



Western Oregon University  
Code of Student Responsibility  
Updated September 2024

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Section 1: Introduction, Definitions, and Standards of Conduct

**1. Introduction**

Western Oregon University has a fundamental interest in the education and conduct of its students. The academic, social, and personal development of a student through the student's university experience involves a fusion of the learning process with the development of a coherent and consistent system of ethics, as well as adherence to standards of behavior created and accepted by the University community.

All members of the University community have a responsibility to maintain a level of behavior that reflects favorably upon the person and the University. The University requires that all students be responsible for their conduct. The University expects students who live on and off university premises to abide by local, state, and federal laws as well as University policies, procedures, and regulations, including the Code of Student Responsibility.

Western Oregon University is committed to providing an environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community, and ensuring that the community is free from harassment and discrimination based upon race, color, religion, national origin, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, age, political ideas, marital or family status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. Such an environment is necessary to a healthy learning, working, and living atmosphere because discrimination and harassment undermine human dignity and the positive connection among all people at our University. Consistent with state and federal law, reasonable accommodation will be provided to persons with disabilities upon request.

The application of the standards within the Code of Student Responsibility applies to individuals, clubs, educational activity groups, student groups, fraternities and sororities, and any individual student who is registered for one or more credit hours including online courses, individuals enrolled in a special non-credit program approved by the university, or anyone who has been accepted for admission, housing, financial aid, or any other service or benefit provided by Western Oregon University which requires student status.

This Code of Student Responsibility was adopted and became effective on September 30, 2024 and supersedes all other previous conduct codes.

## 2. Definitions

### **Academic Integrity**

The commitment to honest and ethical conduct in all academic endeavors. Students demonstrating academic integrity present their own work, acknowledge and properly cite the contributions of others and generative AI tools, and uphold the principles of intellectual honesty.

### **Adjudication, Adjudicated, Adjudicative**

A method of resolving allegations of student misconduct that employs a fact-finding, impartial adjudicator to render a binding decision in the matter.

### **Adjudicator, Adjudicating Body**

The individual(s) or panel of committee members, who employ fact-finding methods to determine an impartial, binding decision in a student conduct case.

### **Advisor**

An individual (1) chosen by the student or student organization, so long as the individual is not involved in the alleged incident (i.e., witness, complainant, or another student who is being charged for the same incident).

### **Appeals Body**

The person or persons designated to consider an appeal from the outcome of an adjudication.

### **Complainant**

A person who is the alleged recipient of alleged behaviors that violate the Code of Student Responsibility.

### **Consent**

Informed, voluntary agreement that is ongoing and communicated by clearly understandable words or actions to participate in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. For additional information please refer to the [Title IX Policy](#).

### **Mediation**

A method of resolution in which students utilize an impartial third party to help them mutually resolve their conflict. Mediation is not available for allegations involving sexual harassment or misconduct.

### **Domestic Violence**

An act of violence committed by at least one of the following: a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the complainant; an adult who is related to the complainant by blood or marriage; a person with whom the complainant shares a child in common; a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the complainant as a spouse or intimate partner; a person similarly situated to a

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spouse of the complainant under the domestic or family violence laws of the State of Oregon; by any other person against an adult or youth complainant who is protected from that person's acts under the Oregon Domestic Violence laws of the State of Oregon.

**In Absentia**

"In absence of." In the University conduct process, if a respondent fails to appear for the initial conduct meeting or scheduled adjudication, then a decision will be made in their absence.

**No Contact Order**

A directive issued by the Office of Student Conduct. This directive can be issued through the conduct process or upon request and approval by the Director of Student Conduct or designee. Upon approval, this directive prohibits both parties from purposefully interacting with each other.

**Non-Consensual Sexual Contact**

Any intentional sexual touching, however slight, with any object, by a person upon another person that is without consent and/or by force or coercion. Sexual contact includes intentional contact with the breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals, touching others with any of these body parts, making others touch another or themselves with or on any of these body parts, or any other intentional bodily contact made in a sexual manner.

**Office of Student Conduct**

The office that administers the Student Conduct Program. Staff representation includes the Director, the Student Conduct Assistant, and other designees.

**Persona non-grata**

A restrictive status that prohibits an individual from physically accessing a defined area such as the residence halls, a specific building on university premises, or Western Oregon University's campus entirely.

**Preponderance of the Evidence**

Based on the information that is presented, the respondent has more likely than not engaged in the alleged misconduct.

**Reasonable Person**

A member of the community with an average degree of reason or foresight whose conduct, conclusion, reaction, or expectation about the actual circumstances of alleged violations is used as an objective standard by which to measure or decide in a matter regarding conduct.

**Recognized Student Organization**

A club, educational activity group, fraternity or sorority, or other student group that has complied with the requirements for University recognition.

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**Respondent**

A student who has allegedly violated the Code of Student Responsibility.

**Responsible Employee**

Most WOU Employees are considered responsible employees and are required to report any information personally witnessed or learned through disclosure of others related to possible or alleged instances of sexual misconduct. For additional information please refer to the [Title IX Policy](#).

**Sanction**

A consequence that is imposed on a student for being found responsible for violating any of the policies outlined within the Code of Student Responsibility.

**Sexual Misconduct**

Conduct of a sexual nature or conduct based on sex or gender that is non-consensual or has the effect of threatening, intimidating, or coercing a person. It includes, but is not limited to, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

**Sexual Harassment**

Behavior characterized by the making of unwelcome and inappropriate sexual remarks or physical advances in a workplace or other professional or social situations.

**Student**

Anyone who is registered for one or more credit hours including online courses, individuals enrolled in a special non-credit program approved by the university, or anyone who has been accepted for admission, housing, financial aid, or any other service or benefit provided by Western Oregon University which requires student status.

**Trespass**

A directive issued by Campus Public Safety which prohibits a person from entering or remaining on University premises, including in a motor vehicle.

**University**

Western Oregon University, WOU, or any part or division within Western Oregon University.

**University Official**

A person who has been assigned University responsibilities, performing their University duties. This includes students who have been authorized to act on behalf of the University.



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**University Premises**

Includes all land, buildings, and grounds owned, leased, operated, controlled, or supervised by the university including adjacent sidewalks and streets.

