

# Student Conduct

Morehead State University is committed to providing students with opportunities that focus upon creating an individualized learning environment. Morehead State University believes learning is most effective when it is self-initiated and self-directed and when the responsibility for that learning rests with each individual. It is also believed that such individualized action promotes a higher degree of maturity and responsibility for all members of the community. Morehead State University students are expected to treat others with civility, dignity, and respect which recognizes the innate value of all human beings, reflects a commitment to obtaining an education, and meets the legal and campus standards of conduct imposed by federal, state, and local laws and University policies, rules, and regulations. Through the accompanying rules and regulations, Morehead State University establishes expectations for student conduct and provisions for reviewing actions which are not in keeping with the educational nature of the University. These behavioral expectations and administrative procedures are provided to assist students with self-learning and responsibility. The students, faculty, and staff constitute the University community that is Morehead State University. Any community should have common interests; but in a University they are quite varied and, at times, conflicting. To facilitate mutual accommodation of interests, Morehead State University has affirmed guidelines for individual behavior. Membership within the community carries with it not only the implied adherence to these guidelines but also responsibility for supporting these guidelines when the behavior of peers is in variance with these expectations. Morehead State University provides assurance of opportunity for its members to achieve their educational objectives, and supports the maintenance of the intellectual and educational environment where freedom of discussion and expression of views are encouraged and protected. The responsibility to secure and respect the general conditions necessary for free inquiry and free expression is essential to an educational community. In order to maintain the educational process, each member of the University community must accept responsibility for personal actions and respect for University regulations and the laws of the larger society. Because there is diversity of opinion regarding ethical and moral standards, each individual should strive to develop a personal ethic or morality. While the University does not regard itself as the arbiter of morals, it does reserve the right to make members aware of the expectations of the larger society and the University community and to insist that individual behavior be changed to conform to University guidelines. Redress of grievances must entail adherence to and respect for federal, state, and local laws as well as University policies. Students who take exception to laws and regulations are afforded channels of communication to express opinion and to work for constructive change.

**Individuals, regardless of intent or circumstance, must be prepared to accept the consequences of their action.** Each individual is encouraged to accept the opportunity for free discussion within the framework of guaranteed rights.

## Scope of Authority

The Student Conduct Code applies to the behavior of students on University property or facilities owned, controlled, or being used by the University. Federal laws and the Kentucky Revised Statutes apply to students whether on or off the campus. Violations of law will be subject to the penalties imposed by law

as well as the sanctions contained in this document. This document governs student conduct off campus when such behavior impairs University functioning, impacts another member of the University community, has a negative impact upon the reputation of the University, and/or endangers the University community. Misconduct may subject the violator to the provisions of law and the sanctions contained herein. Students are subject to University policies, rules, and regulations published in official publications of the University including, but not limited to, the *Undergraduate Catalog*, *Graduate Catalog*, and the *Eagle Student Handbook*.

## Student rights and responsibilities

Students are guaranteed the rights of free speech and peaceful assembly, and nothing contained in this document is intended to limit these freedoms. These rights must be exercised in a peaceful, reasonable, and orderly manner and in approved areas which will not violate the rights of any member of the University community.

## The right to academic freedom and individual integrity

Morehead State University maintains that the principles of academic freedom and free inquiry, freedom from discrimination, and freedom from abridgement of personal rights are fundamental to the conditions of higher education, and no University rules shall interfere with the exercise of these rights. Academic freedom requires all persons to respect the rights and dignity of others and to acknowledge another's right to different opinions. Freedom of inquiry and expression and intellectual honesty are also principles of academic freedom.

## The right to freedom of speech

Morehead State University ensures the right of free speech and expression and encourages timely and rational discussion of topics whereby the ethical and intellectual development of students and general welfare of the public may be promoted. In all circumstances regarding free speech, the University reserves the right to regulate the time, place and manner. A "free speech" area is located in front of Camden-Carroll Library in the area surrounding the war memorial. This area may be reserved by organizations or individuals by contacting University Center & Conference Services on the first floor of ADUC (783-2810).

## Downloading and File Sharing

Technology plays a critical role within the University community. Faculty, staff, and students depend upon technology on a daily basis for personal and professional purposes. As a result, downloading and sharing materials has become commonplace within our society. Although there are legitimate reasons to download and/or share files, it is essential that members of the MSU community have a clear understanding of copyright requirements, regulations, guidelines, and laws before downloading or sharing any information (even if done so through a purchased commercial product). Individuals involved with illegally downloading or sharing materials, whether intentionally or unintentionally, could be held accountable through disciplinary and/or criminal action.