



Student Code of Conduct

Fairfield University holds high expectations of how we live and interact with one another, as the successes and failures of each member of our community shape our institution. Respect for self and respect for others, both within and outside the University community, lie at the heart of our standards of conduct. Students are held accountable for their behavior both on and off campus as a necessary part of our community life.

The Student Code of Conduct process seeks first and foremost to serve its students in an educative role. The process asks students to reflect upon their behaviors and how it impacts the larger university community.

Student Conduct Process

The Office of the Dean of Students has ultimate responsibility for enforcing University rules and regulations. There are three hearing bodies for student conduct cases: (1) administrative (e.g., dean's staff, designee of the dean's office, such as the Office of Residence Life), (2) the Peer Conduct Board, and (3) the Student Conduct Board.

Administrative Hearing: An administrative hearing is a meeting between the student(s) and an administrative of the Dean of Students office or designee.

Peer Conduct Board: The Peer Conduct Board enables students to undertake the responsibility of self discipline. Selected, trained, and charged by the Office of the Dean of Students, the Peer Conduct Board can serve as a student conduct hearing body for alleged violations that could result in a penalty of less severity than dismissal. The dean or designee(s) may refer cases to the Peer Conduct Board or accept a student's request to have the Peer Conduct Board hear his or her case.

- Peer Conduct Board [application](#)

Student Conduct Board: The Student Conduct Board is a hearing body for alleged violations that, by themselves, could result in a student's dismissal from the University. When classes are in session, the board is a five-member body consisting of two voting students, one voting academic dean or assistant dean, one voting faculty member, and a non-voting chairperson. When classes are not in session, or if the regular board members are not available, a board of four voting administrators and a non-voting chairperson may be constituted. The Student Conduct Board follows the procedures set forth in the Student Handbook.

Discrimination, Harassment & Sexual Misconduct (DHSM) Board: The Discrimination, Harassment & Sexual Misconduct Board (DHSM Board) is a subset of the Student Conduct Board. Like the Student Conduct Board, the DHSM Board is a five-member body consisting of two voting students, one voting academic dean or assistant dean, one voting faculty member, and a non-voting chairperson. The DHSM Board members are specifically designated and undergo appropriate training to assist in the processing of formal complaints by students against students alleging discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment), and sexual assault. As a subset of the Student Conduct Board, the DHSM Board follows the same procedures followed by the Student Conduct Board and set forth in the Student Handbook.



Sanctions

Sanctions are educational devices to assist students in changing their behaviors and making smarter choices in the future. In the interest of clarity and transparency, Fairfield University has established general guidelines when determining sanctions for policy violations if a student is found responsible. Please note that no sanctions are imposed without a meeting with an agent of the Dean of Students Office and a determination of responsibility is found.

Disciplinary sanctions are intended to offer educational correctives to unacceptable behavior. For some infractions, the University has prescribed minimum or maximum sanctions (e.g., violation of alcohol or drug policies). The sanctions imposed will be determined based upon the severity of the infraction, the student's prior record, and any other relevant circumstances. Failure to comply with sanctions is itself a violation of University policy and may result in probation, a hold placed on student records, and/or dismissal.

View the [Sanctions Guidelines chart](#) for a quick overview.

Possible sanctions include, but are not limited to:

- **Alcohol/Drug Education:** Required attendance and participation in wellness classes. [Review a list of our options.](#)
- **Community Service:** A number of hours of service to the University or the community. Unless otherwise stated, service hours must be completed within 45 days of their issuance. A reflection paper is required after the hours are completed. Below is a list of potential Approved Community Service Opportunities, but students can seek out other opportunities on and off campus.
 - Athletics Department: Cathy Geiling, ext. 2208
 - Campus Ministry: Wylie Blake, ext. 2668
 - Facilities Management: Ted Hunyadi, ext. 2331
 - Fire Safety: Joe Bouchard, ext. 2546
 - Mail Room: Marge Fulop, ext. 2302
 - Office of Conference & Event Management: Suzanne Neubauer, ext. 3288
 - Operation Hope: Donna Schmidt, (203) 292-5588
 - Public Safety: Debbie Zsebik, (203) 254-4090
 - RecPlex: Ext. 2609
 - Residence Life: (203) 254-4215
 - Students Program & Leadership Development: Elissa Carroll, ext. 2376
 - Department of Visual & Performing Arts: Caitlin Hughes, ext. 2459
- **Disciplinary Probation:** A probationary status with the University that means the student is not in good standing with the University because of his or her behavior. Disciplinary probation is intended to reflect the seriousness of the student's misconduct. The student cannot hold a leadership position in any recognized student organization or athletic team and may be restricted from participating in University activities, including varsity athletics or club sports, and representing the University. Most importantly, further infractions while on probation will likely result in dismissal or expulsion. Disciplinary probation will continue for a minimum of two full academic semesters, unless the student is placed on probation before the halfway point of a particular semester. In those



