

pending an investigation and/or prosecution. Exoneration from criminal charges will not result in immunity from University disciplinary proceedings.

3) Classroom Disruption Offenses. Students who engage in behavior that disrupts a classroom, laboratory, or other environment in which educational or research activity takes place may be subject to disciplinary action under this Code. Disruptive classroom conduct means engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor's ability to teach or student learning. For purposes of this provision, the classroom extends to any setting where a student is involved in work toward academic credit or satisfaction of program-based requirements or related activities.

4) Academic Offenses. Please refer to the [Code of Academic Integrity](#).

B. Students' Rights

The University of Vermont is an academic community in which all students, faculty, and staff share responsibility for both individual growth and the continued welfare of the community. As members of the University community, students can reasonably expect the following:

1. Students have the right to freedom from discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, or gender identity or expression.
2. Students shall have the opportunity to participate in the formulation of policy directly affecting students through membership on appropriate committees as determined by the President or other University recognized organizations or groups.
3. The University shall not interfere with the rights of students to join associations that promote their common interests as students.
4. Students should receive accurate and plainly stated information about acceptable academic standing, graduation requirements, and individual course objectives and requirements.
5. In keeping with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and its implementing regulations, students have the right to view their education records and to expect that those records will be protected from unauthorized disclosure.
6. In all instances of general discipline, academic discipline, and academic evaluation, students have the right to fair and impartial treatment.
7. The University of Vermont considers freedom of inquiry and discussion essential to a student's educational development. Thus, the University recognizes the right of all students to engage in discussion, to exchange thought and opinion, and to speak, write, or publish freely on any subject, in accordance with the guarantees of the United States and

Vermont constitutions. This broad principle is the cornerstone of education in a democracy. Student groups may freely select persons they wish to invite as guest speakers or performers. There are no restrictions on the points of view expressed by speakers other than those imposed by federal or state law. The invitation to an outside speaker does not imply approval or sponsorship of his/her views by the University or by the group inviting that individual.

8. Students are free to engage in peaceful and orderly protest, demonstration, and picketing that does not disrupt functions of the University.

9. Students have the right to be free from illegal searches and seizures.

10. Students have the right to freely exercise their full rights as citizens. The University affirms the right of students to exercise their freedoms without fear of University interference.

Pre-Hearing Procedures

A. Reporting Violations

Any student, UVM Police Services officer, or member of the University staff, faculty, or community may report any perceived violation of this Code to the Center for Student Ethics and Standards (CSES). Perceived criminal activity reported to UVM Police Services will be appropriately investigated and a report forwarded to CSES. CSES will wait for the outcome of any investigation and accompanying report, such as a police report or Affirmative Action investigation report, before proceeding with the judicial process. Upon receipt of a report from any source, CSES will evaluate the report and determine whether, if the facts as alleged were proven, the conduct would be a violation of this Code. CSES may decide, in its sole discretion and based on this review, whether to proceed with the judicial process.

When CSES or a Hearing Officer adjudicates a report, it may do so by a pre-hearing waiver with the Respondent or by adjudicating the matter through the student judicial process. If a student charged with a violation of this Code does not accept responsibility for the conduct charged and/or does not accept sanctions in a pre-hearing conference, the case will proceed to a hearing.

B. Interim Suspensions

Generally, a student's status is not altered pending hearing or appeal, unless preliminary evidence demonstrates that a student's continued presence on campus would pose a threat to the student's health or safety or the health, safety, or well-being of other persons within the University community. In that case, the student may be suspended on an interim basis. Except in an emergency situation, the Dean of Students or designee will communicate with the student before instituting the suspension. The Dean of Students or designee will state, in writing, the terms and conditions of the interim suspension.