





U

R S I T Y

# Code of Student Conduct

2023-2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Introduction .....2**
- II. Student Rights and Responsibilities .....2**
  - A. General Information .....2
  - B. Rights of the Respondent .....2
  - C. Rights of a Person Filing a Complaint and/or Victim of Offense .....3
- III. Academic Integrity Code .....3**
  - A. Statement of Community Standards.....3
  - B. Expectations of Community Members .....3
  - C.



- j. A written decision specifying the violation, outcome, and right of appeal.
- k. The right to challenge the seating of any hearing officer for good cause.
- l.

b. Ensure reasonable and consistent enforcement of standards.



requesting the appeal. The request for an appeal hearing must be made within five calendar days of receiving the decision of the faculty member from the student-faculty meeting.

- The Office of Academic Integrity will receive all reports of alleged violations. Students who have been found in violation of a previous offense will be referred to the College Academic Integrity Committee for sanctioning. More serious sanctions will automatically be considered for students with more than one violation.

b. College Academic Integrity Committee (CAIC)

- The CAIC consists of both faculty from the appropriate college and student representatives (two faculty members for every student representative). The student representative will be selected from a list of nominees developed by the Student Government Association. The student appointee must be in good disciplinary standing, meaning that the student is not on probation and/or has no incomplete sanctions. Also, the student member must have completed at least 30 credit hours, be a full-time student, and have a GPA of 2.5 or better.
- The Office of Academic Integrity will notify the respondent in writing of the date, time, location, and purpose of the hearing. At the hearing, the CAIC will review the case. The instructor of the course will be present to summarize the incident, and the student will have an opportunity to respond. If the student does not respond to the notification, the hearing may proceed in the student's absence.
- The CAIC may uphold or modify the decision from the student-faculty meeting. In second offense cases, the CAIC will not issue a sanction at a level lower than what was assigned in the student-faculty meeting.

c. Appeal Process

If the student believes that due process has failed or that substantive issues related to the case were not reviewed at the CAIC hearing, the student may submit a written appeal to the dean of the college in which the course under consideration was offered. Appeals must be submitted within five days of receiving the decision of the CAIC. The decision from the dean is the final step in the resolution process.

## F. Academic Sanctions

1. Following the student-faculty meeting, the faculty member (or in instances of reports from non-instructors or violations outside of an academic course setting, the Office of Academic Integrity through a CAIC) may impose one or more of the following sanctions when a student is found in violation:
  - a. Written warning.
  - b. Grade of F on the assignment.
  - c. Grade of F in the course.
  - d. Grade of FX in the course. (If a penalty grade of FX is imposed in the course, the student will not be able to drop the course, petition a grade change, or use the grade forgiveness policy.)
  - e. Requirement to complete an academic integrity workshop.
  - f. Other educational sanctions (in consultation with the academic integrity officer).

Any academic integrity violation that does not reflect positively upon the standards or image of Coastal Carolina University, or conduct that is an egregious violation of the Academic Integrity Code, even if a first offense, may be directed to a CAIC by the academic integrity officer and may subject the offending student to the sanctions outlined in F2 below.

Students who do not complete required sanctions may be referred to a CAIC for additional sanctions outlined in F2 below.

Multiple academic integrity violations by a student will subject the student to the sanctions outlined in F2 below through a CAIC (as mentioned in E4 above.)



2. The CAIC or dean of the college or designee may impose one or more of the following sanctions when a student is found in violation:
  - a. Any student-faculty meeting sanctions.
  - b. Disciplinary suspension from the University.
  - c. Permanent dismissal from the University.

Students who do not complete required sanctions will have a hold placed on their student accounts and may be referred to the CAIC for additional sanctions.

#### **IV. NONACADEMIC CONDUCT CODE**

##### **A. General Guidelines for Nonacademic Violations**

1. The dean of students has primary responsibility and authority for the administration of student misconduct for nonacademic violations. Fur

the nature of the retaliatory behavior.

8. Individuals who intentionally give false statements to a University official, or who submit false complaints or accusations through the complaint process, including, but not limited to, during an investigation or hearing, shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to this code.

