, which adversely affects the student’s suitability as a member of the University community is prohibited.

Range of Conduct Outcomes

The following list describes University outcomes that may be administered as a result of violating the WKU Student Code of Conduct. Outcomes may be imposed only after the student has been given the opportunity to review alleged violations, review any evidence, and respond to the allegations. Should the student wish to not participate in a conference, the conference and resulting outcomes may be administered in absentia.

Preponderance is the standard of proof used in student conduct meetings and formal conferences. For a student to be found responsible for a violation, the evidence must indicate that it is more likely than not that the violation occurred. This is very different from the criminal court system.

Conduct outcomes may be used independently or in combination depending on the particular circumstance of the violation. Chronic and/or multiple violations during the course of an individual student’s college career may increase the level of sanctions applied.

1. Warning # Official notice to a student that conduct or actions are in violation. The continuation of such conduct or actions may result in further disciplinary action.

2. Creative Discipline # A sanction which may be used in lieu of, or in combination with, sanctions numbered three through six below. Creative discipline will be consistent with the offense committed. In some cases, at the discretion of the conduct officer, a student found in violation may attend special educational seminars, classes, or workshops offered in the subject area of the violation or may be given another outcome which is directly related to the violation. In these cases, the student must always submit written proof of completion of outcome to the conduct officer. The University may also contact parents or legal guardians of students found in violation of policy concerning the possession of alcohol or controlled substances if the student is under 21.

3. Behavior Agreement # Behavior contract between the University and the student whereby the student agrees, in writing, to correct inappropriate behaviors.

4. Restricted Use of Facilities # Denial of on campus use of an automobile for a specified period of time, removal from a living group, or other privilege including the use of specific University facilities, consistent with the offense committed. Restricted use of facilities may be accompanied by other outcomes.

5. Restitution # Reimbursement by transfer of property or service to the University or a member of the University community in an amount not in excess of the damage or loss incurred. Reimbursement may be accompanied by other outcomes.

6. Restricted University Participation - Exclusion for a period of time from participating in extra-curricular activities including recognized student organizations and/or representing the University in any manner. Classroom attendance will be unaffected.

The following outcome may be imposed upon groups or organizations: Deactivation – Loss of all privileges, including University recognition, for a specified period of time.

1. Probation - A period of observation and review of conduct in which the student demonstrates compliance with the provisions of University regulations. Any student found in violation of the Student Code of Conduct while on disciplinary probation in the same semester of academic probation may be subject to immediate suspension or dismissal from the university.

2. Deferred Suspension – In some cases, an outcome of suspension may be held in abeyance for a specified period. This means that if a student is found responsible for any violation during that period, he or she will be subject to the deferred outcome without further review, in addition to the disciplinary action appropriate to the new violation.

3. Separation – An immediate dismissal from the University based on threat or danger to the university community or egregious, pervasive student behavior. Students separated from the University are eligible to apply for reinstatement to the University. Readmission is not guaranteed.

4. Interim Suspension – Exclusion for a period of time, prior to a student conduct outcome, from the residence halls or campus (including classes) and all other college activities or privileges of a University student. Interim suspension may be imposed only:
   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 and well-being; or
   c. If the student poses a definite threat of disruption of or interference with the normal operations of the University.

5. Suspension - Exclusion for a period of time, generally from one term to one year. A separation from the university is a time away for a number of academic semesters or until certain conditions are met.
Academic Integrity

The maintenance of academic integrity is of fundamental importance to the University. Thus it should be clearly understood that acts of plagiarism or any other form of cheating will not be tolerated and that anyone committing such acts risks punishment of a serious nature.

• Academic Dishonesty - Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in a course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of Student Conduct for additional action. A student who believes a faculty member has dealt unfairly with him/her in a course involving academic dishonesty may seek relief through the Student Complaint Procedure.

Other Types of Academic Dishonesty

Cases of academic dishonesty, such as the theft or sale of tests, electronic transmission of test, test sharing, etc. will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary outcome.

What if a student plagiarizes or in some other way is academically dishonest?

The Faculty Syllabus or Handbook may permit a faculty member to fail a student on the assignment or the entire class. Cases of academic dishonesty may be referred to The Office of Student Conduct for review and additional action. It isn’t obligatory for faculty to contact the student that they have referred to The Office of Student Conduct to start conduct proceedings. If a student appeals the outcome of the conduct proceedings, the Vice President of Student Affairs or his/her designee will review the appeal.

