
RULES, REGULATIONS AND STUDENT CONDUCT

STATEMENT OF STUDENT RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Preamble

The Swarthmore College Bulletin states, “The purpose of Swarthmore College is to make its students more valuable human beings and more useful members of society ... Swarthmore seeks to help its students realize their fullest intellectual and personal potential combined with a deep sense of ethical and social concern.” Although the College places great value on freedom of expression, it also recognizes the responsibility to protect the values and structures of an academic community. It is important, therefore, that students assume responsibility for helping to sustain an educational and social community where the rights of all are respected. This includes conforming their behavior to standards of conduct that are designed to protect the health, safety, dignity, and rights of all. The College community also has a responsibility to protect the possessions, property, and integrity of the institution as well as of individuals. The aim of both this Statement and the Student Judicial Procedures is to balance all these rights, responsibilities, and community values fairly and efficiently.

Swarthmore College policies and jurisdiction normally apply only to the conduct of matriculated students occurring on Swarthmore College property or at College-sanctioned events that take place off-campus. In situations in which both the complainant and accused are matriculated Swarthmore College students, however, College policies and jurisdiction may apply regardless of the location of the incident. In the event that a student organization violates a college regulation, the organization, as well as its individual members, can be held accountable for the violation and sanctioned by the College. Finally, students should also realize that they have the responsibility to ensure that their guests do not violate College policies, rules, and regulations while visiting and that students may be subject to disciplinary action for misbehavior of their guests.

A complaint against a student may be made to the Deans by a student, a Public Safety officer, a member of the College’s faculty or staff, or a College department. If the alleged incident represents a violation of federal, state, or local law, the complainant also has the option of initiating proceedings in the criminal or civil court system regardless of whether a complaint is filed within the College system.

The following is a summary and explanation of the rights, responsibilities, and rules governing student conduct at Swarthmore College. This Statement