**University-Sponsored Event**

Any on or off campus event in which at least one of the following applies:

- The University plans the event;
- The University pays all or a part of the cost of the event;
- The University sponsors the event;
- The University contributes any type of University owned or leased resources or equipment to the event;
- A University student, faculty, or staff person represents the University at the event;
- The event occurs within a University property, or upon or within University property, including any type of state vehicle;
- The event occurs during the time frame specified on an approved sponsorship form (e.g., registration of event form, travel form).

**Visitor**

A person who is not a student and does not have an affiliation in any official way with Western Oregon University.

**Witness**

Any person who has information that pertains to a case of alleged student misconduct.

**3. Standards of Conduct**

To promote a safe and civil university environment, the University expects each student and student organization to follow the standards of conduct. The severity of the offense, prior disciplinary history, whether or not an offense was committed against a person intentionally selected because of their age, color, disability, ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status, and other relevant circumstances will be considered in determining the appropriate disciplinary action.

**4. Amnesty Policy**

Western Oregon is committed to the health, security, and welfare of all its students. Students are encouraged to look out not only for their health and welfare but also for that of other community members. When a student's health or safety is threatened or appears to be in jeopardy, we hope bystanders will take immediate action to prevent injury, illness, or danger.

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Under the Amnesty Policy, formal disciplinary action for mere possession or use of alcohol or drugs will not be taken against students for whom medical assistance is sought, or against those who seek medical assistance for themselves or others, provided that the student/group has not violated other University policies that warrant formal disciplinary action.

Amnesty applies only to alcohol or drug-related medical emergencies, but it does not apply to other prohibited conduct. In cases where an individual or organization fails to seek emergency medical assistance when it is indicated, formal student conduct action will be taken against the individual(s) or organization.

The responsibility for determining the applicability of this policy rests solely with the Vice President of the Student Affairs Office.

## **5. Retaliation**

The University prohibits any forms of retaliation against an individual or the individual's family or friends to interfere with that individual's rights or privileges secured under Title IX and the Code of Student Responsibility. This means that the University will not tolerate any form of retaliation taken against anyone who reports or publicly opposes conduct prohibited by the Code of Student Responsibility or anyone who cooperates in the investigation of a report of conduct prohibited by the Code of Student Responsibility. Examples of retaliation can include, but are not limited to bullying, intimidation, threats, coercion, force, etc., and include third-party retaliation. Actionable retaliation should be reported immediately to the Office of Student Conduct or the Dean of Students.

## **Section 2: Delegation, Authority, Jurisdiction, and Organizational Responsibility**

### **1. Delegation and Authority**

The [Board of Trustees of Western Oregon University](#) governing body delegates authority for administering the Code of Student Responsibility and the Student Conduct Program as provided below:

Subject to Board action, the President is responsible for the development and administration of policies governing the role of students and their conduct. In fulfilling this responsibility, the President shall consider the views of students, WOU employees, and identified stakeholders. The guidelines for student conduct, which set forth prohibited conduct and provide for appropriate disciplinary adjudications and sanctions for violations of law or institutional policies, must be consistent with standards of procedural fairness. The Board recognizes and affirms the importance of active student involvement in the deliberative and decision-making processes on student conduct matters. The Office of Student Conduct shall update and develop policies for the

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administration of the Student Conduct Program and procedures that are consistent with the provisions of the Code of Student Responsibility.

## **2. Jurisdiction**

The Code of Student Responsibility applies to Western Oregon University students and all student organizations. The Office of Student Conduct may address off-campus conduct when the behavior or the presence of the individual or student organization, in the University's sole judgment, impairs, obstructs, or interferes with the mission, processes, or functions of the University. The regulations contained in the Student Code of Responsibility will apply to all matters affecting the University, including, but not limited to, events occurring during the time the University is in session, events occurring between academic terms, and at University-sponsored events.

If a student or student organization breaks a law that also violates the University standards of conduct, that student or student organization may be held accountable by both civil authorities and the University regardless of whether the alleged behavior occurred on or off university premises. The University may, at its sole discretion, elect to pursue disciplinary action against the student or student organization before, at the same time as, or following criminal proceedings, even if criminal charges involving the same incident are pending, have been dismissed, or were reduced.

Allegations of student misconduct may be adjudicated within the Office of Student Conduct. Adjudication of allegations of student misconduct will sometimes occur before or simultaneously with adjudication within an off-campus system of justice. Should criminal charges be dismissed, reduced, or resolved in favor of the criminal law defendant in a case involving the same facts that give rise to a violation of university rules, the University's determinations or sanctions shall not be subject to change unless an appeal is properly filed and approved.

Misconduct by non-students (visitors), at a University-sponsored event, may result in a trespass from university premises or any future WOU event.

## **3. Student Organization Responsibility**

Recognized student organizations are subject to the Student Code of Responsibility. An organization may be held responsible for a violation of University policy or rule when:

- One or more of its officers, members, or authorized representatives acting as a member of the organization commit the alleged violation;
- The alleged violation occurs at an event that is sponsored, financed, or endorsed by an organization where it is reasonable to believe that the organization's members knew or should have known that one or more of the participants engaged in conduct that violates the Student Code of Responsibility;

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- The alleged violation occurs on the premises owned, leased, or operated by the organization where it is reasonable to believe that the organization's members knew or should have known that one or more of the participants engaged in conduct that violates the Student Code of Responsibility.

### Section 3: Specific Standards and Policies

The University requires that all students behave in a manner congruent with established community standards and in a manner conducive to the development of the individual. Actions detrimental to the mission of the University and to the legitimate activities of the academic community that constitute the University violate the Code of Student Responsibility and may be subject to adjudication. Adjudication may be initiated by the University and educational or punitive sanctions may be assigned to any student or recognized student organization found participating in, attempting to participate in, or assisting others in participating in any of the following prohibited forms of conduct:

#### **1. Academic Misconduct**

All students are expected to uphold and maintain academic and professional honesty and integrity. Academic misconduct is any activity that undermines the academic integrity of the institution. It is strictly prohibited. Policies on academic misconduct apply to all curricular and academic-related activities, regardless of format or location. This includes, but is not limited to:

- In-person and online classes and academic activities;
- Internships, clinical experiences, fieldwork, conferences, performances, and laboratory or other research;
- Any exams or assessments, including in-class, online, or take-home exams, entrance and qualifying exams, auditions, theses, and dissertations;
- Actions that occur in the scope of others' academic work.

