



Policy Title: Standards of Student Conduct	Effective Date: 11/5/2014
Policy Number: SAPO1300	Date of Last Review: 8/15/2023
Oversight Department: Office of Student Standards and Conduct	Next Review Date: 8/1/2026

1. PURPOSE

A. Basis and Rationale for the Standards of Student Conduct

Radford University (University) is committed to fostering an environment that is; safe and secure; inclusive; and conducive to academic inquiry, free expression, student engagement, and student success. An academic community exists on the basis of shared values and principles. At the University, student members of the community are expected to uphold and abide by these values and principles that form the basis of the **Standards of Student Conduct (Standards)** These **Standards** are embodied within a set of core values that include integrity, fairness, respect, trust, freedom, community, and responsibility. When student members of the community fail to exemplify these values, student conduct proceedings are used to assert and uphold the **Standards** All students are expected to assume responsibility for (u)-0.7

The University Honor freedom, trust, and respect can prevail. In accepting admission to the University, each student makes a commitment to support and uphold the Honor Pledge without compromise or exception.

I shall uphold the values and ideals of Radford University by engaging in responsible behavior and striving always to be accountable for my actions while holding myself and others to the highest moral and ethical standards of academic integrity and good citizenship as defined in the **Standards**

C. Objectives of the Student Conduct System

1. Create an environment that provides the best opportunity for academic inquiry and learning;
2. Assure students a fundamentally fair opportunity to resolve allegations when they have been accused of violating the **Standards**

3. The purpose of the activity was related to initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for the continued membership in the student organization; or
4. Non-members of the student organization learned of the activity through members, advertisements, or communications associated with the student organization, or otherwise formed a reasonable belief that the conduct or activity was affiliated with or sanctioned by the student organization; or
5. Members of the student organization attempted to conceal the activity or protect other members who were involved; or
6. One or more officer(s) of the student organization had prior knowledge or reasonably should have known that the incident would take place.

The Director of Student Standards and Conduct (Director) communicates, as appropriate, with University offices, advisors, national associations or affiliations, and others on conduct allegations involving student organizations. At the discretion of the Director, and as appropriate, student organization violations may be processed by the appropriate self-governing bodies or councils provided they have received adequate training from the Office of Student Standards and Conduct. Any such bodies will follow the same procedures and guidelines outlined in the **Standards** and will convene with a chairperson appointed by the Director.

Policies and procedures applicable to student organizations set forth or overseen by individual offices such as Student Organization Assistance and Resources (SOAR), Campus Recreation, or Fraternity and Sorority Life are regulated by those offices.

3. DEFINITIONS

Academic Exercise All forms of work (oral, written, electronic, or otherwise) submitted for credit, grading, continuance, graduation, honors, awards, scholarships, or recognition at the University as well as materials submitted to other institutions, associations, or organizations for evaluation (including evaluation for awards or scholarships) or for publication.

Administrative Hearing A hearing in which a singular conduct officer reviews and makes determinations regarding alleged violations. Administrative hearings otherwise follow all procedures related to a hearing.

Amnesty Granting an exemption from resolution via a conduct conference or hearing as described in Section 5.C., or any sanctions that may result in cases involving underage drinking or drug use reported in accordance with Section 4.C.5., Section 4.C.6, and/or Section 4.C.7. Amnesty will typically be available for violations related to the use of alcohol, drugs, or hazing in violation of the **Standards** and will not normally be applied for other **Standards** violations. Students granted amnesty may be required to participate in educational activities or meet other conditions in order to bypass application of sanctions and creation of a student conduct record. Amnesty granted in accordance with the **Standards** does not prevent any independent action that may be taken by any law enforcement agency, including University Police.

Appellate Officer The Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students, Vice President for Student Affairs, or any University Official designated by the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students to consider an appeal of a decision of a conduct officer or conduct board.

University Property: All land, buildings, facilities, and other property owned, leased, or controlled by the University.