If the violation could result in removing the student from the University (the typical term is 1 year), then the University Disciplinary Committee meets with the student in a conference setting. This committee will hear the more serious academic dishonesty cases.

Off-Campus Jurisdiction

While the institution does not desire to act as a policing authority for the activities of the student off University property, and while it cannot serve as a sentencing authority for a student’s violation of federal, state or local law, the University may take appropriate action in situations involving misconduct that violates the WKU Student Code of Conduct.

The university has a vested interest in student behavior as it pertains to alcohol use and other drug use which threatens the health, welfare and safety of self and others. The university has deemed off-campus violations of the alcohol and drug code of conduct to be actionable by the university disciplinary process. When actions or incidents occur outside of the residence halls or off campus, such conduct may call into question the student’s continued membership in the educational community either because the student grossly violated elementary standards of behavior required for the maintenance of the educational community or because the student’s continued presence would adversely affect the pursuit of educational goals of others.

It is also the position of the Office of Student Conduct that among the violations of misconduct considered to be of an especially serious nature are those that represent a threat to the safety and health of members of the University Community. These include involvement with narcotics,
dangerous drugs, and/or controlled substances, violence or threat of violence, non-consensual sexual contact, and the possession of firearms or the brandishing of any object in a threatening manner. A student found in possession of a firearm or any other weapon or the brandishing of any object in a menacing or threatening manner will be referred to the Director of Student Conduct for the sole purpose of determining either suspension or expulsion.

Notwithstanding the above, the President of the University is authorized and has empowered the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Director of Student Conduct to suspend (interim suspension) any student if it is indicated that under the circumstances the accused student’s continued presence on campus during the three day interim period awaiting a conference before the University Disciplinary Committee is inimical to the best interests of the University. Any such suspension (interim suspension) shall be for a period of not more than five days. The student shall be furnished written notice of the actions and the reasons therefore. The notice shall also advise the student that the accusation of misconduct shall be referred to the University Disciplinary Committee.

Procedures Followed for Student Conduct Conference:
- Notification of student code violation
  #
- Notification by letter, or phone to student regarding code violation
  #
- Staff member to schedule an appointment with student
  #
- Meet with Director of Student Conduct to discuss alleged student code violations
  #
- Implement outcome or case dismissal
  #
- Follow-up letter of outcome and actions taken
  #
- Student to Complete Outcome
  #
- File record of incident and outcome

In any case where the violation of University policy involves conduct that would constitute a public criminal offense upon prosecution and conviction, the burden will be satisfied by either:
- The accused student’s admission of responsibility to the committee, or
- Information in the record, if the student denies responsibility that a preponderance of evidence indicates responsibility.

A university committee for student disciplinary matters has been established by action of the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University in accordance with the Kentucky Revised Statutes which authorize the Board of Regents to invest the faculty/staff or a committee of the faculty/staff with the power to suspend or expel any student for egregious violations of the WKU Student Code of Conduct or a gross disregard for the rights of others in the campus community.

The Committee is comprised of thirteen members, six faculty, five staff, and two students, who are appointed by the President of the University. Faculty terms are three years and are staggered so that the term of one third of the membership expires each year.

At least seven members of the Committee will be present before any official action is taken. Any decision will be made by a majority of those Committee members present. The Committee is to be notified of a meeting by the Office of Student Conduct immediately upon determination of the necessity for such a meeting.

Committee meetings are conducted in two parts. In the first part, only information that bears on whether or not the student has engaged in specified violations or misconduct may be presented. If the Committee finds no violation or misconduct, the finding is recorded and the proceeding is concluded.

If the finding is that the student has, in fact, engaged in a violation or misconduct, the Committee shall, in the second part of the proceeding, hear and consider any information bearing upon circumstances of extenuation or mitigation. After this part is concluded, the Committee shall determine the appropriate outcome. The Committee will function in accordance with the following procedures:

Preliminary Procedures
1. Director of Student Conduct or his/her designee shall have notified the student or students in writing as to the time and place of the conference to be held by the university committee for student disciplinary matters and of the nature of the problem or charge and the information against the student or students.
2. Notification to the student(s) shall be made at least three days before the conference is to be held. The student will meet the Director of Student Conduct or his/her designee to discuss the conference process and sign a conference checklist form. In the student’s absence, a written report of the facts of the case and all related documents will be presented and reviewed by the University Disciplinary Committee and a decision will be made as to whether or not a violation of misconduct occurred and an appropriate outcome will be levied at that time.
3. The Director of Student Conduct and other persons on the staff shall provide the committee with a written report of the facts of the case.
4. If so desired, the student(s) may be accompanied at the conference by a member of the faculty, staff, fellow student or any third party approved by the University. Written approval must be secured two working days prior to the conference.
5. Persons accompanying the student may advise but not represent and may not address the Committee in any fashion without permission from the Chairperson.