If an instructor determines that academic misconduct has occurred, they will take appropriate action with respect to grades and/or report the academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Conduct.

- a. *Cheating*  
Intentional use, or attempted use of artifice, deception, fraud, or misrepresentation in completing, submitting, or recording one's academic work.
- b. *Fabrication*  
Unauthorized falsification or invention of citations or other verifiable fact-based information.

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- c. *Facilitating dishonesty*  
Helping or attempting to help another person commit an act of academic misconduct. This includes students who substitute for other persons in examinations; fake other students' attendance; or allow another person to copy work or represent as the student's papers, reports, any other academic work, or the work of others.
  
- d. *Plagiarism*  
Presenting ideas, research, images, or writing that is not your own as your own in any academic exercise. This includes, but is not limited to, copying another person's words or images, or the outputs of generative AI tools, without appropriate citations to the source; submitting, in whole or in part, pre-written term papers or the research of another; "cutting and pasting" from various sources without proper attribution; or using data without giving proper credit for it.
  
- e. *Engaging in prohibited behavior*  
Engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty or staff member in the course syllabus or class discussion.
  
- f. *Self-plagiarism*  
Using or submitting the same or substantially the same academic work for credit more than once, unless specifically authorized by the instructor of the course in which it is being submitted for credit. If authorized, appropriate disclosure and citation is required.
  
- g. *Unauthorized recording and use*  
Recording instructional content without the instructor's permission or without an approved accommodation from the Office of Disability Access Services. Sharing recorded content without prior permission is not allowed.

The list above is intended only to provide general guidelines for recognizing and avoiding common types of academic dishonesty. It is in no way an exhaustive or comprehensive list of all the types of academic misconduct.

In the case where personal or experimental information is called for in an academic context, students maintain a right to privacy and non-disclosure of personal information.

## **2. Alcohol**

- a. Possession, consumption, distribution, or sale of alcoholic beverages on University premises except for approved events that follow the [WOU Alcoholic Beverages, Possession, and Consumption policy](#).
  
- b. Possession, consumption, sale, or distribution of alcoholic beverages during the official portion of a University-sponsored event except for approved

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events that follow the [WOU Alcoholic Beverages, Possession, and Consumption policy](#).

- c. Promoting the use, misuse, or abuse of alcohol or causing the ingestion of alcohol without a person's knowledge.

**3. Computer, Networks, Computing Services and Resources Misuse**

- a. Unauthorized access to programs;
- b. Alteration of computer records or data;
- c. Theft or other abuse of computer time or overloading computing resources;
- d. Violation of copyright laws;
- e. Using a computer account not issued directly to the student;
- f. Sending or posting threatening or harassing statements;
- g. Any violation of the Acceptable Use of University Computing Resources Policy;
- h. Unauthorized transfer of a file.

**4. Controlled or Illegal Substances, including marijuana**

- a. Possession, consumption, manufacture, cultivation, packaging, distribution, or sale of illegal drugs or any other controlled substance on- or off-university premises;
- b. Possession, consumption, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs or any other controlled substance during the official portion of a University-sponsored event;
- c. Intentionally misusing or distributing prescription drugs;
- d. Promoting the use, misuse, or abuse of illegal drugs or controlled substances or causing the ingestion of such substances without a person's knowledge.

WOU follows federal, state, and local laws relative to illegal drugs and controlled substances. Marijuana is a prohibited substance federally under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) and therefore is not permitted on university premises. Additionally, WOU also abides by the federal Drug-Free Workplace Act and the federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.

## **5. Disorderly/Disruptive Conduct**

Disorderly conduct is the unreasonable or reckless behavior by an individual or group that creates a potentially unsafe situation for members of the community, damages property, disrupts the peace, interferes with the normal operation of the University or University-sponsored events, and/or infringes on the rights of others.

Disorderly conduct includes but is not limited to reckless driving; vomiting and/or urinating in public; and interrupting or interfering with the carrying out of the duties of a University or public official, including law enforcement.

Disruptive conduct is any behavior by an individual or group that interferes with the normal operation of the University and the overall educational experience. It hinders or prevents individuals from fulfilling their educational responsibilities.

- a. Disorderly, disruptive, lewd, indecent, or any other form of conduct which interferes with:
  - i. The academic program of the University;
  - ii. The health and safety of self or others;
  - iii. The security of University property;
  - iv. The conduct of non-classroom activities (e.g., lectures, concerts, athletic events, and social functions);
  - v. The functions of the University;
  - vi. Any other University activity or sponsored activity or event.
- b. Noise or conduct that is an unreasonable annoyance (e.g., yelling while walking through campus or a community neighborhood at 2 am).
- c. Unauthorized recording, making, sharing, or otherwise distributing of any audio, video, photographic, digital recording, or image, which was taken without a person's prior knowledge or consent when the person being recorded would have a reasonable expectation of privacy, or where the recording is reasonably likely to cause injury or distress.

## **6. Failure to Comply**

- a. Refusal to comply with a reasonable request of law enforcement or other authorities;

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- b. Refusal while on University premises or at University-sponsored events, to comply with reasonable requests or directions from authorized University Officials, including Campus Public Safety officers, residence hall staff, faculty, or staff.

**7. Fire and Life Safety**

- a. Tampering with fire safety equipment, generating a false alarm, or engaging in behavior that constitutes a fire or safety hazard;
- b. Failure to evacuate a University building after a fire alarm has sounded or other notice to evacuate has been given by a person authorized to give such notice.

