



— THE DEPARTMENT OF —
STUDENT CONDUCT
VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Virginia State University Student Code of Conduct is edited and published by the Department of Student Conduct and Restorative Practices. It serves as a general source of information for Virginia State University students. All information is subject to change without warning.

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Welcome

The Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices is committed to fostering a campus environment where learning, accountability, integrity, respect, and personal responsibility are valued. The Student Code of Conduct serves as a guide for students by outlining the University's expectations for behavior while protecting the rights of all members of the University community.

The student conduct process is designed to be educational rather than punitive. Through fair and equitable procedures, students are encouraged to reflect upon their actions, repair harm when appropriate, and develop the skills necessary to become responsible citizens and leaders.

This Code should be read carefully and used as a resource throughout your academic journey at Virginia State University. Every student shares the responsibility of maintaining a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment.

We are committed to treating every student with dignity, fairness, professionalism, and respect throughout the student conduct process.

Mission

The mission of the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices is to promote student learning and development by administering a fair, equitable, and educational student conduct process that fosters accountability, integrity, restorative practices, and community responsibility while supporting the University's mission and maintaining a safe learning environment.

Vision

The Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices strives to cultivate a campus culture where accountability, respect, restorative practices, and student learning promote personal growth, ethical decision-making, and community well-being. Through education, collaboration, and equitable practices, we aspire to be a model of excellence in student conduct administration.

Philosophy

The Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices believes that the student conduct process is an educational experience that encourages students to learn from their decisions while accepting responsibility for their actions.

Whenever appropriate, restorative practices are utilized to repair harm, rebuild relationships, and strengthen the Virginia State University community. The department is committed to ensuring that all students are afforded due process while being treated with dignity, respect, impartiality, and fairness.

Student conduct is not solely about enforcing policies. It is about fostering student growth, encouraging ethical decision-making, promoting accountability, and preparing students to become responsible members of society.

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STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

A student's conduct at Virginia State University is expected to reflect that of a person engaged in a serious endeavor—the pursuit of an academic degree. The Student Code of Conduct was designed to promote an environment in accordance with the highest standards of academic excellence, institutional integrity, and the free expression of ideas and opinions. The Student Code of Conduct contains rules and regulations governing student conduct and serves to ensure the orderly development of appropriate student conduct.

PREAMBLE

Students are expected to abide by all University rules, regulations, and standards, and by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the federal government. Students are expected to act responsibly and to avoid conduct detrimental to themselves, their fellow students, and the University.

It is not possible to list all acts of misconduct or disorderly conduct that can occur on campus, but students are required to exhibit the highest forms of good manners and behavior and respect for the University community and its inhabitants. Although the misconduct is not necessarily listed herein, students are held responsible for any misconduct that is averse to good order or tends to degrade or demean disciplinary codes or procedures on campus. The following policies are intended to delineate, as completely as practicable, the University's expectation of student decorum at the University.

Purpose of the Student Code of Conduct

The Virginia State University Student Code of Conduct establishes the University's expectations for student behavior and provides a fair, equitable, and educational framework for addressing alleged violations of University policies. The Code is designed to support the University's educational mission by promoting student learning, personal responsibility, accountability, integrity, respect, and community well-being.

The Student Code of Conduct is intended to educate students about their rights and responsibilities while fostering an environment that supports academic success, personal development, and responsible citizenship. The conduct process encourages students to reflect upon their decisions, understand the impact of their behavior on others, and develop the skills necessary to make informed and ethical choices.

The Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices recognizes that student conduct is an integral part of the educational experience. Accordingly, the student conduct process emphasizes learning and development while balancing the University's responsibility to maintain a safe, secure, and respectful learning environment for all members of the University community.

When appropriate, the University incorporates restorative practices into the student conduct process to encourage accountability, repair harm, restore relationships, and strengthen the campus community. Restorative practices complement the formal conduct process by promoting meaningful dialogue, personal growth, and shared responsibility while recognizing that certain violations may require formal disciplinary action to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the University community.

Nothing in this Code limits the authority of Virginia State University to take appropriate action when student behavior is inconsistent with University policies, disrupts the educational

environment, threatens the safety or well-being of others, or otherwise interferes with the University's mission and operations.

The Student Code of Conduct shall be administered in a manner that is consistent with applicable federal and state laws, University policies, principles of due process, and the University's commitment to fairness, equity, and student success.

Authority

Virginia State University is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and academically focused learning environment that supports student success and upholds the University's educational mission. In accordance with the authority granted by the Virginia State University Board of Visitors, the University establishes and enforces policies governing student conduct to protect the rights, safety, and well-being of the University community.

The Board of Visitors delegates authority to the President of the University to establish and administer policies and procedures governing student conduct. The President, in turn, delegates responsibility for the administration of the Student Code of Conduct to the Division of Student Success and Engagement and the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices. The University Police Department, Title IX Office, Residence Life and Housing, and other designated University officials may also exercise authority as outlined in University policies and applicable law.

The Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices is responsible for administering the Student Code of Conduct, coordinating the student conduct process, facilitating educational and restorative interventions, conducting investigations and hearings when appropriate, imposing sanctions, and maintaining official student conduct records in accordance with University policy and applicable law.

The University reserves the authority to investigate and resolve alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct regardless of whether criminal charges are filed, pending, dismissed, reduced, or resolved by an external law enforcement agency or court. Student conduct proceedings are administrative in nature and are separate from criminal or civil legal proceedings.

The University further reserves the right to take immediate administrative action, including Interim Suspension, No Contact Orders, trespass restrictions, or other protective measures, when necessary to protect the health, safety, welfare, or orderly operation of the University community.

Nothing in this Student Code of Conduct shall be construed to limit the authority of the University to take appropriate action to maintain campus safety, preserve the integrity of the educational environment, or fulfill its legal obligations under applicable federal and state laws.

The University reserves the right to amend, revise, interpret, or modify this Student Code of Conduct at any time. Revisions shall become effective as determined by the University and shall supersede any previous versions of the Student Code of Conduct.

Violations of Public Law

Students are expected to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws while enrolled at Virginia State University. As members of both the University and the broader community, students are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner consistent with the University's values and the Student Code of Conduct.

The University maintains an independent student conduct process. Accordingly, student conduct proceedings may occur regardless of whether criminal charges are filed, pending, dismissed, reduced, or resolved through the criminal justice system. The University is not required to delay its student conduct process pending the outcome of any criminal investigation or court proceeding. A student may be subject to both criminal prosecution and University disciplinary action arising from the same incident.

Conduct that results in criminal charges or legal action may also constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct when the behavior adversely affects the safety, welfare, property, educational mission, or orderly operation of the University community.

The University reserves the right to investigate and adjudicate alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct that occur on or off campus when the conduct:

- Adversely affects the health, safety, or welfare of members of the University community;
- Causes a significant disruption to the University's educational mission or operations;
- Occurs during a University-sponsored or University-affiliated activity; or
- Otherwise falls within the University's jurisdiction as provided in this Code.

Reporting Criminal Charges

Students are required to notify the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices immediately, or as soon as reasonably practical, if they are arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a criminal offense, excluding minor traffic infractions. Failure to report such information may constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

Interim Measures

Students who are arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a criminal offense may be referred to the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices for review. When necessary to protect the safety of the University community, preserve the integrity of the student conduct process, or protect University property, the University may implement interim measures, including an Interim Suspension, pending the resolution of the student conduct process. An Interim Suspension is an administrative action and is not a determination that a student has violated the Student Code of Conduct.

Criminal and University Proceedings

Criminal matters, including criminal offenses and traffic violations, are adjudicated through the appropriate federal, state, or local judicial system. University parking citations are resolved through the procedures outlined in the Virginia State University Parking Manual.

The outcome of any criminal proceeding does not control the University's student conduct process. Likewise, the University's determination of responsibility does not affect the disposition of criminal proceedings.

Scope and Jurisdiction

The Virginia State University Student Code of Conduct applies to all students and student organizations and governs conduct that occurs on University property, at University-sponsored or University-affiliated activities, and in other situations where student behavior may adversely affect the University community or its educational mission.

Enrollment at Virginia State University carries with it the responsibility to comply with University policies, procedures, and standards of conduct regardless of whether a student is enrolled full-time or part-time, resides on or off campus, participates in face-to-face or online courses, or is attending the University through a special academic program.

The University reserves the authority to address alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct occurring in the following circumstances.

On-Campus Conduct

The Student Code of Conduct applies to conduct occurring on property owned, leased, operated, or controlled by Virginia State University, including, but not limited to:

- Academic buildings
- Residence halls and surrounding residential areas
- Administrative offices
- Dining facilities
- Parking lots and garages
- Recreational facilities
- Athletic venues
- Outdoor spaces
- University-owned or leased vehicles
- Any other property owned, leased, or controlled by the University

University-Sponsored Activities

The Student Code of Conduct applies to conduct occurring during or in connection with University-sponsored, University-recognized, or University-affiliated activities, regardless of location, including, but not limited to:

- Student organization events
- Athletic competitions
- Academic conferences
- Leadership programs
- Orientation activities
- Community service projects
- Clinical placements
- Internships
- Study abroad programs
- Field experiences
- University-sponsored virtual events

Off-Campus Conduct

The University may exercise jurisdiction over conduct occurring off campus when the behavior:

- Threatens the health, safety, or well-being of any member of the University community.
- Significantly disrupts the educational environment or normal operations of the University.
- Involves a recognized student organization.
- Causes substantial harm to another student or member of the University community.

- Violates federal, state, or local law and has a direct or substantial impact on the University community.
- Is inconsistent with the University's mission or educational objectives.

The University is not required to postpone the student conduct process pending the resolution of criminal or civil proceedings.

Online and Electronic Conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves responsibly in all forms of electronic communication. The Student Code of Conduct applies to behavior occurring through electronic means, including, but not limited to:

- Email
- Social media platforms
- Text messaging
- Learning Management Systems (LMS)
- Video conferencing platforms
- Messaging applications
- Other forms of electronic communication

Electronic conduct may be subject to the Student Code of Conduct when it adversely affects members of the University community or interferes with the University's educational mission.

Student Organizations

Recognized student organizations are responsible for complying with University policies and procedures. Student organizations may be held accountable for misconduct committed by members, officers, guests, or individuals acting on behalf of the organization.

Individual students may also be held personally responsible for their own conduct, regardless of whether the organization is charged separately.