6. Due to the delicate nature of the conference, and because of the need to protect confidential records and the alleged victim, these meetings shall be otherwise closed.

Conference Procedures
1. The Chairperson will begin the meeting by citing reasons for the call. Information bearing on whether or not a violation or misconduct has occurred will be given by the Director of Student Conduct or an appointed representative of the Director of Student Conduct.
2. The student will be given an opportunity to state the case and to present pertinent information for defense.
3. The Chairperson will call for discussion in a question and answer exchange on whether or not a violation or misconduct has occurred.
4. The Committee will make a decision in an executive session on whether or not a violation or misconduct has occurred.
5. The decision of the Committee will be reported to the student and the student’s representative in a private session. If the decision is that a violation or misconduct has occurred, the Committee will then hear and consider information bearing upon the circumstances of extenuation or mitigation.
6. The Committee will then apply the appropriate outcome in closed session. If the Committee finds that a violation or misconduct did not occur, the Committee will state as such and the meeting will conclude.
7. A record of the session proceedings will be retained by the University.

Conditions for Appeal
The University understands the need to have a corrective process in place to address circumstances should the Conduct Officer err. One or all of the following conditions must be met in order for an appeal to be considered. An appeal should be set forth by the accused:

1. To determine whether the original conference was conducted fairly and in accordance with the Office of Student Conduct outcome determination and procedures.
2. To determine whether the decision reached regarding the accused student was based on substantial information to determine the preponderance of evidence and/or the level of responsibility. This is not information you chose not to share or obtain prior to the conference.
3. To determine whether any outcomes imposed (suspension, expulsion or denial of housing/network access) were appropriate and not unduly harsh for the violation(s) set forth in the Student Code of Conduct.
4. If you are the complaining student in a sexual harassment and/or sexual misconduct case. For sexual misconduct and/or sexual harassment cases both the complainant and the charged student can file an appeal regardless of the outcome. Both students have the same grounds to appeal and the same time frame in which to submit an appeal (WKU Policy 0.2040 (https://www.wku.edu/policies/docs/251.pdf)).

*An appeal cannot be filed simply because you are unhappy with the decision.

*If one of the aforementioned conditions is proven, the appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate reviewer.

A student who files an appeal must do so in writing to the appropriate reviewer:

- Students who wish to appeal the conference outcome of the Residence Life Staff must submit a written appeal to the Assistant Director of Residence Life within five business days following the decision.
- Students who wish to appeal the conference outcome of the Director of Student Conduct must submit a written appeal to the Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee within five business days following the decision.
- Students who wish to appeal the conference outcome of the University Disciplinary Committee must submit a written appeal to the Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee. If the Vice President for Student Affairs, or his/her designee, upholds the outcome of suspension, expulsion or separation, an appeal may be made to the President of the University. In the event the President considers the outcome to be inconsistent with the ethical principles and standard of conduct of the University community, the President may request that the case be reopened and reheard by the University Disciplinary Committee. If the President upholds the conference outcome of suspension or expulsion, an appeal may be made to the Board of Regents. The decision of the Board of Regents is final.

*If none of the three conditions for appeal is met, the decision of the original conference will be upheld and the responsible student is expected to comply immediately.

Procedures for Appeal through the President to the Board of Regents
1. In every case of suspension or expulsion of a student from the University, the person suspended or expelled may appeal to the Board of Regents. The board of regents shall prescribe the manner and the mode of procedure on appeal. The decision of the Board of Regents shall be final.

2. Students desiring to appeal a decision of suspension or dismissal from the University shall do so by submitting a written statement of notice of intent to appeal to the Office of the President. No appeal will be considered unless such notices is received in within five days, excluding holidays or weekends, from the date on which the student is furnished written notification of the Committee’s decision.

3. In certain cases, the student suspended or expelled by the University Disciplinary Committee may be allowed to continue in status pending the results of the appeal. (This is at the discretion of the Director of Student Conduct in effort to ensure the best interest of the University.)