## **B. Jurisdiction of the Code**

Violations of University policies, rules, or regulations, or of federal, state, or local laws, may constitute a violation of this code and result in disciplinary action. The University has authority over misconduct that occurs on University premises and reserves the right to consider the behavior of students off-campus when it is determined that the off-campus behavior is detrimental to the University and its educational mission.

1. Violation of Law and University Disciplinary Proceedings
  - a. The procedures provided in this code are not intended to be equivalent to the process of federal, state, or local criminal laws. Criminal procedures do not address the academic mission of the University. University disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against a student who has been charged with a violation of law if the conduct may also violate this code. The University reserves the right to proceed under this code prior to, concurrent with, or subsequent to civil litigation, criminal arrest, or criminal prosecution. The University may work to coordinate with the court system to ensure no duplication of services, penalties, or outcomes. The University cooperates fully with law enforcement agencies to the extent permitted by law.
2. Off-Campus Violations and University Disciplinary Proceedings
  - a. The primary types of off-campus violations addressed by the Dean of Students Office include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - Felony charges.
    - Assault charges.
    - Driving under the noticeable effect of alcohol/drugs or charges of driving by individuals under the age to possess alcohol.
    - Repeated (more than one) misdemeanor charges not listed above.
    - Activities of a student or group of students that clearly conflict with the University's interests and mission, including, but not limited to, patterns of behavior that put the health and safety of others at risk or show disregard for the policies of the University.

## **C. Prohibited Conduct**

1. Abuse of the student conduct system. Abuse includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - a. Failure to inform a hearing officer of student's choice not to appear for a pre-hearing conference or before a hearing body when proper notice is given.
  - b. Falsification, distortion, or misrepresentation of information before a hearing officer, hearing body, or University official prior, during or after a student conduct proceeding.
  - c. Disruption of or interference with the orderly conduct of a student conduct proceeding.
  - d. Attempting to discourage an individual from participation in or use of the student conduct system.
  - e. Attempting to influence the impartiality of a member of a Student Conduct Board, staff associated with the conduct process, a witness, complainant/victim, or respondent prior to, throughout, or after a student conduct proceeding.

## 2. Accessory to Prohibited Conduct

Acting as an accessory to any illegal activity and/or conduct that is deemed a violation of University policy.

## 3. Alcohol

- a. Possession, sale, manufacturing, distribution, consumption of, and being in the presence of alcohol on campus regardless of age. (Refer to the current Coastal Carolina University Alcohol and Drug Policy for specific guidelines and limited exceptions.)
- b. Possession, sale, distribution, and consumption of alcohol on campus for those under the legal age to possess alcohol.
- c. Sale or distribution of alcohol to those under the legal age to possess alcohol.
- d. Driving while under the noticeable effect of alcohol.
- e. Any behavior that is the direct result of alcohol consumption. Any student found to be visibly impacted by alcohol consumption will be found in violation of the alcohol policy.
- f. Possession of any items that provide for the common distribution of alcoholic beverages on property owned, occupied, or leased by the University or in University facilities. Furthermore, empty containers of alcohol (beer cans, beer bottles, wine bottles, distilled spirits, etc.) are a violation of the alcohol policy.
- g. Consumption from or the possession of an open container of alcohol in public, on-campus locations, regardless of age, except at licensed events or establishments.

**NOTE: Please refer to the Medical Amnesty Policy for additional information.**

## 4. Hostile Conduct

- a. Physical assault – attempting and/or physically striking another being or beings.
- b. Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any being or any act that unreasonably interferes with, impedes, or harasses other being or beings.
- c. Conduct including, but not limited to, physical acts directed at a particular person or persons based upon that person's or persons' race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, or any class protected by law that creates a hostile environment or that results in excluding participation in, or denies the benefits of, any educational program (including research opportunities) or working opportunity (including professional development for that person or persons).

## 5. Hostile Communication

- a. Threatening another individual physically, verbally, or by any other means in a manner to make that individual reasonably believe that the threat or threats are likely to be carried out; harassment; intimidation; or coercion by any means, including electronic communication.
- b. Verbal or written threats, coercion, or any other communication that is based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, or any class protected by law, that, by design, intent, or recklessness, incites reasonable fear of physical harm or otherwise unreasonably interferes with another's ability or opportunity to participate in work, education, research, or other activities.