Former Students

The University reserves the authority to investigate and resolve alleged violations that occurred while an individual was enrolled, even if the individual graduates, withdraws, or otherwise separates from the University before the student conduct process concludes.

Guests and Visitors

Guests and visitors are expected to comply with all applicable University policies while on University property. Student hosts may be held responsible for the conduct of their guests when appropriate.

Individuals who are not students may be removed from campus, issued a trespass notice, or otherwise restricted from University property in accordance with University policy and applicable law.

Determination of Jurisdiction

The Director of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices, or designee, shall determine whether the University has jurisdiction over an alleged violation of the Student Code of Conduct. In making this determination, the University may consider the nature of the alleged conduct, its impact on the University community, applicable laws, University policies, and any other relevant circumstances.

Initiating the Student Conduct Process

Any member of the University community may report alleged misconduct involving a student or student organization. Reports may be submitted by students, faculty, staff, University Police, Residence Life staff, or other individuals who become aware of an alleged violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Reports should be submitted to the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices, University Police, the Associate Vice President for Student Success, or another appropriate University official.

The Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices is responsible for reviewing, investigating, and resolving alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct. The following procedures shall apply:

1. Administrative Review

Upon receipt of a complaint or incident report, the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices shall conduct an Administrative Review to determine whether the reported behavior falls within the jurisdiction of the Student Code of Conduct and whether sufficient information exists to proceed.

During the Administrative Review, the Director of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices, or designee, may consult with appropriate University officials, request additional information, or determine that no further action is warranted.

2. Notice of Alleged Violations

If the complaint falls within the jurisdiction of the Student Code of Conduct, the student shall receive written notice of the alleged violation(s).

Notice may be delivered through the student's official Virginia State University email account, in person, by U.S. mail to the student's address on file with the Office of the University Registrar, or by another method deemed appropriate by the University.

Students are responsible for regularly monitoring their official University email account and maintaining current local and permanent addresses with the University.

3. Student Conduct Conference

When appropriate, the student shall be scheduled for a Student Conduct Conference within a reasonable timeframe following the Administrative Review.

During the Student Conduct Conference, the student will:

- Receive an explanation of the alleged violation(s);
- Be informed of their rights under the Student Code of Conduct;
- Have an opportunity to respond to the allegation(s);
- Discuss available resolution options; and
- Be informed of the next steps in the student conduct process.

4. Pre-Hearing Conference

If the matter cannot be resolved through a Student Conduct Conference or requires a formal hearing, the student shall participate in a Pre-Hearing Conference.

During the Pre-Hearing Conference, the student shall:

- Review the alleged violation(s);
- Receive information regarding the hearing process;
- Identify witnesses and supporting information;
- Receive applicable hearing deadlines; and
- Be informed whether the matter will proceed to an Administrative Hearing or Judicial Panel Hearing.

5. Hearing Process

The Director of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices, or designee, shall determine the appropriate hearing forum based on the nature and severity of the alleged violation(s).

Formal hearings shall not occur until the student has been provided reasonable notice and sufficient time to prepare unless the student voluntarily waives that preparation period in writing.

Students are responsible for notifying their witnesses and submitting witness information and supporting documentation by the deadlines established by the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices.

6. Failure to Participate

Failure to respond to University correspondence, attend scheduled meetings, or participate in the student conduct process shall not prevent the University from proceeding. Decisions may be made based on the information available.

7. Written Outcome

Following the resolution of the case, the student shall receive written notification of the findings, sanctions, and appeal procedures, when applicable.

8. Appeals

Students may appeal decisions in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Appeals must be submitted within the timeframe specified in the outcome letter. The designated appeal authority shall review the appeal and issue a written decision.

Unless otherwise directed by the University, sanctions remain in effect during the appeal process. In cases involving suspension or expulsion, the appropriate University official shall determine whether the student may attend classes, remain in University housing, or participate in University activities while the appeal is pending.

9. Interim Measures

A No-Contact Order, Interim Suspension, or other interim measure may remain in effect throughout the student conduct process, including during an appeal. Failure to comply with an interim measure may result in additional disciplinary action.

Administrative Review

Upon receipt of an incident report, complaint, or referral, the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices shall conduct an Administrative Review to determine whether the reported conduct falls within the jurisdiction of the Student Code of Conduct and whether sufficient information exists to proceed.

During the Administrative Review, the Director of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices, or designee, may:

- Review all available reports, statements, photographs, videos, electronic communications, and other relevant information.
- Consult with University Police, Residence Life, Title IX, the CARE Team, faculty, staff, or other appropriate University officials.
- Request additional information or clarification from the reporting party or other individuals with relevant knowledge.
- Determine whether the reported behavior constitutes an alleged violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
- Determine whether interim measures are necessary to protect the health, safety, or well-being of the University community.
- Refer matters to another University office when appropriate, including but not limited to Title IX, Human Resources, Residence Life, Student Accessibility Services, Academic Affairs, or University Police.
- Close the matter if there is insufficient information to establish a potential violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

An Administrative Review is not a determination of responsibility and does not constitute a finding that a policy violation has occurred. Its purpose is to determine whether sufficient information exists to initiate the student conduct process.

Following the Administrative Review, the Director of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices, or designee, may:

- Resolve the matter through a Student Conduct Conference;
- Schedule a Pre-Hearing Conference;
- Refer the matter for an Administrative Hearing or Judicial Panel Hearing;
- Resolve the matter through an educational or restorative process, when appropriate; or
- Close the case with no further action.

Student Conduct Conference

A Student Conduct Conference is an administrative meeting between a student and the Director of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices, or designee, to discuss an alleged violation of the Student Code of Conduct. The purpose of the conference is to review the alleged violation(s), explain the student conduct process, allow the student an opportunity to respond to the allegation(s), and determine whether the matter may be resolved without a formal hearing.

A Student Conduct Conference is not a formal hearing.

During the Student Conduct Conference, the student shall have the opportunity to:

- Review the alleged violation(s) of the Student Code of Conduct.
- Receive an explanation of the student conduct process and their procedural rights.
- Respond to the allegation(s) and provide relevant information.
- Present information they believe should be considered during the resolution of the matter.
- Ask questions regarding the conduct process and potential resolution options.

Following the Student Conduct Conference, the Director of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices, or designee, may:

- Determine that no violation of the Student Code of Conduct has occurred and close the matter.
- Resolve the matter through an Acceptance of Responsibility when the student accepts responsibility for the alleged violation(s).
- Refer the matter to a Pre-Hearing Conference when additional proceedings are necessary.
- Implement educational or restorative interventions when appropriate and consistent with University policy.
- Take any other action permitted under the Student Code of Conduct.

Failure to attend a scheduled Student Conduct Conference after receiving proper notice may result in the matter being referred for further proceedings based on the information available.

Participation in a Student Conduct Conference does not waive a student's rights under the Student Code of Conduct.

Acceptance of Responsibility

Following a Student Conduct Conference, a student may choose to accept responsibility for one or more alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct. Acceptance of Responsibility is voluntary and provides an opportunity to resolve the matter without proceeding to a formal hearing.

A student who accepts responsibility acknowledges that sufficient information exists to support a finding that they violated the Student Code of Conduct. Acceptance of Responsibility is not intended to be punitive but is an opportunity for the student to accept accountability and engage in the educational goals of the student conduct process.

Before accepting responsibility, the student shall:

- Be informed of the alleged violation(s);
- Be advised of their rights under the Student Code of Conduct;
- Have an opportunity to ask questions regarding the allegations and the student conduct process;
- Be informed of the potential sanctions that may be imposed; and
- Be advised that Acceptance of Responsibility is voluntary.

Students who accept responsibility waive their right to a formal hearing regarding the accepted violation(s). The Director of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices, or designee, shall determine the appropriate sanction(s) based on the nature of the violation, the student's disciplinary history, any aggravating or mitigating circumstances, and the educational objectives of the student conduct process.

Following the acceptance of responsibility, the student shall receive a written outcome letter outlining:

- The violation(s) for which responsibility was accepted;
- The assigned sanction(s), if applicable;
- Applicable deadlines for completing sanctions; and
- Information regarding the student's appeal rights, if applicable under this Code.

Acceptance of Responsibility does not prevent the University from taking immediate action when necessary to protect the health, safety, or welfare of the University community.

Failure to Accept Responsibility

If a student does not accept responsibility for the alleged violation(s), or if the Director of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices determines that the matter is not appropriate for resolution through an Acceptance of Responsibility, the case shall proceed through the student conduct process, which may include a Pre-Hearing Conference and, when appropriate, an Administrative Hearing or Judicial Panel Hearing.

Student Rights During the Student Conduct Process

Virginia State University is committed to providing a student conduct process that is fair, equitable, educational, and consistent with the principles of due process. Students participating in the student conduct process are entitled to fundamental procedural protections designed to ensure that matters are resolved with fairness, impartiality, dignity, and respect.

Students alleged to have violated the Student Code of Conduct shall be afforded the following rights throughout the student conduct process.

Notice of Alleged Violations

Students have the right to receive written notice of the alleged violation(s), including sufficient information regarding the nature of the allegations, the applicable University policy(ies), and the date, time, and location of any required meeting or hearing.

Explanation of the Student Conduct Process

Students have the right to receive information regarding the student conduct process, including applicable procedures, potential outcomes, available resources, and their rights and responsibilities throughout the process.

Opportunity to Be Heard

Students have the right to present their account of the incident, respond to the allegations, provide relevant information, and be heard before a determination of responsibility is made.

Fair and Impartial Process

Students have the right to have their case reviewed by University officials who are impartial and free from conflicts of interest.

Advisor of Choice

Students may be accompanied by one advisor of their choosing throughout the student conduct process. The advisor may be an attorney, parent, guardian, faculty member, staff member, student, or other individual.

The advisor may provide guidance and support to the student but may not participate directly in meetings or hearings unless otherwise permitted by University policy or applicable law.

Review of Available Information

Students have the right to review information that will be considered in determining responsibility, subject to applicable privacy laws and University policies.

Presentation of Information

Students have the right to present relevant documents, information, and witnesses that may assist in the resolution of their case.

Questioning of Information

Students have the opportunity to respond to information presented during the student conduct process in accordance with the procedures applicable to the meeting or hearing.

Decline to Make a Statement

Students may choose not to provide information or answer questions during the student conduct process. Decisions, however, may be based upon the information available at the time the determination is made.

Reasonable Accommodations

Students with documented disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through Student Accessibility Services to ensure equal access to the student conduct process.