4. The student shall include in the appeal a written statement of the reasons why the student thinks the decision should be modified.

5. The Vice President for Student Affairs, or his/her designee, may submit a brief written statement of response. The student may also submit pertinent information, newly discovered or initially withheld for good cause, for consideration by the Board.

6. Only information contained within the record of the proceedings of the University Disciplinary Committee will be reviewed on appeal by the Board. No information will be considered that was not furnished to the University Disciplinary Committee.

7. When an appeal is filed, the entire record of the University Disciplinary Committee’s proceedings and its decision, the student’s appeal
Demonstration of psychological or physical harm, or disruptive behavior caused by manifestations of a serious psychological problem include, but are not limited to:

- instances where a student engages in, or threatens to engage in, inappropriate behavior that poses a danger of causing physical harm to self or others, or inappropriate behavior that demonstrates a student's inability to care for self, and/or
- instances of inappropriate behavior that would cause significant property damage, or would directly and substantially impede the lawful activities of others, or that substantially interferes with or impedes the educational experiences of others, or would interfere with the educational process and the orderly operation of the University; and/or
- instances where a student engages in inappropriate behavior where a contributing factor is failure to follow a prescribed medical or psychological treatment plan; and/or
- instances of inappropriate behavior that causes a chronic, inordinate use of university resources including, but not limited to, staff time, psychological services, medical services, and/or emergency services, thereby resulting in an undue burden to the University.

When it has been reported or it is determined by the Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee that a student has allegedly participated in one or more of these behaviors, the student will be required to present himself or herself within one business day, to the Director of Counseling and Testing or his/her designee.

If the circumstances indicate that an evaluation is in the best interest of the student and the University, the Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee or the Director of Student Conduct shall coordinate this evaluation with the Director of Counseling Services. Based on the request made by the Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee, the student may be admitted to one of the local hospitals for treatment.

The Counseling Director will coordinate with the hospital for future treatment. After consultation with the Counseling Director and the review of past behavior of the student, the Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee will determine if withdrawal procedures should be initiated if the student presents a danger to others. The purpose of these procedures would be to remove the student from campus housing and/or from the University for the care of the student and the University.

The student will be notified in writing by the Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee to appear for a meeting. The Office of Student Conduct is responsible for the University disciplinary process. This policy does not preclude a student’s removal from the University, or any unit, class, or program, for disciplinary reasons in accordance with WKU’s Student Code of Conduct. The Office of Student Conduct or the Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee and the Counseling and Testing Service and Health Services, with appropriate releases, may consult to determine whether a student accused of violating the University’s Student Code of Conduct should be diverted from the disciplinary process to these procedures. Conversely, these departments, with appropriate releases, may consult to determine whether a student referred for consideration for a medical withdrawal might be more appropriately handled through the student disciplinary process. A student who is withdrawn from the university, under the provisions of this policy, has the opportunity for one appeal.

Medical Withdrawal should not be imposed when disciplinary, academic, or other responses are readily available and the student’s situation can

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be addressed through those avenues. Furthermore, when possible and appropriate, efforts will be made to persuade the student to voluntarily withdraw and to follow a course of treatment needed to resume student status. Forced medical withdrawals are reserved for students who present a danger to others.

A. Behavioral Evaluation Requirements
When a student’s behavior is sufficiently disruptive due to emotional disturbances to cause University staff members to question whether or not the student can benefit from the educational programs at WKU, or if the student poses a potential danger to himself/herself or others, the University will require an evaluation. The evaluation will be conducted by the Counseling and Testing Center or an appropriate professional outside the University who shall serve in an advisory capacity to the University. When necessary, the cost of this required evaluation shall be the responsibility of the University. Should a student desire a second evaluation or an evaluation by a professional of his/her choice other than that provided by the University, then the student shall bear the cost of the evaluation.

A student choosing to leave the University prior to receiving the evaluation will be withdrawn from the University; the VPSA or his/her designee, may inform the student’s parents, spouse, or some other member of the family regarding concerns of the student’s safety or the safety of others.

Should the student choose not to meet for an evaluation, a conference of appropriate staff shall be convened to determine what action should be taken. If a dependent student refuses an evaluation, his/her parents or immediate family may be informed, when appropriate, of the refusal to meet with the appropriate professional. When appropriate and on a “need to know” basis, certain University officials and staff, such as residence hall staff, the student’s academic dean, or other University personnel, shall be notified of the concern about the student and the student’s refusal to withdraw or to be evaluated by an appropriate person.