**8. Harassment, Physical Contact, Discrimination, or Bullying Behavior**

- a. Physical contact or physical interference with a person which:
  - i. Is objectively offensive;
  - ii. Objectively causes pain;
  - iii. Prevents or disrupts the person from any lawful chosen activity;
  - iv. Puts the person in fear for safety;
  - v. Causes damage to person or property.
- b. Conduct without physical contact or physical interference with a person including, but not limited to, harassing, bullying, threatening behavior, or communication, which is intended to and has the effect of:
  - i. Substantially disrupting another person's lawful activity;
  - ii. Causing another person to be subject to unwelcome or offensive physical contact;
  - iii. Causing personal injury or property damage, or causing the risk of personal injury or property damage;
  - iv. Causing another person to be subject to unwelcome and objectively unreasonable interference with mental and emotional health;
  - v. Putting the person in fear for safety;



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- vi. Harassing or bullying another person based on race, color, religion, ethnicity or national origin, age, gender identity, sex (including sexual harassment), gender, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, veteran status, disability, or any other status protected under law.
- c. Repeatedly contacting another person when:
  - i. The contacting person knows or should know that the contact is unwanted by the contacted person;
  - ii. The contact causes the contacted person reasonable apprehension of imminent physical harm, or the contacting person knows or should know that the contact causes the contacted person mental anguish, distress, or substantial impairment of the contacted person's ability to perform the activities of daily life. As used in this context, "contacting" includes but is not limited to communicating with or remaining in the physical presence of the contacted person.

## 9. Hazing

Hazing is defined as any initiation rite for admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization. The act of hazing, whether on or off university premises, involves any intentional action or situation that a reasonable person would foresee as causing mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, ridicule, or destroying or removing public or private property.

- a. Physical abuse, pain, harm, or risk;
- b. Mental anguish, fear, or anxiety;
- c. Required performance of activities (e.g., pranks, servitude, physical contests);
- d. Compelled ingestion of any substance;
- e. Any form of confinement or restraint;
- f. Other activities which violate federal, state, or local laws.

Regardless of if a victim of hazing acknowledges or consents to an act of hazing, it is still a violation of the Code of Student Responsibility.

## 10. Inciting or Provoking Others

- a. Inciting others to engage in any University prohibited forms of conduct. Inciting means the encouragement or instigation of prohibited conduct that

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calls upon the person or persons addressed for imminent actions and is coupled with a reasonable apprehension of imminent danger to the functions and purposes of the University, including the safety of its students, faculty, administration or staff, and the protection of its property;

- b. Specifically insulting another person in that person's immediate presence with abusive words or gestures in a manner intended to and likely would provoke a disorderly or violent response, whether or not it does.

### **11. Interference or Contempt of Adjudicative Proceedings**

- a. Conduct that interrupts the due course of proceedings in the presence of any adjudication body created under the Code of Student Responsibility;
- b. Violating the confidentiality of adjudication proceedings administered under the Code of Student Responsibility;
- c. Knowingly giving false information at an adjudication, giving false information in a statement to be used as evidence at an adjudication, or knowingly giving false information to a University adjudicator;
- d. Failure by a witness to appear at a conduct adjudication when requested to do so by a representative of the Office of Student Conduct;
- e. Knowingly and falsely initiating the adjudication process, for instance, by filing a false complaint or report;
- f. Influencing or attempting to influence the impartiality of a member of a Student Conduct Committee Hearing, an adjudicator, or a witness;
- g. Harassment of a member of a Student Conduct Committee Hearing or adjudicator before, during, or after an adjudication;
- h. Failure to comply with the terms of any sanction imposed per the University Student Conduct Program.

### **12. Misrepresentation of Matters of Fact**

- a. Knowingly furnishing false information to an authorized University Official who is making an inquiry to carry out official University business;
- b. Representing oneself as another person, including a University Official, with or without that person's permission to improperly gain a benefit;
- c. Altering, forging, improperly possessing, creating, distributing, or lending to another person a University identification card or instrument of identification unless authorized by the University or an authorized University Official;

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- d. Intentionally furnishing false academic information or concealing previous academic information in University application materials, assisting someone else in furnishing false information to the University, or using University documents for fraudulent purposes;
- e. Providing forged, false, or improper documents to the University;
- f. Recognized student organizations representing themselves or an individual in the group representing themselves as acting for or on behalf of the University in any commercial enterprise or in the solicitation or collection of funds for any purpose whatsoever without approval in advance by the appropriate University official or agency. This applies to all means of communication (e.g., verbal, written, electronic).

**13. Obstruction, Disruption, or Interference**

- a. Obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, adjudication procedures, or other University activities, including the University's public service functions, other authorized activities, or University-sponsored events;
- b. Disruption of University activities or the functions of the University;
- c. Obstruction or disruption which interferes with the freedom of movement, either pedestrian or vehicular, on University premises.

**14. Publications and Media**

Publication, posting, or distributing on University property, or at authorized University activities, of material that violates copyright laws, postal regulations, University policies or rules, or any other law or statute.

**15. Sexual Misconduct.**

The University prohibits all forms of sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct is an umbrella term encompassing a range of behaviors, including sexual harassment, sexual violence, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The prohibited conduct of this policy includes a broad range of behavior.

- a. Sexual Assault  
Sexual contact shall be considered non-consensual if no clear consent is freely given. Non-consensual sexual contact of any kind, the attempt to have non-consensual sexual contact or the threat of such contact:
  - i. Sexual contact*  
Includes but is not limited to touching of the genitalia, anus, buttocks, breast, or mouth as well as any contact for the purpose of sexual gratification;

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*ii. Sexual behavior*

Includes but is not limited to any action, short of sexual contact, done for the purposes of sexual gratification, and may include but is not limited to voyeurism, exposing, masturbation, frottage, and audio/video recording;

*iii. Force*

Includes but is not limited to physical force, violence, abuse, threat of force (direct or implied), intimidation, extortion, harassment, coercion, fraud, duress, or pressure;

*iv. Sexual exploitation*

Occurs when a person takes non-consensual, unjust, or abusive advantage of another in a sexual or intimate context, for their advantage or benefit, or to the benefit or advantage of anyone other than the one being exploited, and that the behavior does not otherwise constitute non-consensual sexual misconduct. Sexual exploitation includes permitting or facilitating non-consensual viewing; taking of photographs, videotaping, or audio taping of sexual or intimate activity; knowingly infecting another person with any sexually transmitted infection; inducing incapacitation of another person with the intent to facilitate sexual misconduct against that person; or compelling prostitution.

