

Chapter III

Violations of The Student Code of Conduct

The following acts or omissions to act are violations of *The Student Code of Conduct*. These sections are not inclusive, and students are subject to additional rules and regulations of Northern Illinois University. Refer to the *Guidepost* for rules and regulations governing residence halls, the *Undergraduate* and *Graduate Catalogs* for academic regulations, and the appropriate university department for specific regulations governing that area.

3-1 Safety

All members of the university community are entitled to freedom from suffering deliberate hurt, injury, or loss. Access to the university must be available to all in a nonhostile and nonthreatening atmosphere. These protections include but are not limited to injuries resulting from antagonisms based upon race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability status.

3-1.1a Physical Abuse: Physically contacting another person without his or her permission causing or intending to cause injury or creating or intending to create an imminent fear of injury.

3-1.1b Brawling: Willfully participating or contributing to an incident of physical abuse.

3-1.2 Harassment: Intentional and wrongful use of words, gestures and actions to annoy, alarm, abuse, embarrass, coerce, intimidate or threaten another person.

3-1.3 Sexual Misconduct

1.3a Sexual Harassment: Behavior that may include but is not limited to unwanted fondling or touching of a sexual nature, directly or through clothing; indecent exposure; or lewd behavior; any of which demeans, intimidates, coerces, threatens, or has the effect of creating a hostile or offensive environment. Such behavior may include the use of mail, telephone, or electronic communication to convey messages that are obscene or intimidating to the recipient.

1.3b Sexual Assault: Any actual or threatened sexual contact against that person's will or where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

3-1.4 Hazing: Participating in the act or activity of hazing. Hazing shall be defined as any act or activity by an organization or group or by a member of that organization or group in which a member(s) or prospective member(s) may be subjected to an activity that may cause or create a risk to one's physical or mental health. Hazing includes any act or activity that may cause (but is not limited to): fear or intimidation; embarrassment or ridicule, physical exhaustion, endangerment, harm, mutilation, or alteration of any part(s) of the body; mental fatigue, harassment, or duress; and defacement, damage, or destruction of property. The intent of the act or the consent or cooperation of the hazing recipient will not constitute a defense. The university or the hazing recipient may charge an individual and/or the officers of a recognized organization with responsibility for the hazing act(s) both on or off-campus.

3-1.5 Dangerous Weapons:

1.5a Possession, use, sale, or distribution in any residence hall, building, or grounds under university control of: fireworks, firearms, shotguns, rifles, hand guns, switchblade knives, any type of ammunition, explosives, and all other serious weapons.

1.5b Misuse of martial arts weaponry, BB guns, pellet guns, clubs, knives, and all other serious weapons.

Students who wish to bring firearms to the campus must obtain written permission from the chief security officer of the university. Firearms must be stored at the University Security Office except with written permission of the chief security officer of the university. At no time will any of the above dangerous weapons be allowed in the university residence halls.

3-1.6 Fire Prevention:

1.6a Knowingly, recklessly, or negligently setting a fire on university property.

1.6b Creating a fire hazard or endangering the safety of persons or property by the improper use or possession of hazardous substances.

1.6c False reporting of a fire.

1.6d Failing to report a fire.

1.6e Interfering with the response of university or city officials to emergency calls.

1.6f Misuse of or tampering with fire prevention and control equipment.

1.6g Use or possession of any electrical appliance not authorized in university residence halls or other areas of the university.

1.6h Burning of candles in the residence halls.

1.6i Pranks involving fire.

1.6j Refusing to comply with fire alarm and fire drill procedures.

3-1.7 Dangerous and Narcotic Drugs: Possession, use, manufacture, sale, or distribution of any dangerous, narcotic, hallucinogenic, and/or look-alike drugs in any form except under the direction of a licensed physician or as expressly permitted by law.

3-1.8 Cannabis (Marijuana): Possession, use, manufacture, sale, or distribution of cannabis.

3-1.9 Alcohol: Use of alcoholic beverages on the university campus except when approved by university policies and procedures.

3-1.10 Throwing Objects Out of Windows or Off Roofs: Throwing objects out of windows or off roofs of any residence hall or any building on university property.

3-2 Property

The maintenance and preservation of the resources of the university, including its grounds, academic buildings, residences, dining facilities, and other structures are obligations of all members of the Northern Illinois University community. These resources are provided for the general community purposes and must be maintained so that no persons are denied their right to their proper use. It applies equally to the protection of the personal property and possessions of students, staff, administration, and faculty, and to those buildings and materials which are owned or leased by the university.

3-2.1 Unauthorized Removal, Possession, or Use: Unauthorized use, possession, or removal from a designated area of property belonging to the university, its community members, guests, or vendors.

3-2.2 Unauthorized Entry: Unauthorized entry to property under university control. (No student shall remain in a university building beyond its normal closing hours unless duly authorized by a university official.)

3-2.3 Damage, Destruction, or Defacement of Property: Damage, destruction, or defacement of property belonging to the university, any of its community members, guests, or vendors.

3-2.4 Unauthorized Painting: Unauthorized painting or staining in any residence hall room, public area, administrative office, classroom, or other property owned by Northern Illinois University.

3-2.5 Unauthorized Posting of Announcements: Failure to post announcements in accordance with established procedures of the specific building. (For additional information see Policy Appendices.)