Language Assistance

Students who require language assistance or interpretation services should notify the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices as soon as practical so appropriate arrangements may be considered.

Timely Resolution

Students have the right to a timely resolution of alleged violations. While every effort will be made to resolve cases promptly, the University may extend timelines when necessary to ensure a fair and thorough review.

Written Outcome

Students have the right to receive written notification of the outcome of their case, including any findings, sanctions, and appeal information, when applicable.

Right to Appeal

Students have the right to appeal eligible decisions in accordance with the procedures and grounds outlined in Section 16 of this Student Code of Conduct.

Respect and Dignity

Students have the right to be treated with professionalism, dignity, courtesy, and respect throughout the student conduct process, regardless of the nature of the alleged violation or the outcome of the case.

Freedom from Retaliation

Students have the right to participate in the student conduct process without fear of retaliation. Any act of intimidation, coercion, harassment, or retaliation against an individual participating in the student conduct process may result in additional disciplinary action.

Access to Support Resources

Students may seek assistance from appropriate University resources, including but not limited to:

- Student Accessibility Services
- Counseling Center
- Academic Support Services
- Student Health Services
- Residence Life and Housing
- Title IX Office (when applicable)

- CARE Team
- Other University support offices as appropriate

Where to Submit a Report

Reports alleging violations of the Student Code of Conduct should be submitted to the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices.

Depending on the nature of the alleged conduct, reports may also be submitted to:

- Virginia State University Police Department
- Title IX Office
- Residence Life and Housing
- Office of Student Activities
- Faculty and Staff
- Other appropriate University officials

Reports received by another University office or official may be referred to the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices for review and appropriate action, unless the matter falls under another University policy or process.

Student Conduct Conference

A Student Conduct Conference is typically the first meeting between the Respondent and a representative of the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the alleged violation(s) of the Student Code of Conduct, explain the student conduct process, review the Respondent's rights, and provide the Respondent with an opportunity to respond to the allegation(s).

The Student Conduct Conference is educational, informational, and non-adversarial. Participation in a Student Conduct Conference does not constitute a finding that the Respondent is responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct.

Notice of the Student Conduct Conference

When appropriate, the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices will notify the Respondent of the date, time, and location of the Student Conduct Conference.

The notice will generally include:

- The alleged violation(s) of the Student Code of Conduct.
- A brief summary of the reported incident.
- The date, time, and location of the conference.
- Information regarding the Respondent's rights during the student conduct process.
- Instructions for requesting a schedule change, when appropriate.

Official notice will be sent to the Respondent's official Virginia State University email address or another approved method of communication.

Purpose of the Student Conduct Conference

The Student Conduct Conference provides an opportunity to:

- Explain the student conduct process.
- Review the alleged violation(s).

- Discuss the information available to the University.
- Allow the Respondent to respond to the allegation(s).
- Answer questions regarding the student conduct process.
- Determine the appropriate resolution of the matter.

Respondent's Opportunity to Respond

During the Student Conduct Conference, the Respondent will have the opportunity to:

- Review the alleged violation(s).
- Provide their account of the incident.
- Present relevant information regarding the allegation(s).
- Ask questions regarding the student conduct process.
- Accept responsibility for the alleged violation(s); or
- Deny responsibility for the alleged violation(s).

Administrative Resolution

If the Respondent accepts responsibility for the alleged violation(s), and the University determines that the matter is appropriate for an Administrative Resolution, the case may be resolved during the Student Conduct Conference.

By accepting an Administrative Resolution, the Respondent:

- Accepts responsibility for the violation(s);
- Accepts the assigned sanction(s); and
- Waives the right to a formal hearing and appeal.

Once accepted by both the Respondent and the University, the Administrative Resolution is final and concludes the student conduct matter.

Referral to the Formal Student Conduct Process

If the Respondent denies responsibility for the alleged violation(s), does not accept an Administrative Resolution, or the University determines that the matter is not appropriate for an Administrative Resolution, the case will proceed through the formal student conduct process.

The next step in the formal student conduct process is the Pre-Hearing Conference, as outlined in Section 7 of this Student Code of Conduct.

Referral to a Pre-Hearing Conference is procedural and does not constitute a finding that the Respondent is responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct.

Failure to Attend

A Respondent who fails to attend a scheduled Student Conduct Conference without prior notice or good cause may have the matter referred to the formal student conduct process based upon the information available.

Failure to attend a Student Conduct Conference does not prevent the University from proceeding with the student conduct process.

Pre-Hearing Conference

A Pre-Hearing Conference is a required meeting conducted before a formal Administrative Hearing or Judicial Panel Hearing. The purpose of the Pre-Hearing Conference is to prepare the

Respondent for the hearing process by explaining hearing procedures, reviewing the Respondent's rights, identifying witnesses, discussing evidence submission requirements, and answering procedural questions.

The Pre-Hearing Conference is administrative in nature and is not a formal hearing. No determination regarding responsibility for an alleged violation of the Student Code of Conduct will be made during the Pre-Hearing Conference.

Scheduling the Pre-Hearing Conference

If a matter proceeds through the formal student conduct process, the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices will notify the Respondent of the date, time, and location of the Pre-Hearing Conference.

Official notice will be provided through the Respondent's official Virginia State University email address or another approved method of communication.

Purpose of the Pre-Hearing Conference

The Pre-Hearing Conference is conducted to:

- Explain the hearing process and applicable procedures.
- Review the Respondent's rights during the hearing.
- Explain the standard of proof used during the hearing.
- Review hearing expectations and decorum.
- Identify witnesses the Respondent intends to present.
- Explain the deadlines for submitting witnesses and evidence.
- Answer procedural questions regarding the hearing process.
- Determine whether the matter will proceed to an Administrative Hearing or a Judicial Panel Hearing.

Advisor

The Respondent may be accompanied by one advisor of their choice during the Pre-Hearing Conference and any subsequent hearing.

The advisor may be an attorney, parent, guardian, faculty member, staff member, student, or another individual selected by the Respondent.

The advisor may consult privately with the Respondent but may not speak on the Respondent's behalf or otherwise participate in the Pre-Hearing Conference or hearing, unless the matter is being resolved under the University's Title IX Grievance Procedures.

Witnesses

The Respondent is responsible for identifying any witnesses they intend to present during the hearing.

The names and contact information of all proposed witnesses must be submitted to the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices no later than forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled hearing unless otherwise approved by the Department.

The Hearing Officer or Judicial Panel Chair reserves the authority to determine the relevance and appropriateness of proposed witnesses.

Evidence

The Respondent may submit documents, photographs, videos, electronic communications, or other relevant information for consideration during the hearing.

All evidence must be submitted to the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices no later than forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled hearing unless otherwise authorized by the Department.

The Hearing Officer or Judicial Panel Chair may exclude information that is determined to be irrelevant, duplicative, or not submitted within the established deadline.

Failure to Attend

A Respondent who fails to attend a scheduled Pre-Hearing Conference without prior notice or good cause waives the opportunity to participate in the Pre-Hearing Conference.

Failure to attend the Pre-Hearing Conference does not prevent the University from proceeding with the formal student conduct process. The hearing may be scheduled and conducted based upon the information available.

Notice of Hearing

At the conclusion of the Pre-Hearing Conference, the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices will schedule the matter for either an Administrative Hearing or a Judicial Panel Hearing, as appropriate.

The Respondent will receive written notice of the hearing date, time, location, alleged violation(s), and any additional instructions necessary to prepare for the hearing.

Administrative Hearing

An Administrative Hearing is a formal student conduct proceeding conducted by a Hearing Officer designated by the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices. The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether the Respondent is In Violation or Non-Violation of the Student Code of Conduct based on the information presented during the hearing.

Administrative Hearings are educational in nature and are conducted in a fair, impartial, respectful, and orderly manner consistent with the principles of due process.

Hearing Officer

Administrative Hearings shall be conducted by a Hearing Officer appointed by the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices.

The Hearing Officer is responsible for:

- Conducting the hearing in a fair and impartial manner.
- Explaining the hearing procedures.
- Determining the relevance of information presented during the hearing.
- Maintaining order and decorum throughout the hearing.
- Determining whether the Respondent is In Violation or Non-Violation of the Student Code of Conduct based on the Preponderance of the Evidence standard.
- Assigning appropriate sanction(s) when the Respondent is found In Violation.

Notice of Hearing

The Respondent will receive written notice of the Administrative Hearing that generally includes:

- The date, time, and location of the hearing.
- The alleged violation(s) of the Student Code of Conduct.
- Information regarding the Respondent's rights.
- Any additional information necessary to prepare for the hearing.

Official notice will be sent to the Respondent's official Virginia State University email address or another approved method of communication.

Witnesses

Witnesses may participate in the hearing for the sole purpose of providing firsthand information relevant to the alleged violation(s).

The Hearing Officer will determine the relevance of each witness and may limit repetitive, irrelevant, or cumulative testimony.

Witnesses will generally be present only while providing information and may be excused upon completion of their testimony.

Standard of Proof

Administrative Hearings utilize the Preponderance of the Evidence standard.

A finding of In Violation is made when the Hearing Officer determines that it is more likely than not that the Respondent violated one or more provisions of the Student Code of Conduct.

Failure to Appear

If the Respondent fails to appear for a scheduled Administrative Hearing without prior notice or good cause, the Hearing Officer may proceed in the Respondent's absence and render a decision based upon the information available.

Failure to appear does not automatically result in a finding of In Violation.

Hearing Outcome

At the conclusion of the Administrative Hearing, the Hearing Officer will determine whether the Respondent is:

- In Violation of the Student Code of Conduct; or
- In Non-Violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

A finding of In Violation means the Hearing Officer concluded, based on the Preponderance of the Evidence standard, that it is more likely than not that the Respondent violated one or more provisions of the Student Code of Conduct.

A finding of Non-Violation means the information presented during the hearing was insufficient to establish that the Respondent violated the Student Code of Conduct.

If the Respondent is found In Violation, appropriate sanction(s) may be imposed in accordance with Section 11 of this Student Code of Conduct.

Written Outcome

Following the Administrative Hearing, the Respondent will receive a written outcome letter.

The outcome letter will generally include:

- The alleged violation(s).
- The finding of In Violation or Non-Violation.
- A summary of the rationale supporting the decision.
- Any assigned sanction(s), if applicable.
- Information regarding the appeal process and applicable deadlines.

Recording of Hearings

The University does not record in-person Administrative Hearings.

Administrative Hearings conducted virtually may be recorded by the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices for administrative purposes.