- b. Sexual Harassment, whether or not it be by direct physical attack. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, sexual advances, requests, or suggestions to engage in sexual conduct, and other physical and expressive behavior of a sexual nature when:
- i. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or education;
  - ii. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic or employment decisions affecting the individual;
  - iii. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic or professional performance or creates an intimidating or hostile employment, educational, or living environment.
- c. Domestic Violence  
An act of violence committed against the complainant by an individual whose relationship with the complainant is defined under the State of Oregon's domestic violence laws as represented in the definition section of the Code of Student Responsibility.

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- i. Any act of violence or threatened act of violence against a current or former partner that meets the State of Oregon's definition of domestic violence;
- ii. One act or an ongoing pattern of behavior.  
Examples of domestic violence include physical violence, sexual violence, emotional violence, and economic abuse. Domestic violence may take the form of threats, assault, property damage, violence, or threat of violence to oneself, one's domestic partner, and/or to the family members or friends of the domestic partner.

d. Intimate Partner Violence

An act of violence committed against the complainant by an individual whose relationship, as interpreted by the complainant, was intimate, sexual, or romantic in nature and does not meet the State of Oregon's definition of domestic violence. Intimate partner violence is also referred to as dating violence and relationship violence.

- i. Any act of violence or threatened act of violence against a person who is or has been involved in a sexual, dating, or other intimate relationship with the complainant;
- ii. One act or an ongoing pattern of behavior.  
Examples of intimate partner violence include physical violence, sexual violence, emotional violence, and economic abuse. Intimate partner violence may take the form of threats, assault, property damage, violence, or threat of violence to oneself, one's sexual or romantic partner, and/or to the family members or friends of the sexual or romantic partner.

e. Stalking

A course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress:

- i. Following or lying in wait for the complainant, the complainant's relatives, friends, or pets;
- ii. Repeated unwanted, intrusive, and frightening contact from the respondent by phone, mail, electronically or otherwise;
- iii. Damaging the complainant's property;
- iv. Making direct or indirect threats to harm the complainant, the complainant's relatives, friends, or pets;

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- v. Repeatedly sending the complainant unwanted gifts;
- vi. Harassment through the internet, known as “cyberstalking,” “online stalking,” or “internet stalking;”
- vii. Securing and accumulating personal information about the complainant by accessing public records; using internet search engines; hiring private investigators; contacting friends, family, work, or neighbors; going through the complainant's garbage, social media, etc.

Separate, required processes are used for Title IX complaints depending upon incident type and location. For more information regarding Sexual Misconduct and Title IX processes and procedures and more definitions, please see the [Title IX Policy](#).

**16. Threatening or Abusive Behavior**

- a. Detention of any person;
- b. Conduct which threatens imminent bodily harm or endangers the physical or emotional health of any person or oneself;
- c. Physical or emotional abuse of any person.

**17. Tobacco**

- a. Use of tobacco products or instruments in any university-owned property or building or on university premises.
- b. Sale or distribution of any tobacco product or instrument on university premises.

Western Oregon University is a [Tobacco Free Campus](#).

**18. Vandalism, Theft, Unauthorized Use of Property**

- a. Malicious damage, misuse, or theft of University property, or the property of any person where such property is located on University property, or, regardless of location, is in the care, custody, or control of the University;
- b. Theft of property or services, or knowingly possessing or using stolen property or services including, but not limited to, furniture, equipment, University publications or any other form of media, and any other University property or services;

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- c. Unauthorized entry to or use of University facilities, resources, and services;
- d. Failure to accidental damage to or removal of property to appropriate University staff or the individual owner.

### **19. Violation of Policies, Standards, and Laws**

- a. Violation of published University policies, rules, or regulations;
- b. Violation of residence hall rules and procedures as listed in the [Guide to Residential Living](#);
- c. Violation of federal, state, or local law;
- d. Violation of motor vehicle rules and regulations, or other policies adopted by the University regarding the use of motor vehicles.

### **20. Weapons and Destructive Chemical or Incendiary Devices**

Possession or use of fireworks, explosives, destructive chemicals, guns, ammunition, or other weapons or dangerous instruments on University-owned or controlled property.

## Section 4: Sanctions

Sanctions are consequences that are imposed on a student for being found responsible for violating any of the policies outlined within the Code of Student Responsibility. The following order of sanctions implies neither degree of severity nor appropriateness of the sanction to the number of violations. Multiple sanctions may be assigned. Students will be responsible for any applicable costs for carrying out sanctions.

Failure by a student to complete the sanctions imposed can result in further adjudication and sanctions being assigned to the student. Appeals of sanctions can be made through the appeal process.

The sanctions that may be assigned can include:

- *Warning*  
The student or recognized student organization is given written or verbal warning that the behavior violated specified University regulations or policies and is advised that further violations may result in the assigning of more severe sanctions.
- *Online Alcohol Assessment and Questions*  
A student may be assigned to complete an online alcohol self-assessment survey and answer the assigned questions.

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- *Disciplinary Probation*

The student or recognized student organization is placed on a probationary status, with or without loss of designated privileges, which may include the following: restriction on an individual's participation in co-curricular activities, on receiving recognition through awards, and on eligibility for scholarships. Probation is a serious warning. Probation occurs for a specific period of time or prior to completion of certain specific activities. Violation of probation can result in more severe sanctions for future violations of the Code.
- *Alcohol/Drug Counseling Assessment*

A student may be assigned to complete an alcohol or drug evaluation through the Student Health and Counseling Center and to follow the recommendations of the alcohol/drug counselor for treatment or education.
- *Community Service*

The student or recognized student organization may be assigned to perform a designated number of hours in service to the university or general community.
- *Counseling*

A student may be assigned to participate in a counseling intake session and to follow the recommendations of the intake counselor for further counseling sessions.
- *Deferred Removal from Residence Halls*

This is a final warning to a student that their actions have seriously contradicted the established standards of the Residence Halls and University community. If you should violate any of the policies of either The Guide to Residential Living or The Code of Student Responsibility, you will be automatically removed from the Residence Halls.
- *Placement of Judicial Hold on Student Account*