3-2.6 Computer Misuse

2.6a Misuse of university computer systems, laboratories, equipment, or software in violation of university computer use policies.

2.6b Unauthorized access, distribution, alteration, or use of electronic materials including, but not limited to, information, images, text, or software.

3-3 Personal Identification and Honesty

The climate of life in the academic community is one of honesty and integrity. In order to preserve academic scholarship and the free flow of ideas in the university community, each student must acknowledge and stand by his or her own work and refrain from misleading or false statements.

3-3.1 Academic Misconduct: Receipt or transmission of unauthorized aid on assignments or examinations, plagiarism, unauthorized use of examination materials, or other forms of dishonesty in academic matters including any offenses of types described under 3-3.3, 3-3.4, or 3-3 that are related to a student's academic status or performance. For a detailed description of the process by which academic misconduct cases are handled, refer to Chapter VI, Section 4.

3-3.2 Failure to Follow Instructions from University Officials: Failure to follow the oral or written instructions regarding university regulations or state law given by any properly identified university official whom the Board of Trustees or the president of the university has vested with the authority to give such instruction. Failure to present personal identification to a university official upon request.

3-3.3 Personal Misrepresentation: Representing oneself as another in person or in writing, or through means of electronic communication, with intent to obtain a benefit or to injure or defraud.

3-3.4 Unauthorized Representation: Alleging to represent the university or any of its recognized organizations without specific prior consent of the respective officials and with intent to obtain a benefit or to injure or defraud.

3-3.5 Inaccuracy of Records and Information: Falsifying, tampering, altering, forging, or misusing any university record or official document or knowingly supplying false or misleading information to university officials.

3-3.5a Fraudulent Registration Policy: Violation of the Fraudulent Registration Policy as referred to on page 28.

3-3.5b Registration Tampering: A student who tampers or attempts to tamper with the registration or records of another student or one's own, including but not limited to dropping courses and adding courses, may be subject to disciplinary sanctions as defined in *The Student Code of Conduct*.

3-3.6 Dishonesty in Judicial and Administrative Matters: Dishonesty before judicial bodies, university boards or committees, or university officials; or knowingly misrepresenting verbally or in writing the nature of events or the identification of persons coming before such persons or bodies.

3-3.7 Failure to Personally Appear Before a Judicial Body: Failure of the complainant or any witnesses to appear before the appropriate judicial adjudicator or Judicial Hearing Board upon request by an official member of the University Judicial System.

3-4 Noise, Obstruction or Disruption

Northern Illinois University as an academic community requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study, learn, work, and sleep in a peaceful atmosphere.

3-4.1 Excessive Noise: Disruption of study, sleep, work, or any other appropriate activity through excessive noise.

3-4.2 Disruptive Behavior: Disruption of study, sleep, work, or any other appropriate activity through disorderly behavior.

3-4.3 Obstruction or Disruption of University Activities: Knowingly or willfully obstructing or disrupting classes, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings or other authorized activities on university premises. For information concerning demonstrations, see Policy Appendices.

3-5 Accessory Responsibility

3-5.1 Accessory to a Violation: Aiding another individual in the commission of an offense as defined by *The Student Code of Conduct*. A person may be charged under this section even though the alleged perpetrator of the original offense may be found “not guilty.”

3-5.2 Guest Responsibility: Northern Illinois University students may be held responsible for the actions of their guests. When a guest commits a violation, the host may be charged with accessory responsibility.

3-5.3 Accessory or Accomplice to a Drug Violation: The knowing actions of an individual to aid, encourage, incite, compel or coerce another to commit an offense defined by 3-1.8 of *The Student Code of Conduct*.

3-6 Violation of Rights

Any intentional violation of a student’s rights to due process or any intentional failure to follow proper judicial procedures as outlined in *The Student Code of Conduct*.

Chapter IV Sanctions

Sanctions should relate to the character of the offense with further consideration given to the possibility of the wider effect of the offense on the university community. When possible, sanctions will be given for a particular offense as established by previous decisions in similar cases. The sanctions listed below are not inclusive but merely serve as guidelines. These sanctions are listed in reasonable order of severity and may be levied in any combination.

4-1 University Disciplinary Warning: A letter of reprimand indicating that any future violation of *The Student Code of Conduct* will subject the student to further judicial proceedings in which the original violation will be considered when determining the sanctions to be imposed.

4-2 Work Assignments: A contractual agreement between a university judicial adjudicator or a Judicial Hearing Board and the student to fulfill the requirements of an available work assignment. Failure to complete the work assignment satisfactorily will result in an encumbrance upon the student’s academic records. If an encumbrance is placed on the student’s academic records, the student may be unable to register for classes or receive copies of his/her NIU transcript. This encumbrance will remain on a student’s record until the work assignment is completed.

4-3 Administrative Fines: A sum imposed as administrative discipline for an offense. Student judicial administrative fines will range from a minimum of \$50 to a maximum of \$250, to be imposed at the discretion of a student judicial adjudicator or a Judicial Hearing Board. The offender is billed by the Bursar’s Office for the sum of the fine, and the student shall pay the fine within 30 days. Failure to pay a fine will prevent the student from obtaining transcripts and registering for classes; however, if the student’s financial position hinders the direct payment of the fine, and with the concurrence of the judicial adjudicator or the hearing officer, the student may substitute a work assignment.