## 6. Disorderly Conduct

- a. Disruptive behavior or other conduct that, taken alone or considered in the aggregate, interferes with the institution's operations or with an individual's ability to work or learn.
- b. Conduct that disrupts the academic and social environment of the campus or surrounding areas may be deemed disorderly. Examples include, but are not limited to, obscene conduct and/or indecent exposure, disruption of social and/or academic functions, excessive vulgarity, and the use of fighting words.

## 7. Drugs

- a. Illegal selling, manufacturing, distribution, possession, delivery, and/or medically unsupervised usage of prescription drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, and controlled substances or being in the presence of such substances. (Refer to the current Coastal Carolina University Alcohol and Drug Policy for specific guidelines.)
- b. Sale, possession, and/or distribution of drug paraphernalia, including, but not limited to, hookahs, bong, pipes, etc.
- c. Driving while under the noticeable effect of drugs.
- d. Behavior that is a direct result of drug consumption. Any student found to be visibly impacted by the usage of drugs will be found in violation of this policy.

**NOTE: Please refer to the Medical Amnesty Policy for additional information.**

---

13. University Housing Policies  
*See Community Living Guide.*

14. Tobacco

Use of all forms of tobacco and smoke-related products, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, water pipes (hookahs), bidis, kreteks, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and other devices allowing for the ingestion, combustion, inhalation, or other use of tobacco is prohibited in or on all University property.

**NOTE: Please refer to the Tobacco-Free Campus Policy for additional information.**

15. Theft

Unauthorized taking, misappropriation, or possession of any property or services owned or maintained by the University, any person on campus, or any person attending a University-related function. In addition, it is a violation of University policy to possess stolen personal or public property belonging to others outside the University community.

16. Unauthorized Entry or Usage

Unauthorized entry into or usage of a University facility and/or property or elsewhere. This includes unauthorized solicitation and/or distribution of marketing materials. Additionally, this policy applies to unauthorized possession, duplication, or use of keys or access cards to any University premise.

## 21. Citizenship Conduct

Students and their guests are expected to engage in responsible social conduct that reflects positively upon the Coastal Carolina University community and to model good citizenship in any community.

## 22. Other

Violation of federal, state, or local laws on University premises, at University-sponsored or University-supervised activities, or elsewhere, including off-campus locations, if such conduct adversely affects the University community, is a violation of University policy.

## D. Disciplinary Hearing Process

### 1. Preliminary Investigation

- a. The Dean of Students Office or designee will investigate reports of alleged violations of the Code of Student Conduct or local, state, or federal laws.
- b. After completing a preliminary investigation, and if the information supports an alleged violation, the student will be notified by email and/or in writing of alleged violation(s) and notice of further action. Further action is defined as one of the following:
  - Informal Resolution – An informal resolution may be conducted for certain incidents with low impact to the campus community. Informal resolutions are not reflected on a student's conduct record. In an informal resolution, the hearing officer will notify the student by email of the incident and corresponding outcome. If the student wishes to challenge that outcome, the student can request the formal resolution process. Once a student requests a formal resolution, the case becomes part of the student's record and follows the conduct process as outlined in section D2.
  - Formal Resolution – The formal resolution process is initiated through the pre-hearing conference. See section D2 for a full review of the pre-hearing conference.
- c. In certain circumstances, based on campus or external incident/police reports, the dean of students or designee may impose a no-contact order (CSC.IV.H.13), residence hall suspension (CSC.IV.H.8), or interim separation prior to the hearing.
  - Interim Separation – Interim separation is an action requiring that a student immediately leave the campus and property owned, occupied, or leased by the University. It may be imposed upon a student by the dean of students or designee when there is reasonable cause to believe, based on available facts, that the student poses a threat to self or others. This is done because the immediacy of the danger caused by the student's presence on campus makes it impossible to follow the normal disciplinary procedures. When a student is separated on an interim basis, a notice is given with the reasons for the separation, the duration, and any special conditions that apply. Efforts will be made to initiate the conduct process for a student who is separated on an interim basis within 10 business days of the interim separation. In certain circumstances, such as incarceration of the respondent, when an intricate investigation is required, or due to lack of communication from a respondent, the 10-day window may be adjusted. Any student who is separated on an interim basis and returns to the campus and property owned, occupied, or leased by the University during the separation will be subject to further disciplinary action and may be treated as a trespasser. Permission to be on campus for a specific purpose (i.e., to take an exam, to consult with the dean of students or designee, or to participate in disciplinary procedures) may be granted in writing by the dean of students or designee.
- d. A student who has violated or is alleged to have violated any nonacademic regulation of the University will need to request the permission of the dean of students or designee to withdraw from the University. Such requests will be reviewed by the dean of students or designee and may or may not be granted, based on the severity of the precipitating incident. A notation of the circumstances under which the respondent was permitted to withdraw will be entered in the student's conduct record. The withdrawal of a student with or without such approval