A Judicial Hold prohibits the student from registering for classes, sending and receiving transcripts, and conducting most forms of business with the University. Holds are intended to be used with a time limit determined by the Director of Student Conduct, the Dean of Students or other designee except in the case of expulsion when the Judicial Hold will be placed with no date of termination.
- *Deferred Suspension*

This is a final warning to a student that their actions have seriously contradicted the established standards of Western Oregon University. Any violation of the Code of Student Responsibility during a set period of time will result in immediate suspension from Western Oregon University.
- *Interim Sanction for Emergency Reasons*

The Vice President for Student Affairs, the Dean of Students, Director of Student Conduct, or their designee can invoke an interim, pre-hearing sanction when it is



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deemed necessary for the health or safety of the student, other students, or University Administration, Staff, or Faculty. In such instances where a student is assigned an interim sanction, the student will receive a hearing within twenty (20) working days. Only when it is not possible to schedule necessary witnesses or obtain information significant to the case will the hearing be held more than twenty (20) working days after assignment of the interim sanction. Interim sanctions cannot be appealed. Interim sanctions include but are not limited to the following:

- Expulsion;
  - Suspension;
  - No Contact Order;
  - Removal from Campus;
  - Removal from Residence Halls;
  - Holding Records.
- *No Contact Order (NCO)*  
This directive prohibits both parties from purposefully interacting with each other. An NCO prohibits all interactions including but not limited to interactions: over the phone, over any electronic source (i.e., email, text messaging, social media etc.), in person, through a third party, and through the mail. Unless specifically stated otherwise, the restriction does not prohibit the NCO parties from unintentionally, or out of necessity, being in the same building or vicinity (i.e., eating in the dining hall, attending the same class, participating in the same student activity or organization).
- *Restitution*  
The student or recognized student organization must replace, restore, or pay for damaged or stolen property.
- *Loss of Privileges*  
The student or recognized student organization is denied specific privileges normally associated with student or group status, such as participation in recognized activities, recognition by the University, use of University facilities or services, or living in University owned student residences.
- *Suspension*  
The student or recognized student organization is excluded from the University for a specific period and during that period may not enjoy academic privileges, participate in any University recognized function or group, or be allowed to reside in any University residence hall or building. If it is a recognized student organization, the group may not function as a recognized group for a specific period of time that can include conditions that must be met prior to reinstatement.

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- *Negative Notation on Transcript*  
There may be an entry of information onto the student's permanent academic record regarding the student's violation of the Code. The entry may be permanent or for a specific period and must be noted as such on the transcript. After the expiration of the period of time specified, the notation will be removed upon written request by the student to the Office of Student Conduct.
- *Revocation of Admission to the University*  
The University may revoke admission to the University if a student is found to have provided false or deceptive information on an admission application or other materials for admission (e.g., transcript from another university).
- *Degree Revocation*  
The University may revoke a degree if a former student is found to have engaged in academic dishonesty in courses taken leading to the degree, or if the student is found to have engaged in actions that if known at the time the degree was awarded would have made the student unqualified for the degree.
- *Expulsion*  
The student or student organization is permanently excluded from the University and may not enjoy academic privileges, participate in any University recognized function, or be allowed to reside in any University residence hall or building.

## Section 5: Student Conduct Structure

### **1. Introduction**

Western Oregon University's Office of Student Conduct holds the education of the student at its philosophical heart. This educational philosophy defines a structure for the Office of Student Conduct, which gives the respondent choices for resolving allegations of misconduct. The Office of Student Conduct will generally communicate with complainants and respondents electronically.

### **2. Student Conduct Personnel**

The Director of Student, or their designee, is responsible for the coordination and implementation of the student conduct process. Coordination and implementation for the student conduct process include but are not limited to communicating with complainants and respondents, conducting investigations, coordinating adjudications, and taking proper action regarding the charges and sanctions.

### **3. Student Conduct Committee**

The Student Conduct Committee consists of no fewer than three faculty members, three professional staff members, and no fewer than six student members. The Office of Student Conduct recruits members of the Student Conduct Committee throughout the

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year.

The Office of Student Conduct convenes the Committee at the beginning of the fall term each year academic year for orientation and training. Faculty, staff, and student members of the Student Conduct Committee must attend training as a condition of their membership.

The Office of Student Conduct works collaboratively with the Student Conduct Committee and other university constituents to review and make recommendations for edits, changes, and updates to the Code of Student Responsibility to the Dean of Students/Associate Vice for Student Affairs.

#### **4. Student Conduct Committee Hearing Panel**

The Student Conduct Committee Hearing Panel is a sub-committee of the Student Conduct Committee. Except in cases involving sexual misconduct, domestic violence, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, and stalking, a hearing panel will consist of a maximum of two faculty or staff members and four student members. Selection of sub-committee members for each hearing panel is made by the Office of Student Conduct. A minimum of one faculty or staff member and two students is required for a quorum, and a quorum must always consist of at least one more student than faculty or staff member. If a quorum cannot be obtained, a hearing will be postponed until a quorum is present, unless the respondent waives the requirement for a quorum in writing.

In cases involving sexual misconduct, domestic violence, interpersonal violence, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, and stalking, the hearing panel will consist of faculty or staff members. Selection of the panel members for these types of hearings will be made by the Office of Student Conduct. A minimum of two faculty or staff members is required for quorum. If a quorum cannot be obtained, a hearing will be postponed until a quorum is present, unless the respondent waives the requirement for a quorum in writing.

#### **5. Delegation of Authority**

Subject to the approval of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Committee recognizes the University Housing Student Conduct Program and grants University Housing authority to:

- Formulate regulations governing the conduct of residential students in and around University residences;
- Formulate procedures and administrative practices to be followed by the University Housing Residential Conduct Board;

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- Assign sanctions exclusive of expulsion, suspension, or negative notation on transcript, appropriate to the enforcement of University residence hall regulations.

Students and recognized student organizations may appeal decisions of the University Housing Resident Directors and Residential Conduct Board to the Director of Student Conduct. The student or recognized student organization must file [the appeal](#) with the Office of Student Conduct within five (5) working days of the date the notice is sent.