Unauthorized audio, video, or photographic recording of any Administrative Hearing by participants, advisors, witnesses, or observers is prohibited.

Judicial Panel Hearing

A Judicial Panel Hearing is a formal student conduct proceeding conducted before a Judicial Panel appointed by the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices. The purpose of the Judicial Panel Hearing is to determine whether the Respondent is In Violation or Non-Violation of the Student Code of Conduct based upon the information presented during the hearing.

Except as otherwise provided in this section, Judicial Panel Hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures governing Administrative Hearings as outlined in Section 8 of this Student Code of Conduct.

Composition of the Judicial Panel

The Judicial Panel shall consist of trained University representatives appointed by the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices.

One member of the Judicial Panel shall serve as the Chair and shall preside over the hearing.

All Judicial Panel members are expected to conduct the hearing in a fair, impartial, respectful, and professional manner consistent with the principles of due process.

Responsibilities of the Judicial Panel

- Reviewing all relevant information presented during the hearing.
- Asking questions when clarification is necessary.
- Deliberating following the conclusion of the hearing.
- Determining whether the Respondent is In Violation or Non-Violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
- Recommending appropriate sanction(s), when applicable.

The Judicial Panel shall make its determination by a majority vote of the panel members.

Deliberation

Following the conclusion of the hearing, the Judicial Panel shall deliberate in closed session.

Only members of the Judicial Panel may participate in the deliberation process.

The Judicial Panel shall base its determination upon the Preponderance of the Evidence standard.

Written Outcome

Following the Director's review of the Judicial Panel's recommendation, the Respondent will receive an official written outcome from the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices.

The written outcome will generally include:

- The alleged violation(s).
- The finding of In Violation or Non-Violation.
- The rationale supporting the decision.
- Any assigned sanction(s), if applicable.
- Information regarding the appeal process and applicable deadlines.

Interim Suspension

An Interim Suspension is a temporary administrative action that may be imposed before the completion of the student conduct process when a student's continued presence on University property or participation in University activities may present an immediate or significant concern to the health, safety, or welfare of the University community or may substantially disrupt the orderly operations of the University.

An Interim Suspension is not a finding that a student is In Violation of the Student Code of Conduct. It is a temporary measure intended to protect the University community while the reported conduct is reviewed and addressed through the appropriate University process.

Authority to Impose an Interim Suspension

- President of the University or designee.
- Vice President for Student Affairs or designee.
- Associate Vice President for Student Affairs or designee.
- Director of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices or designee.
- Virginia State University Police Department, when authorized and appropriate.

Grounds for Interim Suspension

An Interim Suspension may be imposed when available information indicates that a student's continued presence or participation may:

- Present an immediate or significant threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the student or other members of the University community.
- Create a substantial risk of physical harm to individuals or damage to University property.
- Significantly disrupt or interfere with the educational environment or orderly operations of the University.
- Interfere with an ongoing University review, investigation, or student conduct process.
- Present other circumstances requiring immediate administrative action to protect the University community.

Conduct that may result in an Interim Suspension includes, but is not limited to, allegations involving physical violence, weapons, sexual misconduct, serious threats, significant disruption, or other behavior that may present a substantial safety concern.

Conditions and Restrictions

During the Interim Suspension, the student may be prohibited from:

- Entering University property.
- Attending classes in person.
- Residing in or entering University residence halls.
- Participating in University-sponsored programs, activities, athletics, organizations, or events.
- Using University facilities or services.
- Contacting designated individuals.
- Engaging in other activities identified in the Interim Suspension notice.

The University may modify the conditions of an Interim Suspension when appropriate.

Student Conduct Process

A student placed on Interim Suspension will be provided an opportunity to participate in the student conduct process in accordance with the procedures outlined in this Student Code of Conduct.

The University will make reasonable efforts to proceed with the student conduct process on time while providing the student with the applicable procedural rights.

An Interim Suspension may remain in effect until the student conduct matter is resolved, modified, or lifted by an authorized University official.

Trespass Restrictions

An Interim Suspension and a trespass restriction are separate administrative actions.

A student placed on Interim Suspension may also be issued a trespass restriction by the Virginia State University Police Department. The issuance, modification, or removal of a trespass restriction is under the authority of the Virginia State University Police Department.

NO-CONTACT ORDERS

Purpose

Virginia State University is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and supportive educational environment. A No-Contact Order is an administrative and supportive measure issued to limit or prohibit communication and interaction between identified individuals when such contact may contribute to conflict, disruption, harassment, retaliation, intimidation, or concerns regarding the safety or well-being of members of the University community.

A No-Contact Order is not a determination of responsibility and does not indicate that a violation of the Student Code of Conduct has occurred. A No-Contact Order MAY be issued before, during, or after the student conduct process and MAY remain in effect independently of any student conduct proceeding.

Authority to Issue a No-Contact Order

A No-Contact Order MAY be issued by the Director of Student Conduct and Restorative Practices, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, the Title IX Coordinator, the Virginia State University Police Department, or an authorized University designee.

The University MAY issue a No-Contact Order when it determines that such action is appropriate to:

- Support the safety or well-being of one or more members of the University community;
- Prevent further conflict, disruption, harassment, intimidation, threats, or retaliation;
- Preserve the integrity of an investigation, student conduct proceeding, Title IX process, or other University process;
- Maintain an environment conducive to learning, living, working, and campus participation; or
- Address circumstances in which continued contact may negatively affect University operations or the educational environment.

Scope of a No-Contact Order

A No-Contact Order prohibits direct and indirect contact between the individuals identified in the order unless otherwise authorized in writing by the issuing University official.

Prohibited contact MAY include, but is not limited to:

- In-person communication or interaction;
- Telephone calls, text messages, emails, direct messages, or other electronic communications;
- Contact through social media platforms, applications, online forums, or other digital communication methods;
- Contact through friends, family members, roommates, student organizations, teammates, classmates, employees, or other third parties;
- Sending messages, gifts, letters, photographs, videos, or other materials directly or through another individual;
- Requesting, encouraging, directing, or permitting another person to communicate with or approach an individual on one's behalf;
- Following, approaching, confronting, monitoring, or intentionally remaining near an individual when such conduct is inconsistent with the terms of the No-Contact Order; or
- Any other form of communication or interaction prohibited by the written terms of the order.

Responding to prohibited contact MAY also constitute a violation of the No-Contact Order. Students who receive unwanted or prohibited communication SHOULD preserve the communication and report it to the appropriate University official rather than respond.

Mutual No-Contact Orders

Virginia State University recognizes mutual No-Contact Orders.

A mutual No-Contact Order applies to all individuals identified in the order and prohibits each individual from initiating or engaging in contact with the other.

The terms and expectations of the No-Contact Order SHALL be communicated in writing to each individual to whom the order applies.

Shared Classes, Residence Halls, Employment, and Campus Activities

A No-Contact Order does not automatically require a student to withdraw from a course, leave University housing, discontinue University employment, or withdraw from a student organization, athletic team, or campus activity.

When individuals subject to a No-Contact Order share a class, residence hall, workplace, student organization, athletic team, campus activity, or other University space, the University MAY establish reasonable measures to reduce or manage contact. Such measures MAY include:

1. Assigned seating or designated areas;
2. Adjusted arrival or departure times;
3. Modified class, work, meeting, or activity arrangements;
4. Changes to University housing assignments;
5. Restrictions regarding access to designated locations;
6. Alternative methods of participation;
7. Remote or virtual participation when appropriate and reasonably available; or
8. Other administrative or supportive measures determined appropriate by the University.

Students SHALL comply with all written instructions regarding shared spaces and SHALL not use unavoidable or incidental contact as an opportunity to communicate, confront, intimidate, harass, or engage with another individual.

Incidental or Unavoidable Contact

The University recognizes that incidental or unavoidable contact MAY occur in classrooms, residence halls, dining facilities, campus events, common areas, or other shared University spaces.

Incidental presence in the same location does not automatically constitute a violation of a No-Contact Order. However, intentionally approaching, following, remaining near, confronting, communicating with, or attempting to provoke a response from another individual MAY constitute a violation.

When incidental contact occurs, students SHALL make reasonable efforts to disengage, avoid further interaction, and comply with all instructions contained in the No-Contact Order.

Duration, Modification, and Termination

A No-Contact Order SHALL remain in effect until the expiration date identified in the written order or until modified or terminated in writing by an authorized University official.

A student MAY submit a written request for review, modification, or termination of a No-Contact Order to the office or University official that issued the order. The University MAY consider factors including, but not limited to:

1. The circumstances that resulted in the issuance of the order;
2. The safety and well-being of the individuals involved;

3. Changes in academic, residential, employment, or campus circumstances;
4. The status or outcome of any related investigation or University process;
5. Compliance with the existing No-Contact Order; and
6. Any additional information determined relevant by the University.

A request for modification or termination does not suspend the No-Contact Order. The existing order SHALL remain in effect unless and until written notice of a modification or termination is issued.

Relationship to Protective Orders and Law Enforcement

A University No-Contact Order is an administrative directive and is not a court-issued protective order, restraining order, or criminal trespass notice.

Students seeking information regarding a court-issued protective order SHOULD contact the appropriate court, magistrate's office, law enforcement agency, or legal resource.

A No-Contact Order does not replace a criminal investigation, emergency protective order, preliminary protective order, permanent protective order, trespass notice, or other action authorized by law.

The Virginia State University Police Department maintains separate authority regarding criminal investigations, emergency response, campus safety, and trespass notices.

Violations of a No-Contact Order

Failure to comply with a No-Contact Order MAY constitute a separate violation of the Student Code of Conduct and MAY result in additional student conduct action.

Alleged violations SHOULD be reported promptly to the Department of Student Conduct and Restorative Practices. Matters involving immediate safety concerns, threats, stalking, violence, or emergencies SHALL be reported to the Virginia State University Police Department or other appropriate law enforcement agency.

The University MAY implement additional administrative or supportive measures when necessary to protect the safety and well-being of the University community or preserve the integrity of a University process.

Retaliation

Retaliation against any individual who requests, receives, reports a violation of, participates in the administration of, or provides information regarding a No-Contact Order is prohibited.

Retaliation MAY constitute a separate violation of the Student Code of Conduct and MAY result in additional student conduct action.

THREAT ASSESSMENT AND CAMPUS SAFETY

Background

Virginia State University maintains a Threat Assessment Team appointed by the President to support the safety and well-being of the University community. The Threat Assessment Team uses a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach that includes representation from law enforcement, mental health, University administration, and student counsel. Representatives from Student Affairs, Counseling Services, Residence Life and Housing, Human Resources,

Health Services, and other appropriate University departments MAY participate based on the nature and circumstances of the concern.