4. POLICY

A. Standards of Classroom Behavior

The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty member. Students who engage in any prohibited acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty member to leave the class for the remainder of the class period. Longer separations from a class must be preceded by a conduct conference or hearing as outlined in Section 5.C. Faculty members who encounter disruptive classroom behavior are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Standards and Conduct for guidance. A student dismissed from class may be required to meet with a College Dean, Department Chair, Program Director, the faculty member, or the Director, or designee, before the student is permitted to return to the class from which the student was directed to leave. Repeated or severe conduct may also be actionable under the **Standards**

B. Violations of Law

The student conduct process is different from criminal proceedings. The standards of evidence differ and the standard of proof in the conduct process is "preponderance of the evidence" (more likely than not.) Therefore, when a student is arrested, charged, cited, indicted for, or found guilty of a crime, the University may take action against that student when the conduct occurs on University property.

5. Amnesty for Victims/Complainants:

may release the final results² of any conduct conference or hearing, without a respondent's prior consent, in circumstances where permitted, or required, by law.

10. **Parental Notification:** The University reserves the right to notify parents or guardians when a student is found responsible for violations of University policy related to the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance as permitted by FERPA. Notification will occur when the student is under the age of 21 at the time of the incident.
11. **Online Misconduct:** Students are cautioned that they can be subject to the student conduct system for behavior occurring online, such as harassment delivered by email, or any violation of state, local, or federal law, or University policy. Students must also be aware that information posted to blogs, webpages, social networking sites, or other online postings are in the public sphere and are not private. These postings can subject a student to allegations of Standards violations, if information supporting the existence of a Standards violation is posted online. Maliciously disseminating, including social media posts, or selling any videographic or still images that depict another person who is totally nude, or in a state of undress so as to expose the genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or female breast, with the intent to coerce, harass, or intimidate is online misconduct.

D. Prohibited Conduct

All complaints of alleged discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment based on protected characteristics or statuses, and sexual misconduct (to include sexual assault or sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual exploitation, and stalking) are governed exclusively by the University's *Discrimination and Harassment Policy*, not the *Standards of Student Conduct*, and any investigation and proceedings relating to such complaints shall proceed in accordance with the procedures (Section 5) of the *Discrimination and Harassment Policy*. To the extent a complaint identifies prohibited conduct under these *Standards of Student Conduct* as well as acts prohibited under the *Discrimination and Harassment Policy*, parallel investigations and proceedings may occur.

28. Vehicles:

9. **Academic Grade Penalty** Grade penalty is at the discretion of a faculty member for a grade reduction on an assignment or in a class that is a result of an academic integrity violation. Once a student has received notice that they have been charged with an academic integrity offense, the student will not be permitted to withdraw from the course to avoid a grade penalty.
10. **Suspension of Student Organization Status** Student organizations may have their status as a student organization suspended on a temporary or permanent basis. A student organization whose status is suspended is no longer eligible to receive benefits normally afforded to student organizations including, but not limited to, the ability to utilize University facilities.

5. PROCEDURES

A. Reporting Suspected Violations

1. The Office of Student Standards and Conduct will accept a written complaint or allegation of a suspected **Standards** violation from any person.
 - a. Any complaint alleging an academic integrity violation that originates from a person other than the faculty member overseeing the academic exercise in question will be forwarded to the faculty member for action consistent with the procedures outlined in Section 5.D.
2. After reviewing the complaint, the Director, or designee, will determine whether sufficient information exists to allege that a respondent engaged in any prohibited conduct listed in the **Standards** and, if so, will determine which violations apply.

B. Notification

1. A respondent will be advised of the allegations via a written Notice of Alleged Violation (Allegation Notice). The Allegation Notice will cite relevant portions of the **Standards** allegedly violated and will invite the respondent to meet with a conduct officer, and when warranted in student organization complaints, a professional staff representative from Student Activities, at a specified date, time, and place for either a conduct conference or hearing as outlined in Section 5.C.
2. The Allegation Notice will be sent to the respondent's official University-supplied email address. Allegation Notices for student organizations will be emailed to the organization's

D. Academic Integrity Procedures

1.

