

In addition to the general rights and obligations of University community, each student is obligated to apprise him/herself of and comply with all University rules, regulations and policies. Students are individually responsible for understanding and exercising their rights, fulfilling their obligations and respecting the rights of others. Lack of knowledge of a University policy will not be accepted as an excuse for failure to observe it.

C. Jurisdiction and Authority

The Student Code of Conduct applies equally to individual students and student organizations. The University has jurisdiction to hear all matters related to violation of University Policy and the Dean of Students has authority to make determinations on all charges of General Conduct Violations as these are defined in the Student Code of Conduct.

D. Guarantees of Student Expression

1. Collective Rights in Policy Making

Students have a collective right to participate in the formulation of standards of conduct and preparation of rules governing student activities and affairs. This right is collectively exercised through the participation of the Student Government Association on the University's Committee on Student Life and Development. The Committee on Student Life and Development is empowered by the President of the University, through the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, to make standards and rules, subject to the approval of the Chancellor and of the Regents. Upon request, students also have a collective right through Student Government Association participation, to be heard in the making of other institutional policies that affect their rights and well-being. In addition, students have the right to take a stand on University issues, to examine and discuss questions of interest and to support causes by orderly means that do not disrupt normal University operations or interfere with the rights of others.

2. Freedom of Expression

Students have the right to freedom of expression by word or symbol as long as it does not materially or substantially interfere with the orderly operation of the University or with the rights of others as conferred by the Constitution. This right of expression does not protect disruptive, threatening, lewd, indecent or obscene conduct or expression.

3. Student Media

The publications and communications of chartered Student Media groups are guaranteed the rights inherent in the concept of freedom of the press. They have the right to publish and distribute material on the University campus provided that the materials are identified by the name of the organization and are done in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the Committee on Student Communications. All publications are subject to the canons of responsible journalism, including the avoidance of libel, avoidance of indecency or obscenity and undocumented allegations.

E. Definitions

"Advisor" means any person (student or non-student) who the referred student may seek for advice. He or she may accompany the student during the hearing. The advisor may not represent the student before the hearing panel or be allowed to participate in the hearing process. A licensed attorney may serve as a student's advisor.

"Business Day" means any day on which the offices of Georgia State University excluding University Police, libraries, recreation and housing are open to the general public.

"Complainant" means any person(s) who initiates an alleged violation of the Code.

"Controlled substance" means a drug or substance in which the use, possession, or distribution is controlled under state or federal law.

"Dean of Students" means the administrative officer bearing this or similar title and includes his/her designee.

"Discrimination" means unfair or unequal treatment of an individual based on race, color, sex, religion, creed, age, sexual orientation, gender, disability, veteran status or national origin.