The Threat Assessment Team reviews reports involving threatening language, behavior, communications, or other circumstances that may present a potential risk to an individual or the University community. Threats MAY be communicated verbally, nonverbally, in writing, through gestures, electronically, through social media, directly to an individual, or through a third party.

The threat assessment process is preventive, collaborative, and focused on identifying concerning behaviors, evaluating potential risks, coordinating appropriate interventions, and connecting individuals with available University or community resources. The process supports early intervention and campus safety while protecting the rights and well-being of all individuals involved.

Threatening language or behavior MAY result in administrative action, referral to the student conduct process, suspension or removal from the University, referral to law enforcement, or other appropriate measures. When warranted by an individualized assessment and consistent with applicable law and University policy, a student MAY be required to participate in an appropriate evaluation or intervention as a condition of continued enrollment.

Purpose

Virginia State University is committed to promoting a safe, secure, and supportive learning, living, and working environment. The University uses a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to identify, assess, manage, and respond to behaviors or circumstances that may present a threat or concern to the safety and well-being of members of the University community.

Threat assessment is a preventive and supportive process intended to evaluate concerning behaviors, identify appropriate interventions, reduce potential risks, and connect individuals with available resources.

A threat assessment is not a determination of responsibility under the Student Code of Conduct and does not automatically result in disciplinary action.

Reporting Concerning Behavior

Members of the University community are encouraged to promptly report behaviors, communications, or circumstances that may indicate a potential threat, safety concern, or significant disruption to the University community.

Concerning behavior MAY include, but is not limited to:

- Direct or indirect threats of harm toward oneself or others;
- Statements, writings, images, recordings, social media posts, electronic communications, or other communications that reasonably raise concerns regarding safety;
- Threatening, intimidating, aggressive, or violent behavior;
- Stalking, repeated unwanted contact, or escalating patterns of concerning behavior;
- Possession, display, use, or threatened use of a weapon or dangerous object;
- Significant changes in behavior accompanied by threats, aggression, severe disruption, or other indicators of potential risk;
- Conduct that substantially disrupts University operations, academic activities, residential communities, or campus events;

- Attempts to obtain information, access, materials, or resources in a manner that reasonably raises a campus safety concern; or
- Any other behavior or circumstance that may reasonably indicate a potential risk to an individual or the University community.

Reports involving an immediate or imminent threat, violence, weapons, or an emergency SHALL be reported immediately to the Virginia State University Police Department or other appropriate emergency responders.

Threat Assessment Review

The University MAY refer reports of concerning behavior to the Threat Assessment Team, CARE Team, appropriate University official, or other designated group for review.

The review MAY include consultation or collaboration with appropriate University offices and professionals, including, but not limited to:

1. Virginia State University Police Department;
2. Division of Student Affairs;
3. Department of Student Conduct and Restorative Practices;
4. University Counseling Center;
5. Student Health Services;
6. Residence Life and Housing;
7. Title IX Office;
8. Student Accessibility Services;
9. Academic Affairs;
10. Human Resources;
11. University Legal Counsel; or
12. Other University departments, external professionals, emergency responders, or agencies determined appropriate based on the circumstances.

Information SHALL be shared only as permitted or required by applicable law, University policy, and legitimate health or safety considerations.

Assessment and Consideration of Relevant Information

The University MAY consider information reasonably related to the reported concern, including, but not limited to:

1. The nature, content, context, and specificity of the reported behavior or communication;
2. The existence of an identified individual, group, location, or activity associated with the concern;
3. The student's behavior, statements, actions, and relevant circumstances;
4. The frequency, duration, progression, or escalation of concerning behavior;
5. Available information regarding access to weapons or other means of causing harm;

6. Prior incidents or patterns of behavior relevant to the current concern;
7. Information provided by witnesses, reporting parties, University officials, law enforcement agencies, health or safety professionals, or other appropriate sources;
8. Protective factors, support systems, available resources, and the student's willingness to participate in recommended interventions; and
9. Any other information determined relevant to evaluating and managing potential risk.

The University SHALL conduct an individualized assessment based on the facts and circumstances reasonably available at the time of review. Decisions SHALL not be based solely on assumptions, stereotypes, speculation, a disability, or a perceived disability.

Threat Assessment Policy

See Threat Assessment Policy: <https://www.vsu.edu/files/docs/policies/8000/violence-prevention-threat-assesment.pdf>

APPEALS

Right to Appeal

A Respondent found responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct MAY submit a written appeal within 72 business hours of the date the written decision letter is issued unless a different timeline is stated in the decision letter.

An appeal is not a new hearing or an opportunity to present information that was reasonably available during the original student conduct process.

A student who fails to attend a scheduled Pre-Hearing Conference, Administrative Hearing, or Judicial Panel Hearing without prior approval or documented extraordinary circumstances MAY waive the right to appeal.

Grounds for Appeal

An appeal SHALL be limited to one or more of the following grounds:

1. A material procedural error occurred that significantly affected the outcome;
2. New and relevant information exists that was not reasonably available during the original student conduct process and could have affected the outcome;
3. The sanction imposed is substantially disproportionate to the nature or severity of the violation; or
4. A conflict of interest or demonstrated bias materially affected the outcome.

Disagreement with the finding or sanction alone is not sufficient grounds for appeal.

Contents and Submission of the Appeal

The written appeal MUST contain sufficient information to allow a reasonable determination regarding whether the appeal should be accepted for review.

The appeal SHALL include:

1. The specific ground or grounds for appeal;
2. A clear explanation supporting each ground;

3. Relevant supporting information or documentation; and
4. The specific outcome or remedy requested.

Failure to submit a complete appeal within the established timeline MAY result in the appeal being denied unless documented extraordinary circumstances prevented timely submission.

Review of the Appeal

The Associate Vice President for Student Success or an authorized University designee SHALL review the written appeal, relevant case information, available evidence, written decision, and any additional information determined appropriate.

Acceptance of an appeal for review does not indicate that the appeal will be granted or that the original decision was incorrect.

If an appeal is denied, an appropriate written response SHALL be provided to the student.

Action on Appeals

Following a review of the appeal and available information, one of the following actions MAY be taken:

1. Sustain the findings and imposed sanction or sanctions;
2. Sustain the findings but modify the sanction or sanctions as deemed appropriate;
3. Reverse the findings and, when appropriate, modify, remove, or impose new sanctions;
4. Order a rehearing of the case; or
5. Remand the matter to the Department of Student Conduct and Restorative Practices for additional review or other appropriate action.

The appeal decision SHALL be communicated to the student in writing and is final unless otherwise required by applicable law or University policy.

Status of Sanctions During an Appeal

Unless otherwise determined by an authorized University official, sanctions SHALL remain in effect during the appeal process.

Interim Suspensions, No-Contact Orders, trespass notices, emergency measures, supportive measures, and safety restrictions SHALL remain in effect unless modified or rescinded in writing by an authorized University official.

SANCTIONS

Purpose and Authority

Once a student is found responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct, the Director of Student Conduct and Restorative Practices SHALL impose the appropriate sanction or sanctions.

The Director MAY consider recommendations from an Administrative Hearing Officer or Judicial Panel but is not bound by those recommendations.

Sanctions are intended to promote accountability, encourage student learning and personal development, address the impact of misconduct, repair harm when appropriate, and support the safety and well-being of the University community.

Sanctions MAY be educational, restorative, developmental, corrective, administrative, or disciplinary in nature. More than one sanction MAY be imposed for a single violation.

Determination of Sanctions

Sanctions SHALL be determined based on the individual facts and circumstances of each case.

Factors considered MAY include, but are not limited to:

1. The nature, severity, and impact of the violation;
2. The student's level of responsibility and participation;
3. The student's prior conduct history;
4. The actual or potential harm caused to individuals or the University community;
5. The student's willingness to accept responsibility, demonstrate accountability, and repair harm;
6. Aggravating or mitigating circumstances;
7. The safety and well-being of the University community;
8. Sanctions imposed in similar cases, when appropriate;
9. The cumulative number or pattern of violations committed by the student; and
10. Any other relevant information.

Virginia State University considers violations involving drugs, weapons, physical violence, and sexual misconduct to be serious threats to the safety and well-being of the University community. Such violations MAY result in suspension or expulsion.

Suspension or expulsion MAY also be imposed when warranted by the severity or circumstances of the conduct, the cumulative nature of a student's conduct history, or the risk or harm presented to the University community. Expulsion is not limited solely to violations identified as major infractions.

Possible Sanctions

The following list provides examples of sanctions that MAY be imposed following a finding of responsibility. This list is not exhaustive. Due to the individualized, educational, developmental, and restorative nature of the student conduct process, it is not possible to identify every sanction, intervention, restorative measure, or condition that MAY be appropriate.

The University MAY develop and impose additional educational, restorative, developmental, corrective, administrative, or disciplinary sanctions based on the nature and circumstances of the violation, the needs and development of the student, the impact or harm caused, the safety and well-being of the University community, and the goals of accountability, learning, restoration, and prevention.

More than one sanction MAY be imposed for a single violation.

Sanctions MAY include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Warning

Written notice that the student has violated the Student Code of Conduct and that future violations MAY result in more severe disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the University.

2. Disciplinary Probation

A specified period during which the student remains enrolled but is expected to demonstrate compliance with the Student Code of Conduct and all University policies.

Conditions MAY include the temporary loss or restriction of designated privileges, including eligibility to hold or seek leadership positions, join or participate in Greek-letter or social organizations, represent the University, or participate in designated University activities.

Additional violations during the probationary period MAY result in more severe disciplinary action.

3. Educational Assignment or Intervention

Completion of an educational activity intended to promote learning, accountability, personal development, and informed decision-making.

Educational assignments MAY include reflection papers, research assignments, workshops, educational programs, conflict-resolution training, anger-management education, decision-making programs, active-bystander education, mentorship, coaching, academic-support plans, time-management activities, or other appropriate interventions.

4. Community Service

Completion of a specified number of community-service hours by an established deadline.

The student is responsible for securing an appropriate community-service placement unless otherwise directed by the Department of Student Conduct and Restorative Practices. All service hours SHALL be documented and verified in accordance with the requirements provided to the student.

5. Fine

A monetary assessment imposed when appropriate for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Failure to pay an assessed fine MAY result in an administrative or judicial hold being placed on the student's account, which MAY affect registration, graduation, or other University processes.

