

“Excellence: The University of Central Missouri sets high expectations for students and graduates and demands excellence in teaching and in delivery of services. Central Missouri promotes quality and excellence in staff and faculty members through its many professional development activities. The university promotes the development and well-being of each member of the campus community, which in turn fosters a strong commitment to the institution.” – UCM Core Values

- Students have a *right* to chart their own path and develop a personal academic plan that moves them toward a promising future.
- Students have the *responsibility* to attend class, meet administrative and educational deadlines, complete course requirements, follow university policies and pay fees on time.

Your degree must be earned; it will not be given to you. Important elements of earning your degree include abiding by the rules, guidelines and procedures that govern the university; meeting academic expectations; and completing the requirements UCM has articulated for degree completion.

The Right to Non-Discrimination, Equal Access, and Fair Treatment

“The Central Community is a JUST community and students are expected to participate in ways that are ethical, honest, equitable, trustworthy, civil, and respectful.” – UCM Community Creed

“Diversity: The University of Central Missouri is committed to attracting and supporting a diverse body of students, faculty and staff members. The campus strives to be responsive to the specific needs of people with physical handicaps and offers educational programs to allow all students to reach their full potential. Central Missouri encourages acceptance and respect of individuals with differing values, ideas, beliefs, abilities and life experiences. The university promotes good citizenship, a sense of civic responsibility, global awareness and an appreciation for human diversity at all levels.” – UCM Core Values

- Students should expect to be treated fairly and equitably in accordance with state and federal law. Students have the *right* to engage with other learners in an environment of respect and dignity that is free from unlawful intimidation, harassment and discrimination.
- Exposure to diversity enhances the learning experience. As members of this diverse learning community, students have the *responsibility* to treat others equitably, to refrain from hateful discourse, to be civil, and to resolve disputes constructively.

At UCM, we want students to be exposed to other individuals from widely diverse backgrounds. This opportunity is part of what makes the college experience extraordinary and exciting. Through these interactions, we want students to engage in lively, respectful debate of complex issues while simultaneously reflecting and developing their own worldviews.

In some cases, lively debate can lead to disagreement and misunderstanding. We expect students to develop the skills to handle such disagreements with respect and civility. Your faculty, Student Experience and Engagement staff, organization advisors and other students can help you learn these skills. Students who engage in rhetoric or actions that demean individuals or groups are not well suited to the academic environment. Such behavior is antithetical to learning and may actually compromise the educational opportunities of others. Consequently, for

the greater good of the learning community, individuals who engage in hateful rhetoric or discriminatory behaviors may be held accountable in a manner consistent with their rights as citizens under state and federal law.

The Right to a Reasonably Safe Learning Environment

“The Central community is a CARING community where students are encouraged to pursue and support the well-being of themselves and others.” – UCM Community Creed

- Students have the *right* to be reasonably safe and to take reasonable actions to protect themselves from violence.
- Students have a *responsibility* to refrain from actions that jeopardize their own safety or the safety of others.

Risk is an element of every human activity. We expose ourselves to varying degrees of risk when we step in the shower, walk down a flight of stairs, and drive to class. It is also normal to seek out risk in certain circumstances (such as trying something new, asking someone out on a date, challenging the status quo, etc.). While some risks are minor, other risky choices can put you or others in danger. Students are expected to avoid situations and choices that involve unreasonably dangerous risks, and they are expected to immediately and fully cooperate with university officials, law enforcement, and emergency personnel in the completion of their duties. Students have a right to a tobacco-free, drug-free, weapons-free and alcohol-free learning environment.

Some personal safety resources and tips can be found on the [TIPS](#) homepage.

The Right to a Fair Process

“Central is a DISCIPLINED community where students are expected to fulfill personal responsibilities, by upholding university guidelines, and by working toward self and community betterment.” – UCM Community Creed

“Responsibility: The University of Central Missouri places a high value on being ethical in all practices, and faculty members strive to impress this value upon their students. Central Missouri strives to employ the most efficient and appropriate use of fiscal and human resources in order to provide students with a quality, affordable higher education experience. Faculty and staff members value fact-based decision making through collegial deliberation.” – UCM Core Values

- Students have a *right* to fair processes and the right to appeal or seek clarification on decisions which they believe are inappropriate.
- Students have a *responsibility* to participate in those processes.

Students have a right to fair process which is, fundamentally, the right to receive notice that they may have breached their student responsibilities and the opportunity to be heard on that issue. There is an important distinction between a fair process as it relates to educational conduct and the “due process” that is afforded to criminals in the legal system. Fair processes in educational conduct matters are intended to ensure that students have an opportunity to understand how they may have violated a policy and have the opportunity to explain their involvement, if any, in that event. Students will be assigned a Conduct Educator to assist them with this process and evaluate the situation. If the student has reason to believe that the Conduct Educator cannot evaluate the