In the event that the student complies with the request for evaluation, then one of six actions will follow based upon the results of the evaluation:

1. The student will remain enrolled at the University with no treatment;  
2. The student will remain enrolled at the University with treatment and be allowed to remain in on-campus living;  
3. The student will remain enrolled at the University with treatment but not be allowed to live in a residence hall or other University owned or controlled property; and/or he or she may be restricted from other areas of campus as appropriate;  
4. The student may withdraw from the University voluntarily;  
5. Administrative withdrawal; or  
6. Medical withdrawal

B. Enrollment Options

I. Remaining Enrolled at the University with No Treatment  
Based upon the results of the evaluation and solely at the discretion of the University, the student may be allowed to remain enrolled at the University with no treatment. Any behavior problems will be corrected by the student immediately. A period of time may be designated during which the student’s behavior is under review by the Office of Student Conduct.

II. Remaining Enrolled at the University with Treatment and Remaining in On-Campus Living  
Based upon the results of the evaluation, the University has the right to require the student to meet certain conditions of treatment. The cost of any treatment (such as counseling/therapy) required of the student shall be the student’s/parents’ responsibility.

A Behavioral Agreement or a probation period may be established with the student. Solely at the discretion of the University, a student may have his or her behavior under review for a period of time while undergoing treatment. The University will require that any behavior problem be corrected and/or terminated and/or that corrective medical or therapeutic action be taken.

III. Remaining Enrolled at the University with a Facilities Restriction  
At times, the students who remain enrolled at the University and in treatment may be required to leave University residence hall and/or be restricted from using other University facilities. Requiring a student to leave the environment of a university residence hall and to live at home or in a more appropriate place while seeking treatment and, (in some cases, carrying reduced course loads) as a commuting student may be appropriate. Furthermore, the behavior of the student may be sufficiently disturbed and disturbing in a residence hall environment to make it essential that the family or others assume responsibility for the student’s care; yet, the student’s classroom behavior is sufficiently controlled and that he/she can be permitted to continue class work at a reduced load level. The student’s behavior will be under review by the Office of Student Conduct during this time to insure appropriate conduct.

The intention of this policy is to provide another option for the student so that the student can receive treatment and still maintain an appropriate level of coursework.

If the student agrees to engage in counseling as required and to leave the University residence hall voluntarily, the Director of Housing and Residence Life, or his/her designee, is informed and will implement the withdrawal from the residence hall. If the student is required to engage in counseling and/or to leave the residence hall and is unwilling to do so, the VPSA or his/her designee will implement involuntary withdrawal from the residence hall or the University as provided in the Administrative Withdrawal section.

IV. Voluntary Withdrawal from the University for Disruptive Emotional Health Reasons  
A voluntary withdrawal is defined as one in which the recommendation to withdraw a student for disruptive behavior related to emotional disturbance has been made by the Director of Counseling and Testing or his/her designee, or an off-campus evaluator, and the student concurs with the withdrawal recommendation. The professional staff is concerned with attempting to insure continued therapeutic help for the student outside the University community; therefore, the student’s parents, spouse, or some other member of the family may be informed of the withdrawal and the need for arrangements for additional therapeutic care.
Normally, the VPSA or his/her designee will reach a decision about withdrawal in discussions with the student and the student's family. The decision is then conveyed to the Office of Student Conduct to authorize preparation of the University withdrawal form.

V. Administrative Withdrawal

A request for an administrative withdrawal is initiated by the university because of a disciplinary situation or when, in the professional judgment of a health care provider, psychologist and/or university administrator, there is reason to believe a student is a substantial threat to him/herself or interferes with the welfare of other members of the university, the education process, or the orderly operation of the university.

The VPSA, Director of Student Conduct or the Vice President for Academic Affairs, or their respective designees, will notify the student of the involuntary withdrawal, and the Registrar will be directed to withdraw the student from all classes in which the student is currently enrolled and cancel registration that has occurred for any future terms. The Office of the Registrar will notify the student's instructors of the withdrawal, and "W" grades will be recorded for the term in progress.