When payment of a fine may create a financial hardship, a student MAY request approval to satisfy all or a portion of the fine through community service or another appropriate alternative sanction. A student's status as a Federal Pell Grant recipient MAY be considered when evaluating a request for an alternative to a monetary fine.

The number of community-service hours required SHALL be determined by the Department of Student Conduct and Restorative Practices based on the amount of the fine and the circumstances of the case. Community service completed in place of a fine MUST be approved in advance, completed by the established deadline, and documented in accordance with the requirements provided to the student.

Approval of an alternative sanction is not automatic and SHALL be determined on a case-by-case basis.

6. Loss or Restriction of Campus Privileges

Temporary or permanent loss, suspension, or restriction of specified University privileges.

Restrictions MAY include participation in student organizations, Greek-letter organizations, athletic activities, academic organizations, leadership positions, University-sponsored programs or events, campus employment, or representing the University in any capacity.

The written decision SHALL identify the specific privilege affected and the duration of the restriction.

7. Temporary Loss of Leadership Eligibility

Temporary restriction from holding, seeking, or maintaining elected, appointed, or designated leadership positions within the University.

This restriction MAY apply to positions within student organizations, the Student Government Association, University committees, athletic teams, residence hall organizations, ambassador programs, peer-leadership programs, campus employment, or other University-affiliated leadership roles.

The written decision SHALL identify the duration and conditions of the restriction.

Temporary Loss of Leadership Eligibility does not automatically prohibit participation as a general member unless additional restrictions are imposed.

8. No-Contact Order

A written directive requiring a student to avoid direct or indirect contact with an identified individual or group.

Prohibited contact MAY include in-person communication, telephone calls, text messages, email, social media, electronic communication, or contact through friends, family members, student organizations, or other third parties.

Additional requirements are provided in Section 11, No-Contact Orders.

9. Restitution or Reimbursement

Compensation for injury, damage, loss, theft, unauthorized use, misappropriation of property, or other financial harm when responsibility and the amount of the loss are reasonably established through the student conduct process.

Restitution MAY include repair, replacement, monetary reimbursement, community service, or other appropriate compensation.

The University SHALL not require restitution for alleged losses that are unsupported by sufficient information or evidence.

10. Restorative Practice or Informal Resolution

Participation in a restorative conference, facilitated dialogue, restorative circle, impact statement, restorative agreement, or other appropriate process intended to acknowledge harm, promote accountability, rebuild trust, or repair relationships.

Participation by affected individuals SHALL be voluntary when required by University policy or applicable law.

11. Referral to University or Community Resources

Referral to an appropriate educational, academic, counseling, health, wellness, accessibility, substance-use, case-management, or community resource.

A student MAY be required to complete an assessment, educational program, or other appropriate intervention consistent with University policy and applicable law.

12. Substance-Use Education or Prevention Program

Required participation in an approved alcohol or substance-use education, prevention, assessment, or intervention program.

The student MAY be responsible for costs associated with an external program when applicable and communicated in writing.

13. Residence Hall Probation

A specified period during which a student remains eligible to reside in University housing but is expected to comply with all University and Residence Life and Housing policies.

Additional violations during the probationary period MAY result in removal or suspension from University housing.

14. Residence Hall Reassignment

Required relocation from a current residence hall, room, or residential community to another University housing assignment.

15. Suspension from University Housing

Removal from University housing for a specified period.

During the suspension period, the student SHALL not reside in or enter any University residence hall or designated residential area without prior written authorization.

16. Permanent Removal from University Housing

Permanent loss of eligibility to reside in University-owned or University-operated housing for the remainder of the student's enrollment at Virginia State University.

The student SHALL not enter University residence halls or designated residential areas without prior written authorization.

17. Deferred Suspension

A specified period during which a student remains enrolled at the University under heightened disciplinary status and is expected to comply with the Student Code of Conduct, all University policies, assigned sanctions, and any conditions established in the written decision.

Deferred Suspension serves as notice that any additional violation of the Student Code of Conduct or failure to complete assigned sanctions MAY result in University Suspension.

Conditions MAY include restrictions on University privileges, participation in student organizations, leadership eligibility, University housing, campus activities, or other requirements determined appropriate.

A student placed on Deferred Suspension MAY continue attending classes unless otherwise restricted in writing.

The duration and conditions of Deferred Suspension SHALL be identified in the written decision.

18. University Suspension

Temporary separation from Virginia State University for a specified period.

During the suspension period, the student SHALL not attend classes, engage in academic coursework, reside in University housing, participate in University activities, represent the University, or enter University property or facilities without prior written authorization.

Conditions for return MAY be established and SHALL be communicated in writing. A student returning from suspension MAY be required to complete a reentry meeting and demonstrate compliance with all assigned sanctions and conditions.

19. University Expulsion

Permanent separation from Virginia State University without eligibility for readmission.

An expelled student SHALL not attend classes, engage in academic coursework, reside in University housing, participate in University activities, represent the University, or enter University property or facilities without prior written authorization.

20. Parental or Legal Guardian Notification

Consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, applicable law, and University policy, the University MAY notify the parent or legal guardian of a dependent student under the age of 21 when the student is found responsible for violating a federal, state, local, or University policy concerning the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance.

21. Administrative or Judicial Hold

A hold MAY be placed on a student's University account for failure to complete assigned sanctions, satisfy conduct-related requirements, participate in required processes, or resolve other student conduct obligations.

A hold MAY affect registration, graduation, access to official records, or other University processes, as permitted by University policy.

22. Other Educational, Restorative, or Appropriate Sanctions

The University MAY develop and impose additional educational, restorative, developmental, corrective, administrative, or disciplinary sanctions not specifically identified in this section.

Such sanctions MAY be individualized and designed to promote accountability, address or repair harm, support student learning and development, rebuild trust, restore relationships or community, reduce the likelihood of future misconduct, or protect the safety and well-being of the University community.

Additional sanctions MAY include restorative agreements, facilitated dialogue, educational projects, presentations, mentorship, coaching, community-based learning, service activities, behavioral or academic support plans, referrals, skill-building activities, or other appropriate interventions.

The absence of a specific sanction from this section does not limit the University's authority to impose an appropriate sanction consistent with the Student Code of Conduct, University policy, and applicable law.

Failure to Complete Sanctions

Students SHALL complete all assigned sanctions by the established deadlines.

Failure to complete assigned sanctions MAY result in additional student conduct action, an administrative or judicial hold, restriction of University privileges, or other appropriate action.

A student experiencing circumstances that may prevent timely completion SHOULD contact the Department of Student Conduct and Restorative Practices before the established deadline to request consideration of an extension or modification.

An extension or modification is not guaranteed and SHALL be approved in writing.

Modification of Sanctions

The Director of Student Conduct and Restorative Practices or an authorized University designee MAY modify the method, deadline, or conditions of a sanction when appropriate.

A modification SHALL not substantially increase the severity of the sanction without appropriate notice and an opportunity for review consistent with University policy.

All approved modifications SHALL be communicated in writing.

Failure to Comply with Sanctions

Students SHALL complete all sanctions and requirements by the deadlines provided in the written decision.

Failure to complete assigned sanctions MAY result in additional student conduct action, an administrative or judicial hold, restriction of University privileges, Deferred Suspension, University Suspension, or other appropriate action.

Conduct-related holds MAY remain in effect until required sanctions or obligations are completed. Such holds MAY affect registration, graduation, access to official University records, or other University processes as permitted by University policy.

Disciplinary Probation is a status sanction and is not considered incomplete solely because the probationary period remains active.

Violations and Penalties

A student offender may be charged by both the University and a county, state, or federal law-enforcement agency for the same offense.

Any student found responsible for committing or attempting to commit misconduct may be subject to disciplinary sanctions, including but not limited to warning, probation, loss of privileges, fines, restitution, residence-hall suspension, residence-hall expulsion, University suspension, and University expulsion.

More than one sanction may be imposed for a single violation. Each student is responsible for their conduct from the time of application through the actual awarding of a degree.

Violation Section 1: Alcoholic Beverages

Virginia State University is a dry campus. The possession, consumption, distribution, sale, or use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on University-owned or University-controlled property, regardless of a person's age, except as expressly authorized by the University. Virginia State University expects students to conduct themselves civilly and maturely consistent with membership in a community of scholars. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in public areas on campus, in residence halls, or in moving or parked vehicles is prohibited except where expressly authorized by University policy.

1.1 The sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages on campus is prohibited unless expressly authorized by the University and permitted by law.

1.2 Students may not store, display, or possess alcoholic beverage containers where prohibited by University policy.

1.3 Students may not use alcoholic beverages as a condition of membership, initiation, participation, or continued affiliation with any organization.

1.4 Public intoxication, drunkenness, or alcohol-related behavior that infringes on the rights, safety, or property of others is prohibited.

1.5 Students and organizations may not give, sell, purchase, provide, or otherwise make alcoholic beverages available to any person under 21 years of age.

Violation Section 2: Unauthorized Activities in or on Campus Buildings

Activities that create excessive noise, damage University property, interfere with University operations, or create a risk of physical injury are prohibited. Students are expected to use good judgment when using bicycles, skateboards, longboards, scooters, rollerblades, or similar devices on campus.

2.1 Climbing, rappelling, scaling, or related activities on campus buildings or structures are prohibited unless expressly authorized.

2.2 Hall sports, including ball playing, bicycling, rollerblading, roller skating, all scooter riding, and skateboarding, are prohibited in University-operated buildings.

2.3 Skateboards, scooters, rollerblades, and similar devices may not be ridden inside any University building.

2.4 Tricks, jumps, rail sliding, or similar uses of transportation devices are prohibited on campus unless part of an approved event.

2.5 Skateboards, scooters, and rollerblades may not be ridden in campus roadways or parking lots. Bicycles may be ridden only where permitted, and riders must obey all traffic signs and safety rules.

Violation Section 3: Visitation, Guests, and Trespassing

All University and residence hall regulations must be followed. Students are responsible for the conduct of their guests and for informing guests of University policies.

3.1 Residence-hall visitation is permitted only during designated times and in accordance with current Residence Life procedures.

3.2 A guest who remains in a room or restricted area during unauthorized visitation may be considered a participant in the violation.

3.3 Students may not host family members or guests in a residence-hall room or restricted area in violation of Residence Life procedures. Guests must be received in approved areas when required.

3.4 Sexual activity in residence halls is prohibited where it violates University housing policy, creates a disruption, or involves any form of coercion, harassment, or misconduct.

