

Part III: Proscribed Conduct

The Student Code applies to students and to their student organizations. Unless otherwise noted, use of the term “student” in this document shall apply to the student as an individual and to a student organization as a single entity, as applicable. Registered student organizations may be held accountable through Department of Student Activities’ policies and/or *The Student Code*. The officers or the leaders of a particular registered student organization usually will be expected to represent the organization during the Student Conduct process. Nothing in this code shall preclude holding certain members of an organization accountable for their individual acts committed in the context of or in association with the organization’s alleged violation of *The Student Code*.

Individual accountability is a cornerstone of *The Student Code*. Normally, the alleged influence of drugs and/or alcohol on a student’s judgment or behavior will not be accepted as a mitigating factor with respect to the resolution of an act of misconduct.

A. Jurisdiction of the University

1. Each student shall be responsible for one’s conduct from the time of admission through the actual awarding of a degree, even though conduct may occur before classes begin or after classes end, as well as during the academic year and during periods between terms of actual enrollment (and even if the conduct is not discovered until after a degree is awarded). *The Student Code* shall apply to a student’s conduct even if the student withdraws from the University while a student conduct matter is pending.
2. The University may apply *The Student Code* to students whose conduct has a direct and distinct adverse impact on the University community, its members, and/or the pursuit of its objectives regardless of where such conduct may occur. The following examples describe the kinds of off-campus acts that might be addressed through the University Student Conduct system. They are illustrative in intent and they should not be regarded as all-inclusive: driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; physical/sexual assault; sale/distribution of illegal substances; and malicious destruction of property. Should the Director of Community Standards reasonably determine that a particular alleged act of off-campus misconduct falls within the jurisdiction of the University, the case will be referred to the University Student Conduct System.
3. University Student Conduct proceedings may be initiated without regard to the pendency of civil or criminal litigation in court or criminal arrest and prosecution resulting from the same or related conduct. Proceedings under *The Student Code* may be carried out prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil or criminal proceedings off-campus at the discretion of the Director of Community Standards. Determinations made or sanctions imposed under *The Student Code* shall not be subject to change because criminal charges arising out of the same facts giving rise to violation of University rules were dismissed, reduced, or resolved in favor of or against the defendant in the criminal matter.

B. Conduct Rules and Regulations

As members of the University community, students and student organizations have a responsibility to uphold *The Student Code* as well as to adhere to federal, state, and local laws. The Director of Community Standards shall make the final determination on what constitutes a potential violation of *The Student Code* and shall establish the specific code violation(s) as appropriate.

The following list of behaviors is intended to represent the types of acts that constitute violations of *The Student Code*. Although the list is extensive, it should not be regarded as all-inclusive. All community members are responsible for knowing and observing all University policies and procedures.

1. Behavior in violation of the *Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research* policy (Appendix A).
2. Disruptive behavior, which is defined as participating in or inciting others to participate in the disruption or obstruction of any University activity, including, but not limited to: teaching, research, events, administration, Student Conduct proceedings, the living/learning environment, or other University activities, on or off-campus; or of other non-University activities when the conduct occurs on University premises; or of the living environment, on or off-campus.
3. Harming behavior, which includes, but is not limited to, the true threat of or actual physical assault or abuse and also includes harassment. For the purposes of *The Student Code*, bullying is considered a form of harassment.

In determining whether an act constitutes harassment, Community Standards will consider the full context of the conduct, giving due consideration to the protection of University climate, individual rights, freedom of speech, academic freedom and advocacy. Not every act that might be offensive to an individual or a group constitutes harassment and/or a violation of *The Student Code*.

Harassment is the severe or repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal, or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at another individual that has the effect of:

- a. causing physical or emotional harm to the individual or damage to the individual's property; and/or
- b. placing the individual in reasonable fear of harm to the individual and/or the individual's property; and/or
- c. infringing on the rights of other University community members to fully participate in the programs, activities, and mission of the University.

Bullying is the repeated use of a written, oral or electronic communication, or a physical act or gesture by one or more individuals, repeatedly directed at another individual that:

- a. causes physical or emotional harm or damage to property and/or;
- b. places the target of such behavior in reasonable fear of harm to self, or of damage to property and/or;
- c. creates a hostile environment or otherwise infringes on the rights of such individual and/or;
- d. substantially disrupts the education process.

Bullying shall include, but not be limited to, a written, oral or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.

4. Behavior in violation of the *University of Connecticut Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Related Interpersonal Violence*.
5. Endangering behavior, which includes, but is not limited to, conduct that threatens or jeopardizes the health or safety of any person including one's self.
6. Hazing, defined as any activity without reasonable or legitimate educational value expected of someone for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization that humiliates, degrades, or risks emotional, psychological, and/or physical harm, regardless of a person's willingness to participate.
7. Although Connecticut state law permits the use of medical and recreational marijuana (over 21 years of age), the use, possession, and/or cultivation of marijuana remains a crime under federal law. As a recipient of federal funding, the University is required to prohibit the use and/or possession of all federally-classified controlled substances, including marijuana. Therefore, the possession and use of marijuana in any form, even if accompanied by a medical prescription, is prohibited on all University property and/or during any University activity.

Misuse of alcohol and/or other drugs including but not limited to:

- a. *Illegal consumption and/or possession*. Possession of alcohol is limited to persons 21 years of age or older. If an individual is under 21 years of age, that person is not permitted to consume alcohol or carry alcohol on their person on or off University property.