## 6. Student Conduct Board Hearing

Refer to Section E: Student Conduct Board for the hearing process.

## **E. Student Conduct Board**

### 1. Members

- a. The Student Conduct Board (SCB) will consist of 10 elected faculty at large; 10 administrative staff or faculty members appointed by the University president; and 15 students.
  - The chair of the SCB will be a faculty member, elected by members of the SCB.



4. Referrals
  - a. The dean of students or designee may refer cases to the SCB.
  
5. Powers, Decisions, and Effects of Noncompliance
  - a. The SCB has the authority to enforce its decisions and to impose action plans.
  - b. In the event that a student called before the SCB fails to appear for the scheduled hearing, the hearing will be held in the student's absence. However, the board will not find the student in violation solely because the student did not participate in the hearing.
  - c. The failure of a student to comply with the decision of the SCB may result in additional penalties. The Dean of Students Office, on behalf of the SCB, may notify the Provost's Office, Office of the Registrar, and other relevant University offices of noncompliance with any of its decisions.
  - d. The dean of students or designee will monitor the compliance of SCB decisions.
  
6. Rights and Responsibilities of a Student Called before the Student Conduct Board
  - a. All University students have rights and responsibilities. For a complete list, refer to Section II.
  - b. A student called before the SCB will also have the following rights:
    - A notice of the date, time, place, and format of the hearing.
    - A written notice of alleged violation(s) and an outline of student rights and hearing options.
    - All hearings will be closed to parties not directly involved with the case.
  - c. A student called before the SCB has the following responsibilities:
    - Prompt response to all delivered correspondence is necessary to expedite student conduct matters.
    - If the student does not respond to the notice letter by the date requested, the student forfeits the above rights, and the hearing will be heard in absence.
  - d. During the SCB hearing, the responding student is entitled or subject to:
    - Advisory assistance. The advisor may be any individual of the student's choice and may assist the student in all phases of the student conduct process. Only one advisor is permitted. The University maintains the right to disqualify a particular advisor when participation of that advisor allows the potential for disruption of the student conduct process. The advisor may not also serve as a witness.
    - Appear in person and to present witnesses and any information relevant to the case. Witnesses will be present only during the time they are testifying.
    - Present signed written statements from person(s) unable to attend the hearing.
    - Hear and question all witnesses and have access to all relevant information. Special conditions for questioning witnesses may be imposed in sensitive cases.
    - Challenge sitting panel members for cause. The removal of a panel member will be at the discretion of the chair of the panel.
    - Refuse to answer any question(s) or to make a statement. However, the panel will make its decision on the basis of information introduced at the hearing.
    - Elect not to appear at the hearing. The hearing will be conducted in the student's absence.
  
7. The Procedure of the Student Conduct Board
  - a. Prior to the Hearing
    - Members of the SCB will be contacted by the Dean of Students Office regarding their availability for a case. A sitting panel will be chosen based on availability of members as noted in Section IV.E.1.a. Documents and details of the case will be available at the time of the hearing.
    - The student who is the subject of the alleged violation(s) will receive notification of the time and place of the hearing.
  - b. General Information about the Hearing
    - Members of the SCB may be removed or disqualify themselves from sitting on a particular case

for reasons of conflict of interest, and a substitute may be appointed by the chair.