3.5 Students are accountable when their guests, whether students or nonstudents, violate University policy.

3.6 Students and guests may not enter or remain in a private room, office, residence-hall space, locked building, or restricted area without permission from the person or office with authority over that space.

Violation Section 4: Dining Hall Regulations

4.1 Trays, tableware, and food MAY NOT be removed from the dining area unless authorized by Dining Services.

4.2 Dining patrons MUST be appropriately dressed while using University dining facilities. Appropriate attire includes shirts, pants, shorts, skirts, dresses, and shoes. Clothing that is considered sleepwear, including pajamas, robes, slippers, or other attire deemed inappropriate for a shared dining environment, is prohibited.

4.3 Students participating in a meal plan MUST present a valid Virginia State University identification card before entering the dining area.

4.4 Food fighting is prohibited. Food fighting includes using food or food items in any manner other than for consumption, such as throwing, tossing, or directing them at another person or within the dining area.

4.5 Dining patrons are expected to clean their dining area and return trays, dishes, utensils, and other dining items to the designated collection stations after completing their meal.

Violation Section 5: Disorderly Conduct

Behavior that disrupts or interferes with the University's educational, residential, administrative, or campus environment, breaches the peace, infringes upon the rights of others, or threatens the health, safety, or well-being of any person is prohibited.

Disorderly conduct includes, but is not limited to:

5.1 Failing to comply with the reasonable and lawful directions of University officials acting within the scope of their official responsibilities or providing false or misleading information to a University official.

5.2 Engaging in disruptive behavior that interferes with teaching, learning, research, administrative functions, residence hall operations, University-sponsored activities, or the ability of others to live, work, or study.

5.3 Using abusive, threatening, intimidating, obscene, or profane language, gestures, or conduct that materially disrupts a classroom, residence hall, University office, event, or other University activity.

5.4 Creating unreasonable noise or disturbances, including amplified sound or other conduct that disrupts the University community.

5.5 Throwing or projecting objects or substances in a manner that causes or is likely to cause injury, property damage, or disruption.

5.6 Tampering with, damaging, or misusing emergency equipment, safety devices, or other University property.

5.7 Possessing or displaying gang-related items, drug paraphernalia, or other materials in a manner that violates University policy or applicable law.

5.8 Participating in demonstrations, assemblies, protests, or similar activities that materially disrupt University operations or fail to comply with applicable University policies governing expressive activities.

5.9 Failing to comply with University standards regarding dress, safety equipment, or attire when required for classrooms, laboratories, clinical settings, residence halls, dining facilities, internships, employment, or other University activities.

5.10 Engaging in indecent exposure, obscene conduct, littering, smoking or vaping in prohibited areas, or other behavior that unreasonably disrupts or negatively impacts the University community.

Violation Section 6: Drugs

Virginia State University provides education, counseling, and support resources intended to discourage illicit drug use, eliminate the distribution of illegal drugs, and uphold applicable law. The University Alcohol and Drug Policy prohibits the possession, use, manufacture, distribution, sale, or consumption of alcohol and illicit drugs on campus, at University-sponsored events, and at off-campus activities while representing the University.

For purposes of this section, drugs include controlled substances, illegal drugs, misused prescription or over-the-counter medications, drug paraphernalia, and substances detrimental to health or safety.

6.1 Use, possession, manufacture, distribution, sale, or attempted distribution of illegal drugs, controlled substances, drug-related paraphernalia, or misused legal pharmaceutical drugs is prohibited.

6.2 Reasonable suspicion of possession, use, manufacture, or distribution of narcotics or drugs may result in referral to law enforcement and, where permitted by policy and law, a search of the student or the student's property.

Violation Section 7: False Alarms, Bomb Threats, Explosives, Weapons, and Fire Safety

All violations of this section may result in immediate removal from campus housing, interim suspension, or other emergency action when necessary to protect health and safety.

7.1 Knowingly initiating a false fire alarm, ringing fire bells, or giving any false emergency alarm is prohibited.

7.2 Making a bomb threat, threat of mass violence, or false emergency report is prohibited and may result in criminal charges.

7.3 Students may not operate, misuse, disable, damage, or tamper with firefighting equipment except to extinguish a fire.

7.4 Fires, open flames, candles, matches, incense, or other flammable materials are prohibited in residence halls and University buildings unless expressly authorized.

7.5 Dangerous chemicals, fireworks, firecrackers, gunpowder, and explosive materials are prohibited unless used under approved academic supervision.

7.6 Blocking or preventing the use of fire exits, residence-hall doors, building doors, stairwells, corridors, or hallways is prohibited.

7.7 Improper use of electrical appliances, wiring, extension cords, or other equipment that creates a fire hazard is prohibited.

7.8 Possession or use of firearms, ammunition, gunpowder, air rifles, air pistols, paintball guns, water guns used in a threatening manner, knives, replicas, dangerous chemicals, mace or pepper spray where prohibited, explosives, or other weapons is prohibited except where expressly authorized by law and University policy.

Violation Section 8: Fighting, Assault, Threats, and Abuse

Virginia State University strives to maintain an environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors feel welcome, safe, and respected.

8.1 Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person within or related to the University community, including physical abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, or coercion, is prohibited.

8.2 Students may not engage in or attempt to engage in violence directed toward another person or group on University property, at University-sponsored activities, or off campus when the conduct affects the University community.

8.3 Participating in riots, disturbances, or group actions with the intent to commit or incite conduct that creates a clear danger to persons or property is prohibited on or off University property.

Note: When self-defense is claimed, the appropriate hearing body or University official will determine whether the claim is supported by the facts.

Violation Section 9: Forgery, Fraud, Theft, Gambling, and Misrepresentation

Students may be subject to discipline for falsifying, forging, defacing, altering, or misusing documents or representations when the conduct affects the University community. Covered documents include identification cards, program requests, change forms, receipts, transcripts, library documents, and residency petitions.

9.1 Willful falsification of information on University records, information given to University or government officials, or information used to obtain services is prohibited.

9.2 Theft or attempted theft of money, property, services, or items of value belonging to the University, members of the University community, or campus visitors is prohibited.

9.3 Unauthorized use, misuse, appropriation, removal, exchange, alteration, or possession of University property is prohibited.

9.4 Defrauding the University or members of the University community, failing to pay legally owed debts to the University, or engaging in fraudulent use of telephones, accounts, access codes, or identification credentials is prohibited.

9.5 Unauthorized presentation of oneself or an organization as a representative of the University is prohibited.

9.6 Misrepresentation of another student, employee, organization, or University office is prohibited.

9.7 Illegal gambling or unauthorized games of chance on University property or in connection with University activities are prohibited.

Violation Section 10: Abuse of the Student Conduct Process

10.1 Students MUST comply with reasonable and lawful requests made by the Director of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices, hearing officers, hearing panels, investigators, or other University officials acting within the scope of the student conduct process.

10.2 Failure to comply with disciplinary sanctions, interim measures, or other directives issued through the student conduct process is prohibited and MAY result in additional disciplinary action.

10.3 Students MAY NOT disrupt, interfere with, delay, obstruct, or improperly influence any student conduct, administrative, or hearing process.

10.4 Providing false, misleading, or materially incomplete information to a hearing officer, hearing panel, investigator, or University official during a student conduct proceeding is prohibited.

10.5 Attempting to influence, intimidate, threaten, coerce, harass, or retaliate against a complainant, respondent, witness, investigator, hearing officer, hearing panel member, or any other participant in the student conduct process is prohibited.

10.6 Failure to comply with a No Contact Order or any other University-issued directive or interim measure is prohibited.

10.7 Failure to complete assigned sanctions by the established deadline, or failure to comply with the terms and conditions of an assigned sanction, without prior approval from the Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices, is prohibited and MAY result in additional disciplinary action.

Violation Section 11: Probation or Parole Status

11.1 Any student placed on probation or parole by a court must report that status in person to the Director of Student Conduct within 10 calendar days of the court order.

Violation Section 12: Sex-Based Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Stalking

Sex-based harassment and sexual misconduct are forms of prohibited discrimination and misconduct. Students should consult the current University Title IX and related misconduct policies for controlling definitions, reporting options, supportive measures, investigation procedures, and grievance-process requirements.

Prohibited conduct includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, retaliation, interference with an investigation or grievance process, and intentionally false reports made through University procedures.

See Title IX Policy <https://www.vsu.edu/titleix/>

12.1 Students may not sexually harass members of the University community or campus visitors.

12.2 Sexual activity on University property that violates University policy, involves coercion, lacks consent, creates a disruption, or constitutes sexual misconduct is prohibited.

12.3 Rape, attempted rape, sexual assault, and attempted sexual assault are prohibited on or off campus when the conduct affects the University community.

12.4 Students and student organizations may not engage in sexual misconduct, including sexual activity forced on another person by physical force, threat, intimidation, coercion, incapacitation, or psychological pressure.

12.5 Sexual harassment, obscene communications, indecent exposure, and misuse of electronic communications, photos, videos, messages, or social media for sexual harassment or misconduct are prohibited.

12.6 Stalking of any member of the University community or campus visitor is prohibited.

12.7 Dating violence and domestic violence involving any member of the University community or campus visitor are prohibited.

12.8 Retaliation, interference with University procedures, intimidation of participants, and intentionally false accusations are prohibited.

Violation Section 13: Animals on Campus

Animals are not permitted in University buildings or on campus grounds except as allowed by University policy, including approved service animals, approved assistance animals in housing, fish where permitted by Residence Life, and animals used in approved University programs.

13.1 Dogs, cats, snakes, and other animals may not be brought onto campus or into University facilities except where permitted by University policy. Animals found unattended may be referred to the appropriate animal-control authority, and related fees or costs may be charged to the owner.

Violation Section 14: Vandalism and Damage to Property

Students and student organizations may not willfully, recklessly, or carelessly destroy, damage, deface, or tamper with University property or the property of others.

14.1 Defacing, damaging, destroying, or vandalizing University land, buildings, equipment, furniture, technology, or other property is prohibited.

14.2 Defacing, damaging, destroying, or vandalizing the property of another person or organization is prohibited.

Violation Section 15: Violations of Other University Regulations

Violation of University regulations contained in official University publications, policies, contracts, notices, or directives is prohibited.

15.1 This includes, but is not limited to, Residence Life policies, recreational-sports policies, facility policies, dining policies, student-organization policies, and University computing policies.