## Section 6: Student Conduct Procedures

### **1. Complaint**

The adjudication process at Western Oregon University begins with the receipt of one of the following by the Office of Student Conduct:

- A Campus Public Safety or University Housing incident report;
- Any other type of University reporting document or complaint;
- A police report; A signed and written complaint by any individual or group, whether members of the university community or not. The complaint may be in the form of an incident report, email, or letter.

Upon receipt of the complaint or report, the Office of Student Conduct will evaluate the information presented and determine whether or not enough information exists to make allegations that the student(s) named in the complaint or report engaged in activities prohibited by the Code of Student Responsibility or the Guide to Residential Living. The Director of Student Conduct, or designee, will evaluate this information to determine if the alleged violations may result in suspension, expulsion, or negative notation on the transcript. Should the Director of Student Conduct, or designee, believe the severity of the allegations may result in one of these outcomes, the Director, or designee, may preemptively elevate the case to be resolved in a formal Student Conduct Committee hearing.

Within seven (7) working days from when the Office of Student Conduct determines that there is sufficient basis to charge the student named in the complaint or report, the Office of Student Conduct will send the respondent correspondence electronically (through the Maxient Conduct System) to the respondent's WOU email that includes the following:

- A notice for the student to meet with the Director of Student Conduct, Resident Director, or designee for an initial meeting;
- The alleged violations of the Code of Student Responsibility and/ or the Guide to Residential Living;

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- The student's basic rights granted by the Code, including the right to have the case heard by the Student Conduct Committee;
- Notice that a copy of the Code can be found online or by requesting a physical copy from the Office of Student Conduct, which is located in Ackerman Hall, first floor in the Office of University Housing and Student Conduct office;
- Notice that a decision affecting the student may be made even if the student fails to appear for the initial meeting.

## **2. Initial Meeting with Assigned Adjudicator**

The purpose of an initial meeting with an adjudicator is to explain the conduct procedures to the respondent and to select the proper form of resolution to resolve the allegations. At the initial meeting, the respondent may choose how they would like their case resolved.

At this meeting, the respondent may request that the initial meeting serve as an adjudication meeting, thereby waiving the respondent's right to five (5) working days written notice before a conduct meeting. However, if the Office of Student Conduct has determined that the case may possibly result in suspension, expulsion, or a negative notation on the transcript, a Student Conduct Committee hearing will be scheduled.

If the respondent does not appear for an initial meeting or does not choose a method of resolution, the Office of Student Conduct or Resident Director will hear their case in absentia, using the information collected from reports and witness statements to determine whether a preponderance of evidence gives rise to a violation.

## **3. Types of Resolutions**

### Informal Resolution/Mediation

The Office of Student Conduct at Western Oregon University places confidence in the process of mediation as a preventative and educational method of intervention for student misconduct.

When the Office of Student Conduct makes use of mediation it does so with the primary goal of diverting students from the formal adjudicative process. The anticipated outcome of this action is for students to voluntarily create a resolution to their conflict that is confidential and non-binding.

The Student Conduct process is primarily an adjudicative process which often must address allegations that a respondent's behavior harmed another person. Except in cases of sexual misconduct, mediation may be used as a form of complainant/respondent reconciliation.

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The Office of Student Conduct may return the case to the adjudicative process for the following reasons:

- One or more of the students do not participate in the mediation;
- Substantial evidence exists that one or more of the students pose a clear and present threat to themselves or others;
- One or more of the students fail to adhere to the agreement.

Formal Resolution/Adjudication

**Adjudication by the Director of Student Conduct, or designee**

A respondent may choose to have their case adjudicated during the initial meeting with the assigned adjudicator, thereby waiving their right to five (5) working days written notice prior to an adjudication. During an adjudication by the Director of Student Conduct or designee, the adjudicator will consider the information presented by the respondent, information from the complaint or report(s), and other supporting information, including witness statements. The adjudicator will determine facts based on the evidence. Based on these findings, the adjudicator will render a decision on whether to uphold or drop each separate allegation.

If allegations are upheld, the adjudicator will assign sanctions commensurate with the violation(s) and the student's previous disciplinary and academic history. The Director of Student Conduct, the Dean of Students, or the designee has the authority to assign sanctions deemed appropriate under the Code of Student Responsibility. The adjudicator will notify the respondent in writing the results of the adjudication within five working days.

**Hearing with the Student Conduct Committee**

The Student Conduct Committee will be convened when requested by the Office of Student Conduct or the respondent. The Director of Student Conduct, the Dean of Students, or the designee, when appropriate, may present witnesses for both the respondent and the complainant, as requested by the Student Conduct Committee panel.

The respondent may present information and challenge the statements of complainants, witnesses, and statements read during the hearing.

The members of the Student Conduct Committee panel may question the respondent, witnesses, and complainant to determine facts relevant to the case. During deliberations of the allegations, the Student Conduct Committee panel will determine facts based on the evidence presented at the hearing. Based on these

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findings, the Student Conduct Committee panel will render a decision on whether to uphold or drop each separate allegation. During deliberations, only the Student Conduct Committee panel members are present. The Director of Student Conduct or the Dean of Students may be summoned during deliberations to advise the Student Conduct Committee panel concerning policy, procedure, rules, or other relevant areas.

The findings will be announced to the respondent following deliberations, and, at that time, the Director of Student Conduct, the Dean of Students, or the designee will present information concerning the respondent's academic record and any previous Student Conduct history. The respondent may also present information relevant to previous academic and Student Conduct history, as well as circumstances which may have a bearing on possible sanctions.

During deliberations of sanctions, only the Student Conduct Committee panel members are present. The Director of Student Conduct or the designee may be summoned to advise the Student Conduct Committee panel concerning policy, procedure, rules, or other relevant areas. Following that determination, the Chair of the Committee will announce the sanctions the Student Conduct Committee panel assigned.

The Office of Student Conduct will confirm in writing the results of the hearing to the respondent within five working days.

