

# CODE OF CONDUCT

## Preface

By issue of this Student Code of Conduct, Northwestern State University hereby establishes the standards and procedures that shall govern the conduct of students on University property, in University facilities and away from the University campus. Students, members, and advisors of student organizations will be expected to become familiar with this Code and assure the Code's successful implementation by their observance of the provisions and their support of the objectives stated herein.

## On-Campus Health and Safety Policy

To ensure the health and well-being of the NSU Community, all students, faculty, staff, and visitors must adhere to all local, state, and federal guidelines regarding the COVID19 pandemic. This pertains to the use of face masks and social distancing guidelines, events and gatherings, and mandates related to hygiene practices. All members of the NSU community must adhere to the current policy in effect and recognize that policies and guidelines are subject to change by local, state, and federal authorities.

In the event of a campus emergency (tornadoes, flooding, other extreme weather conditions, chemical spills, active shooter, or other crisis situations) resulting in specific directions from university authorities such as a shelter in place order, an evacuation order or other necessary safety orders, members of the NSU community are expected to follow the guidelines and directives issued.

## Campus/Classroom Civility Statement

Northwestern State University students, staff, and faculty are expected to create an environment that promotes academic excellence, personal dignity, mutual respect, and individual responsibility in both face-to-face and electronic educational settings regardless of the content of the ideas and opinions being shared. Ideas and opinions that are controversial or in opposition to others are welcomed in the NSU environment, and this policy shall not be used to prohibit the sharing of controversial or unpopular ideas or opinions but merely to call for civility when idea and opinion sharing.

All members of the NSU community have the right to a safe environment free of disturbances and civil in all aspects of human relations. Whether in a face-to-face or online classroom, students who engage in disruptive or abusive discourse or actions may be removed from the class and subject to disciplinary sanctions. In on-campus classrooms, students who speak at inappropriate times, take frequent breaks, interrupt the class by coming to class late or leaving early, engage in loud or distracting behaviors, use cell phones or other noise-making devices, wear headphones, are distracted with computers or other electronic devices, are verbally abusive, display defiance or disrespect to others, or behave aggressively toward others during the class period may be removed from the class and may be subject to disciplinary action under the Northwestern State University Student

# CODE OF CONDUCT

Code of Conduct (Articles IV Infractions and VIII Sanctions). The instructor of a course may deem additional behaviors or actions inappropriate; these actions or behaviors will be outlined in the course syllabus. Copies of infractions begin on page 113 and sanctions begin on page 125 of this handbook and are available on the NSU website at [nsula.edu/studenthandbook](https://nsula.edu/studenthandbook).

## ARTICLE I • Introduction

Northwestern State University is an institution with an educational mission, carried out by means of programs and activities devoted to the pursuit of knowledge, through instruction, research and service. The University exists as a community of students, faculty, administrators, and staff who provide, participate in and support these activities and programs. The University campus, facilities, properties and other resources exist to facilitate this educational mission.

The University has an inherent interest in developing policies to preserve and enhance the University's ability to function effectively and efficiently as an academic institution. These policies entail recognition of both rights and responsibilities for all members of the University community. These considerations make student conduct a legitimate concern of the University.

As a member of the University community, a student is entitled to the freedoms and rights guaranteed to students by the Constitutions of the United States and Louisiana. A student has a right to learn and benefit from an intellectual environment free of distractions.

Accompanying these rights are certain responsibilities. A student must abide by federal, state and local laws. A student is obliged to respect the rights of others. A student shall comply with valid institutional regulations, contribute to the order of the University's academic and administrative processes and uphold standards of decency and honor in all conduct. Only when individuals are responsible can their rights be assured. Freedom must be exercised responsibly in the context of recognized interest of others and the institution.

The policies and procedures in this Code are established to secure these ends. Such policies and procedures are fundamentally designed to help maintain a campus environment conducive to learning and other educational pursuits. This Code is intended to ensure the enjoyment of students of all proper rights, without undue infringement by others. This Code is a means of attainment to the University's educational mission by protecting the institution's processes, resources and constituent community.

General authority in the governance of students enrolled at Northwestern State University is delegated to the University President by the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors. Within the scope of this authority and further delegation to the Dean of Students, this Student Code of Conduct is enforced for Northwestern State University.

# CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code shall be published and made available to all students attending the University. Upon admission, a student shall be deemed to have accepted the conditions and obligations stated herein, in addition to all other applicable University regulations which have been or may be issued and published by proper authority. This Code shall apply to all student groups, whether formally or informally organized and whether recognized by the University or not.

In addition to conduct on University property, conduct off campus shall be fully within the scope of this Code, when applicable. Criminal or civil proceedings may be instituted against a student or student organization, but shall not prevent the disciplinary process involving such student or student organization under this Code. The University shall not be bound by the outcome of criminal and civil proceedings in the University's determination of whether misconduct did or did not occur or in the selection of an appropriate sanction. In regard to conduct by a student which may be the subject of criminal or civil action, the University shall have the discretionary right to proceed under this Code against the student or student organization before, during the pendency of, after the final disposition of such action, or in the absence thereof. The University shall resort to the disciplinary process only where the alleged conduct directly and/or adversely affects the mission of the institution or the campus community.

The University may exercise jurisdiction off-campus when:

- a. The complainant of such offense is a member of the campus community (student, faculty, staff, administrator, contractor); or
- b. The offense occurred at University sponsored or sanctioned event (Greek houses, athletic events, co-op program); or
- c. The respondent used his or her status as a member of the University community to assist in the commission of the offense (i.e., using another student's I.D. card to gain access into the WRAC); or
- d. The offense seriously impairs the pursuit of the University's objectives (armed drug dealer arrested downtown).

## ARTICLE II • Definitions

To enhance the understanding of this Code and protect the due process right of students, the terms and phrases of this Code are herein defined.

### SECTION 1.0 Terms

- 1.1 **Attorney:** An attorney licensed to practice law in the state of Louisiana.
- 1.2 **Conference:** A meeting conducted by the Student Conduct Officer, Title IX Coordinator, or designated representative at which the student is verbally informed of an allegation that he/she has committed an infraction of this Code of Conduct and the student is provided an op-