- ii. The case will be referred to a conduct board unless an administrative hearing is necessary to provide a more timely resolution.
- iii. The reporting faculty member and any relevant witnesses will be given the opportunity to provide information at any hearing that occurs. The faculty member is strongly encouraged to participate in the hearing.
- iv. No grade sanction should be assigned by the faculty member until the allegation is finally resolved, including the process of considering the student's appeal, if any. Should the allegation not be resolved by the faculty member, the case shall be referred to the conduct board. (u)2.7 (t)2.9410.6 (ad)2.33.1 (t)-3 (o)-6.73 (h)2.3 (o)

6. **Standard for Decision Making:** If the conduct officer or a majority of conduct board members determines there is a preponderance of evidence (i.e. more likely than not) that the respondent violated the policies as alleged, the respondent will be found responsible.
7. **Maintaining Order:** The conduct officer or chairperson has the responsibility and authority to maintain order and determine the proper sequence of events during a hearing. Any person who fails to comply with instructions provided by the conduct officer or chairperson, or who otherwise disrupts or obstructs a hearing, may be directed to leave the hearing, which will proceed in the dismissed participant's absence.
8. **Credibility and Relevance:** Conduct officers or chairpersons will determine the relevance and admissibility of any information presented. Conduct officers and board members will determine the credibility of participants.
9. **Postponement of a Hearing:** A respondent's request to postpone a hearing must be emailed to the conduct officer no later than two (2) business days prior to the respondent's scheduled hearing. A hearing may be rescheduled if the request is for a reasonable cause at the discretion of the conduct officer. Hearings are not normally postponed because a respondent's work schedule conflicts with the scheduled hearing, a

F. Appeal Procedures

1. Respondents will have the opportunity to appeal a decision of a conduct conference or hearing.
2. Not all sanctions may be appealed. Sanctions involving separation (termination of the housing contract, revocation of admission and/or degree, suspension of student organization status, conduct suspension, or conduct dismissal) are eligible to be appealed on the basis of Section 5.F.4.a.
3. Requests for appeal should be emailed to the Office of Student Standards and Conduct within five (5) business days of the date on which the hearing decision letter was sent. The request will then be sent to the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students, or designee. Requests received after this date will only be accepted for good cause as determined by the designated appellate officer. Any request for an appeal should describe, as thoroughly and precisely as possible, the basis for the request, as an appeal will normally be limited to a review of applicable records. When the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students, or designated appellate officer, requests to speak with any party regarding the appeal, the purpose will be to gather additional information related to the appeal request, not to rehear a case.
4. A student may request an appeal for the following reasons only:
 - a. To determine whether sanctions involving separation (termination of the housing contract, revocation of admission and/or degree, suspension of student organization status, conduct suspension, or conduct dismissal) were reasonable in light of all relevant factors (other sanctions are not eligible for appeal);
 - b. To det ()10.6 (o)-0 Td(T)3 (o)-6.6 (.7 (n)17 (as)9.6 ()-3 (n)13.1 (o)-6.6 (p)2.2 (p)2.3 (es)9.6 (-1.9 (as)9.6

6. EXCLUSIONS

Decisions of the Faculty: The Standards do not cover decisions made by the faculty in any academic program, department, or professional school as to the character or professional disposition required of a student for the purposes of awarding a degree or certificate, for continuation as a candidate for such degree or certificate, for eligibility to maintain an assistantship, or any other activity typically within the purview of the faculty. Therefore, such decisions are not subject to review within the procedures established in the Standards unless specifically stated within the Standards

7. APPENDICES

None

8. REFERENCES

None

9. INTERPRETATION

The authority to interpret this policy rests with the President of the University and is generally delegated to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

10. APPROVAL AND REVISIONS

The Standards of Student Conduct were last approved by the Student Affairs Executive Committee for the 2010-2011 academic year. During 2013 and 2014, the Standards of Student Conduct were revised and reformatted into the new University-wide standard policy and procedure templates.

The new Standards of Student Conduct Conduct