#### **4. Rights of the Respondent and Complainant**

*For all adjudications, the respondent has the following rights:*

- To have access to the case file to the extent permitted by law after requesting the information and giving the Office of Student Conduct sufficient notice to purge the file of information within the file considered to be the education record of any other students.
- To have knowledge of the charges and the names of those providing information supporting the charges, including all witnesses.
- To offer evidence challenging the statements of those providing information regarding the charges.
- To have five (5) working days notice prior to the adjudication, unless the respondent waives this right in writing.
- To be notified in writing of the outcome of the adjudication within five (5) working days.
- To request a hearing with the Student Conduct Committee.

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- To have an advisor attend the adjudication with the respondent. The advisor cannot speak for or represent the respondent. Failure of the advisor to comply with this stipulation will result in the removal of the advisor from the proceeding. The adjudication will not be postponed due to the inability of the advisor to attend.
- To not appear for an adjudication, and not have that absence used against oneself.
- To remain silent during an adjudication, and not have that silence used against oneself.
- To appeal a decision reached during an adjudication to the appropriate Appeals Body as defined in the appeal section of the Code of Student Responsibility.

*For all adjudications, the complainant has the following rights:*

- To be identified as a witness and provide a witness statement.
- To have a person accompany the complainant while in attendance at an adjudication. This person can be a confidential advocate, staff or faculty member, friend, family member, or anyone else of the complainant's choosing.
- To not have the complainant's past history or behavior discussed during an adjudication, unless it bears directly on the charges. This includes reference to past violations of the Code, past sexual history, and past indiscretions of any type.
- To make an impact statement only when the respondent is found responsible for the alleged behavior against the complainant. The impact statement may only be used or considered for sanctioning purposes.
- To be shielded from face-to-face contact and direct verbal interaction with the respondent during an adjudication.
- To be kept informed during the adjudicative process within legal guidelines.
- To be informed of the outcome of an adjudication within five (5) working days within legal guidelines.
- In hearings involving a complaint of sexual harassment or sexual misconduct, the complainant may appeal decisions reached at a hearing to the Vice President for Student Affairs if the complainant believes the decision is not in



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compliance with the standards described in the Code of Student Responsibility.

## **5. Procedures when Respondent Fails to Appear for Adjudication**

When the respondent fails to appear at the time specified for adjudication, provided no prior arrangements for delay have been confirmed, the adjudication will be held without the respondent present. The results of the adjudication will indicate that the adjudication was held with the respondent in absentia. The respondent's absence cannot be assumed to be an admission of responsibility; nor can it be used in any way in the adjudicator's or Student Conduct Committee's determination of facts or judgment.

## **6. Appeal of Adjudication**

The respondent may appeal decisions reached at a hearing. The appeal must be filed within five (5) working days following the date the Office of Student Conduct sends notice of the adjudication results. Appeals may be delivered, in writing, to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs or the Office of Student Conduct or via email to [studentconduct@wou.edu](mailto:studentconduct@wou.edu). An [appeal form](#) must include a specific justification for the appeal as listed below.

In hearings involving a complainant or survivor of sexual harassment or sexual misconduct, the survivor may appeal decisions reached at a hearing to the Vice President for Student Affairs if the survivor believes the decision is not in compliance with University standards. The appeal must be filed within five (5) working days following the date the Office of Student Conduct sends notice of the hearing results. An [appeal form](#) must include a specific justification for the appeal as listed below.

Except as required to explain the basis of new information, an appeal will be limited to a review of the accurate record of the initial adjudication and supporting documents for one or more of the following purposes:

- To determine whether or not the original hearing was conducted in conformity with the procedures described in the Student Code of Responsibility;
- To determine whether or not the decision reached regarding the respondent was based on a Preponderance of the Evidence;
- To determine whether or not the sanction(s) imposed were appropriate to the respondent's previous conduct history and the present violation(s) of the Code of Student Responsibility;
- To consider new evidence, sufficient to alter a decision, or other relevant facts not brought out in the original hearing, because such evidence or facts were not known to the person appealing at the time of the original hearing.

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The Appeals Body may make the following decisions:

- That evidence, not available at the time of the adjudication, exists sufficient to alter the original decision. In this case, the Appeals Body remits the case to the original adjudicating body for a supplemental adjudication;
- The appeal is denied. In this case, the entire decision of the original hearing body, including sanctions, remains effective. New violations cannot be found through the appeal process;
- The appeal is upheld. In this case, the Appeals Body renders a new decision, including reducing or removing sanctions, or replacing the findings and sanctions of the original adjudicator or hearing panel.

Routes of Appeal:

- The Vice President for Student Affairs will hear appeals of hearings with the Student Conduct Committee and appeals of adjudications with the Director of Student Conduct, Dean of Students, or designee.
- The Director of Student Conduct will hear appeals of adjudications with the University Housing Resident Directors and Residential Conduct Board.

Procedure for the appeal process:

- The Appeals Body must consider the appeal based on the record, with no new evidence considered, except new evidence that meets the requirements noted above. If new evidence becomes available, the Appeals Body must remand the case to a new hearing with the original hearing body. The Office of Student Conduct must provide a complete and accurate record of the original hearing to the Appeals Body. The Appeals Body may, but is not required to, meet with the person appealing the decision;
- Upon receipt of the appeal, the Appeals Body may suspend any or all sanctions pending its decision;
- Within ten (10) working days following receipt of a complete appeal, the Appeals Body will notify the student submitting the appeal in writing of the results of the appeal;
- A respondent and complainant are each allowed only one route of appeal, specified above. Once an individual has submitted an appeal and a decision has been reached regarding that appeal by the Appeals Body, the individual cannot submit an additional appeal regarding the same case.

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**7. Revising and Interpreting the Code of Student Responsibility**

- Refer all questions concerning the Code to the Office of Student Conduct. The Director of Student Conduct is the final interpreter of the Code.
- The Code will be reviewed no less than once every five years under the direction of the Director of Student Conduct or designee.
- A formal, written request to review the Code of Student Responsibility may be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct.

Questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Student Code of Responsibility please contact:

Office of the Dean of Students and Student Conduct

**Location:** WOU, Werner University Center, Room #203

**Phone:** 503-838-9318

**Email:** [studentconduct@wou.edu](mailto:studentconduct@wou.edu)