- The chair of the sitting panel will be responsible for conducting the hearing, ensuring that proper records are kept, and informing the appropriate officials of the decision and action plan.
- Statements, information, or comments given during hearings will be held in confidence by members of the panel.
- A record of all hearings will be made by the SCB via audio recording or another method



students or their designee.

- c. If a case was heard by the associate dean of students or dean of students, the appeal will be heard by the chair/vice chair of the SCB.
  - d. If a case was heard by the Student Conduct Board, the appeal will be heard by the vice president for university belonging and student affairs, or their designee.
- In any appeal review, the appeal authority may uphold the decision, modify the decision, or require a new hearing. The decision of the appellate body is final.

#### **H. Nonacademic Action Plans**

The University utilizes a standard framework for alcohol and other drugs that heavily relies on the student's individual needs while balancing community impact. Action plans issued for Code of Student Conduct violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Warning

A written notice to the student that the student is violating or has violated University policy.

2. Fees

in a more severe action plan.

#### 8. Residence Hall Suspension

Separation of the student from the residence halls for a definite period of time, after which the student is eligible to return. Conditions for readmission may be specified.

#### 9. Loss of Housing

Permanent separation or separation for a designated time period of the student from the residence halls, including the revocation of guest privileges where appropriate. Specific types of housing separations may include, but are not limited to:

- **Conditional Loss of Housing:** termination of housing privileges if certain educational outcomes are not met within a designated timeline.
- **Limited Loss of Housing:** termination of housing privileges for a period of time related to an academic term (i.e. one semester, one academic year, etc.).
- **Permanent Loss of Housing:** termination of housing privileges for the duration of a student's enrollment at the University.

#### 10. Suspension for a Period of Time

Denial of enrollment, attendance, and other privileges at the University for a given period; conditions for readmission may be specified. When the action plan includes suspension, the student must leave the campus at the conclusion of the appeal process (or immediately if there is no appeal filed), and may not participate in academic, extracurricular, or other University activities except as may be authorized by the dean of students or designee. During the period of suspension, the student is denied the right to register for classes or to visit the University. The student is subject to arrest for trespassing should the student be found on property owned, occupied, or leased by the University. In extenuating circumstances, a suspension may be deferred. If the student is found in violation of any University policy during the time of deferred suspension, the suspension takes effect immediately without further review. An additional student conduct action plan appropriate to the new violation also may be issued. A student who has been issued a deferred suspension is deemed "not in good standing" with the University.

#### 11. Permanent Dismissal

Involuntary separation of the student from the University without future readmission. The student must leave the campus and is not eligible to participate in classes or any University-sponsored or University-related activities. The student is subject to arrest for trespassing should the student be found on property owned, occupied, or leased by the University.

#### 12. No-Contact Order

A no-contact order is a University directive that restricts contact between individuals in any way, including in person or via email, telephone, text messaging, social networking, or any other method of communication. Direct or indirect contact would be considered a violation of harassment (CSC.IV.C.5) and failure to comply (CSC.IV.C.8). This violation could be grounds for suspension or permanent dismissal.

---

---

**Questions or concerns regarding this Code of Student Conduct should be referred to the Dean of Students Office. All University policies are maintained at [coastal.edu/policies](http://coastal.edu/policies).**

## **Coastal Carolina University Mission**

Coastal Carolina University is a public comprehensive liberal arts institution that seeks to develop students who are both knowledgeable in their chosen fields and prepared to be productive, responsible, healthy citizens with a global perspective. To deliver on this commitment, Coastal Carolina recruits highly qualified and motivated students, faculty, and staff from the region, state, nation, and world to create a diverse and dynamic student-centered learning environment.

Because Coastal Carolina embraces the teacher-scholar model, it places primary emphasis on high quality teaching and engaged learning, and it supports faculty research, creative activities, and expert collaboration in the community, state, nation, and world. This focus enables faculty and staff to mentor students in collaborative research, creative opportunities, and internships. To nurture this active learning community, Coastal Carolina maintains a broad range of contemporary technologies,