situations, probation will continue for the duration of that semester and one additional full semester. Probationary periods end only with the conclusion of regular academic semesters.

- **Dismissal:** Withdrawal from the University for disciplinary reasons that is an interruption in progress towards a degree for an indefinite period of time that does allow the student to reapply to the University in the future. While dismissed, a student is not welcome on campus and is subject to arrest for trespassing. If a dismissed student has a need to come to campus, a request must be made to and approval given by the Department of Public Safety or the Office of the Dean of Students at least 48 hours in advance. Credits earned at another institution while dismissed cannot be transferred and applied toward a Fairfield degree.
- **Drug Testing:** Random drug testing at the student's expense. The results of such tests will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students.
- **Educational Project:** A writing assignment or research project related to the unacceptable behavior.
- **Education Program:** An opportunity to plan a formal program with your community with your Area Coordinator, Resident Assistant or Residential Community Council.
- **Expulsion:** Withdrawal from the University for disciplinary reasons that is permanent and prohibits the student from reapplying to the University in the future or earning a degree from any of its colleges or schools. Under expulsion, the student is not welcome on campus.
- **Fines or Restitution:** A payment to the University or to an individual for unacceptable behavior or physical damage caused. Fine monies paid to the University are deposited into a restricted budget, administered by the Office of the Dean of Students, to support student life initiatives. They are not part of the University's general fund. Restitution is used to cover the direct cost associated with repairs or replacement items. Fines must be paid within 20 days of their issuance.
- **Formal Warning Status:** A formal warning status that will continue for a minimum of one full academic semester, unless the sanction takes place before the halfway point of a particular semester. In those situations, the formal warning status will continue for the duration of that semester only. Further infractions while on warning status will result in disciplinary probation.
- **Housing Change:** A required move from one room to another, from an apartment or townhouse to a residence hall room; a revocation of off-campus or commuter status and return to an on-campus housing location; or a removal from campus housing for a stated period of time. If removed from campus housing, a student may not live in or visit University-owned residences.
- **Housing Probation:** A notice that their current housing status is on probation and any future violation could result in loss of housing or change of assignment.
- **No-Contact Order:** An order prohibiting a student from having contact, including but not limited to, physical, written, verbal, and/or electronic contact, with another student for a specified period of time.
- **Ride-Along:** An opportunity for students to spend time with a Public Safety Officer.



- **Referrals:** A referral for evaluation and/or counseling to individuals or organizations considered helpful to the student. Attendance or participation at such referrals, as well as recommendations for further evaluation or action, will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students.
- **Restriction:** A restriction from entering a particular residence hall(s), townhouse(s), apartment(s), or an individual floor; or a limitation or restriction on being able to live in townhouses, apartments, or as off-campus boarders, or participating in housing lotteries.
- **Warning:** A notice that a particular action or type of behavior is unacceptable, and that continuation of similar behavior or future violations will result in more serious disciplinary action.

[Guide to Policy Violations](#)

[Guide to Off-Campus Policy Violations](#)

Helping Friends in Need

If a student brings another student to the Health Center or calls Public Safety because of concerns about alcohol or drug consumption, if a student brings him/herself to the Health Center for such reasons or calls Public Safety for help, or if a student initiates getting help for another student by contacting University officials, those students generally will not be subject to formal disciplinary action. The fear of, or concern about, the potential student conduct process should not deter students from seeking appropriate medical or personal assistance.

Requesting Your Student Conduct Records

Student disciplinary records remain on file for seven years after class graduation. Please contact the Dean of Students office at (203) 254-4211 if you would like a summary of your disciplinary record. A form will be provided to you and a copy of your photo identification or Stag Card is needed. Your record will include all reportable violations during your time at Fairfield University. Please allow 5-10 business days for processing and a fee might be charged.