Violation Section 16: Hazing

Hazing is prohibited. For 2026, Virginia law defines hazing as conduct that recklessly or intentionally endangers the health or safety of a student or students, or inflicts bodily injury on a student or students, in connection with initiation, admission, affiliation, or continued membership in a club, organization, association, fraternity, sorority, or student body, regardless of whether the affected student participated voluntarily.

16.1 Hazing by an individual is prohibited.

16.2 Hazing by an organization is prohibited.

16.3 Attending, encouraging, assisting, permitting, or failing to leave an event or activity where hazing is occurring is prohibited.

Violation Section 17: Improper Use of University Computers, Networks, and Technology

Students should exercise care when using University technology resources and when posting information on websites, online journals, blogs, social media platforms, messaging services, and other digital communities.

17.1 Abuse or misuse of University computer equipment, materials, systems, or networks is prohibited. Misuse includes accessing, sending, or displaying obscene or unlawful material; engaging in abusive conduct; damaging computer equipment, networks, or systems; violating copyright law; using false or unauthorized identification or passwords; accessing another person's work without authorization; or using University resources for illegal activities.

17.2 Cell phones, audio recording, video recording, photography, or livestreaming in classrooms or other instructional spaces is prohibited without prior approval from the instructor or other appropriate University official.

17.3 Violation of the University's computer-use, information-security, or technology policies is prohibited.

Student Organization Conduct

Recognized student organizations are an integral part of the Virginia State University community and contribute to student learning, leadership development, and campus engagement. As representatives of the University, student organizations are expected to conduct themselves in a

manner consistent with the University's mission, values, policies, and all applicable local, state, and federal laws.

Authority and Jurisdiction

The Department of Student Conduct & Restorative Practices has jurisdiction over recognized student organizations, including fraternities and sororities, for alleged violations of University policy. Organizational conduct proceedings are separate from, and may occur concurrently with, actions taken by Student Activities, Fraternity and Sorority Life, governing councils, national or international organizations, law enforcement agencies, or other University offices.

The University reserves the right to address organizational misconduct occurring on or off campus when the conduct adversely affects the University community, University property, University-sponsored activities, or the University's educational mission.

Organizational Responsibility

Student organizations are responsible for ensuring that their activities are conducted in a safe, lawful, and responsible manner. An organization may be held accountable for the conduct of its officers, members, new members, alumni acting on behalf of the organization, guests, and any individual participating in organization-sponsored or organization-related activities when that conduct violates University policy.

Prohibited Organizational Conduct

Student organizations and their members, acting on behalf of the organization, SHALL NOT engage in conduct that violates University policy, including but not limited to:

1. Hazing or unauthorized membership intake activities.
2. Alcohol or other drug violations.
3. Violence, threats, harassment, discrimination, retaliation, or other conduct that endangers the health, safety, or welfare of others.
4. Theft, vandalism, or damage to University or private property.
5. Failure to comply with lawful directives of University officials or the terms of University recognition.
6. Misrepresentation, falsification of records, or abuse of the student organization conduct process.
7. Misuse of University technology, information resources, or institutional trademarks, logos, or other identifying marks.
8. Obstruction or disruption of University operations, educational activities, or University-sponsored events.
9. Violations of local, state, or federal law that adversely affect the University community or the organization's status.

Organizational Sanctions

Organizations found responsible for violating University policy MAY be assigned one or more of the following sanctions:

- Written Reprimand
- Educational Sanctions
- Restitution
- Community Service
- Organizational Probation
- Restriction or Loss of Privileges
- Suspension of University Recognition
- Revocation of University Recognition
- Other sanctions deemed appropriate based on the nature and severity of the violation.

The **Virginia State University Student Organization Handbook** establishes the University's operational requirements for recognized student organizations, including governance, registration, membership, event planning, risk management, financial accountability, fraternity and sorority expectations, and organizational procedures. Student organizations are responsible for complying with both the **Student Code of Conduct** and the **Student Organization Handbook**, which is incorporated by reference into this Code.

For additional information, refer to the Virginia State University Student Organization Handbook:

<https://www.vsu.edu/files/docs/clubs-and-organizations/student-organization-handbook.pdf>

Definitions

Academic Grievance: A dispute between a student and a faculty or staff member about teaching and learning activities as they relate to or affect the student in an academic environment.

Accused Student: A Virginia State University student charged with violating University policies and notified of a complaint filed with the Department of Student Conduct.

Adjudication: A hearing process that includes the evaluation of possible violations of the Virginia State University Student Code of Conduct. This process also includes the administration of sanctions as appropriate.

Administrator's Court: A formal student hearing that is heard solely by the Director of Student Conduct or designee approved by the Associate Vice President of Student Success in response to alleged minor violations of student misconduct.

Allegation: A statement asserting that a violation of University policy or the Student Code of Conduct has occurred.

Complaint/Charge: A written statement submitted to the Department of Student Conduct regarding violations of University policy.

Dating Violence: Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. A social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature means a relationship which is characterized by the expectation of affection or sexual involvement between the parties. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. Dating violence can be a single event or a pattern of behavior that includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse. Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence: A pattern of behavior, including acts or threatened acts, that includes asserted violent misdemeanor and felony offenses committed by (i) by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim; (ii) by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; (iii) by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner; (iv) by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia; or (v) by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred.

Due Process: Basic rights afforded to all Virginia State University students charged with violating University policies. Basic rights that constitute a fair hearing include the receipt of a hearing notice that outlines alleged violations of University policy and the right to be heard by a disciplinary hearing panel.

Formal Complaint: A written concern or formal charge of dissatisfaction with a person, service, or process that requires clarification, investigation, and/or resolution.

Formal Hearing: An official student hearing that is very structured and is administratively managed by the Department of Student Conduct. A formal hearing is convened in response to allegations of student misconduct and is scheduled at the discretion of the Director of Student Conduct.

Hazing: Hazing in every form or conspiracy to haze is prohibited. Commission of hazing can be considered either a misdemeanor or a felony. Participation in a hazing practice may result in both individual and organizational disciplinary action. The Code of Virginia section 18.2-56 states, “It shall be unlawful to haze so as to cause bodily injury, any student at any school, college, or university. Any person found guilty thereof shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.” If injuries would be such as to constitute a felony, punishment shall be inflicted as is otherwise provided by law for the punishment of such felony. Section 18.2-56 further states, “any person receiving bodily injury by hazing shall have a right to sue, civilly, the person or persons guilty thereof, whether adults or infants.”

Hold: A restriction preventing a student from enrolling in classes, receiving a refund, obtaining academic transcripts.

Integrity: Steadfast adherence to a strict ethical code; completeness; soundness.

Investigation: A process of gathering and reviewing information following the receipt of a disciplinary complaint.

Nonacademic Grievance: A dispute between a student and a staff member, administrator, faculty member, or another Virginia State University student concerning the application of any University-wide policies or procedures or the policies or procedures of an academic or administrative unit. This may include issues related to co-curricular or extracurricular activities, student issues, personal conduct or decorum, student governance, or other administrative decisions and/or actions perceived by the complainant to be unfair, arbitrary, and/or capricious. The procedure is listed below: 1. The requirement that the accused student or student organization receive reasonable notice of the alleged violation, a general summary of the complaint, contact information of an institution's employee to receive additional information, and the date by which such contact must occur; 2. The opportunity for the accused student or student organization to present their version of events giving rise to the allegations; 3. The opportunity for the accused student or student organization to review and respond to information presented to the decision maker; 4. The opportunity for the accused student or student organization to select an advisor of their choice; 5. The opportunity for the accused student or student organization to present information by relevant and noncumulative witnesses; 6. The right of the accused student or student organization to not participate in proceedings; 7. The requirement that the complainant and respondent receive notice of the outcome of the proceedings; 8. A decision maker free from actual bias; and 9. A description of any internal appeal process.

Not Responsible: A hearing outcome in which a determination is made that the student's conduct did not violate the Student Code of Conduct.

Representative: An individual who may attend hearings as silent support for the accused student or witness throughout the hearing process. The representative may not directly question the respondent/student(s) or witness(es) or address the hearing body for any reason.

Responsible: A hearing outcome in which a student is found to be in violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Sanction: A developmental consequence imposed by the administrative hearing officer (Director of Student Conduct) or after a student is found responsible for violating Virginia State University's Student Code of Conduct and/or other university policies.

Sexual Assault: Non-consensual contact of a sexual nature. It includes any sexual contact when the victim does not or is unable to consent through the use of force, fear, intimidation, physical helplessness, ruse, impairment or incapacity (including impairment or incapacitation as a result of the use of drugs or alcohol, knowingly or unknowingly); intentional and non-consensual touching of, or coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force another to touch, a person's genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttock or breast; and non-consensual sexual intercourse, defined as anal, oral, or vaginal penetration with any object. Some types of sexual acts which fall under the category of sexual assault include: rape, attempted rape and fondling.

Sexual Misconduct: Sexual contact without consent. Includes intentional touching of the victim or forcing of the victim to touch, directly or through clothing, another person's genitals, breasts, thighs, or buttocks; rape (sexual intercourse without consent, whether by an acquaintance or a stranger); attempted rape; sodomy (oral sex or anal intercourse) without consent; or sexual penetration with an object without consent. To constitute lack of consent, the acts must be committed by force, intimidation, or through the victim's mental incapacity or physical helplessness. Rape refers to those actions defined as (but is not limited to) the following behaviors (or any behavior that is prohibited by the Virginia Penal Code) that are committed by either an acquaintance or stranger: sexual intercourse against a person's will, accomplished by force or threats of bodily injury, and sexual intercourse when the person is incapable of giving consent or is prevented from resisting, including instances when the complainant cannot resist because of alcohol or drugs administered by or with the knowledge of the accused. Intoxication of the assailant does not diminish the assailant's responsibility for sexual assault.

Stalking: A course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to: (i) fear for their or others' safety, or (ii) suffer substantial emotional distress, meaning significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling. A "course of conduct" means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means follows, monitors, observes, surveys, threatens, or communicates to or about, a person, or interferes with a person's property.

Student: A person officially registered and enrolled at Virginia State University during any academic term in which an incident and subsequent grievance occurs.

Unauthorized: Not officially approved by the University.

Violation: An action that is inconsistent with University policies and which necessitates the imposition of a sanction or consequence.

Witness: An individual who may attend a hearing as support for the respondent/student and who provides a written statement and/or oral testimony to the members of the panel, to include the Director of Student Conduct. The witness's testimony must consist of firsthand evidence. All witnesses are expected to arrive at the hearing with a written, signed, and dated statement