A student who is administratively withdrawn will have a registration hold placed by the Office of Student Conduct or the Vice President for Academic Affairs to prevent the student from being readmitted or re-enrolled unless cleared by the appropriate administrator or the respective designee. A student may file a written appeal of an involuntary withdrawal through the office that administered the withdrawal. Tuition refund appeals for administrative withdrawals are handled in a separate procedure, and instructions may be obtained from the Bursar’s Office.

VI. Medical Withdrawal

A student may request and be considered for a medical withdrawal from all courses in a term when extraordinary circumstances, such as a serious physical or mental illness or injury, prevent the student from continuing his or her classes after the midpoint of a term, and incompletes or other arrangements with the instructors are not feasible or possible.

A medical withdrawal must be substantiated with appropriate documentation from the attending health care provider. Once the rationale for a medical withdrawal has been validated by the Office of the Registrar, the student's instructors will be sent notification of the withdrawal, and "W" grades will be recorded for each course.

A student who requests a medical withdrawal, or an individual requesting a withdrawal on behalf of the student who is physically or mentally unable to request the withdrawal, should contact the Office of the Registrar to obtain medical withdrawal procedures. Tuition refund appeals for medical withdrawals are handled in a separate procedure, and instructions may be obtained from the Bursar’s Office.

C. Emergency Removal of a Student from the University

Exceptional situations may occur in which a student is judged to be out of contact with reality and unaware of the consequences of his/her actions, or where the student is potentially harmful to himself/herself or others at that time. Action to remove the student from the university is taken by one of the following: VPSA, the Director of Student Conduct, Housing and Residence Life staff, University Counseling and Testing Center staff, or Health Services staff, in cooperation with the student’s family if possible. Hospitalization may be required. Involving the student in these actions may not be possible because of the nature and degree of the student's illness. These situations are considered emergencies and one of the following offices will coordinate the efforts of the University: the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Office of Housing and Residence Life, the University Counseling and Testing Center, Health Services, outside medical or psychiatric resources.

The VPSA will be involved in special emergency procedures and is immediately notified of the actions taken. As emergency situations, these cases fall outside the procedures stated above for voluntary withdrawals except that the student will be informed in writing of the rationale for the withdrawal recommendation and of his/her right to present any pertinent information in rebuttal to the withdrawal recommendation for consideration by the aforementioned.

Sexual Misconduct/Harassment: Title IX Compliance

The Office of Student Conduct ensures compliance with all Title IX requirements. The following can be expected for all cases/investigations that are designated as a Title IX incident:

- The Office of Student Conduct will provide a timely and thorough investigation, and will treat the complainant and respondent with respect before, during, and after the student conduct process. The investigator will make a good faith effort to complete the investigation within sixty (60) days of the complaint being filed.
- Once a decision has been rendered by either a student conduct officer or a University Disciplinary Committee, all of the involved parties will be informed of the decision in writing.
- All involved parties have five business days to appeal the decision rendered by either the student conduct officer or a University Disciplinary Committee.
- If any involved party appeals, all other parties will be informed and will have the opportunity to review the appeal materials. The other involved parties, if they choose to do so, can submit a statement of response within 5 business days of receiving notice of the appeal.

WKU reserves the right to take whatever measures it deems necessary to respond to an allegation of sexual misconduct/violence in order to protect student's rights and personal safety. Measures include, but are not limited to, modification of living arrangements, interim suspension, and reporting to university police. Outcomes imposed range from disciplinary agreement to expulsion, depending on the severity of the offense. The concerns and rights of both the complainant and respondent of sexual misconduct will be considered.

Information regarding WKU Title IX (https://www.wku.edu/eoo/titleix) compliance, policies, and procedures are published online or available by contacting:

Andrea Anderson (andrea.anderson@wku.edu), Title IX Coordinator
Assistant General Counsel
Craig Administrative Center
WKU Title IX
(270) 745-5398

Joshua D. Hayes (joshua.hayes@wku.edu), Director, Title IX Deputy/Investigator, and University ADA Coordinator

Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action/University ADA Services
Wetherby Administration Building, G33
(270) 745-5121

Michael P. Crowe, Jr. (michael.crowe@wku.edu), Title IX Deputy Coordinator/Investigator
Director of Student Conduct
425 Potter Hall
(270) 745-5429

University Non-Discrimination Notice
Western Kentucky University is committed to providing a working and learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. Discrimination and harassment, and/or retaliation against anyone who makes a complaint or participates in the complaint process are prohibited and shall not be tolerated.