

University of Pittsburgh



Student Code of Conduct

Division of Student Affairs

www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/conduct

Contact Information

For questions or information regarding the Student Code of Conduct, the Conduct Process and Procedures, or the Level I Appeals process, please contact:

Office of Student Conduct 738 William Pitt Union 412-648-7910
usjs@pitt.edu

For questions or information regarding the Level II Appeals Process, please contact:

University Review Board Moderator 801 Cathedral of Learning 412-624-4222
urbmoderator@pitt.edu

For questions or information regarding Title IX, please contact:

Title IX Office, part of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion
titleixcoordinator@pitt.edu 2nd Floor Webster Hall 412-648-7860

Notice: New policy and procedure related to Title IX goes into effect August 14, 2020. Content related to this new policy and procedure has not yet been added to the Student Code of Conduct.

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Introduction

Being a member of the University of Pittsburgh community is a privilege. This privilege comes with the responsibility to act in accordance with all institutional rules and policies. This *Student Code of Conduct (Code)* provides information on behavioral expectations and outlines the process used to address Violations of these expectations.

The Board of Trustees has the authority to establish regulations and standards for Students. Responsibility for these regulations and standards is delegated to the Chancellor and in turn to specified administrative officials. The Board of Trustees and University administrators acknowledge and affirm the rights and responsibilities of Students – as members of society, as guaranteed by Federal and State Constitutions, and as expressed by federal, state, and local laws.

The *Code* is subject to change at the discretion of the University. All Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and are required to abide by the provisions of the current *Code*. To ensure you have the most recent version, please visit www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/conduct/. Copies of the *Code* are also available at the Office of Student Conduct, 738 William Pitt Union.

This *Code* is *not a contract*.

Academic integrity issues fall within the authority of the University's individual academic departments and their Academic Integrity Policies.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of Pittsburgh values equality of opportunity and prohibits unlawful discrimination. Find the full Notice of Non-Discrimination at:

<https://www.policy.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/Policies/Community-Standards/Policy%20CS%2007.pdf>

Application, Scope, and Jurisdiction of the *Code*

This *Code* addresses Student behavior. Students and/or Registered Student Organizations may be charged with *Code* Violations. Additionally, individual members of Registered Student Organizations may be held accountable for *Code* Violations when they participate in any Violation committed by the Registered Student Organization.

Students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible members of the University community. Students who violate the *Code* will be subject to disciplinary action by the University when such conduct takes place on University Property or in the course of a University-sponsored or University-supervised activity.

In addition, conduct off-campus may be subject to disciplinary action by the University if that conduct: 1) threatens the health, welfare, safety, or educational environment of the University community or any individual member thereof, or otherwise disrupts the neighboring environments; and/or 2) is considered by

the University to be a serious offense that would negatively reflect upon the Student's character and fitness as a member of the Student body; and/or 3) is an incident occurring within the University of Pittsburgh Police jurisdiction.

Regional campuses may also have campus-specific policies and procedures which should be consulted as applicable.

Student Conduct Record Retention Policy

The Office of Student Conduct maintains conduct records for a period of seven (7) years from the date of the incident, however, for all pending incidents and incidents resulting in University Housing Dismissal, Disciplinary Suspension or Disciplinary Dismissal, the conduct record will be maintained permanently.

CHAPTER 1: Student Rights and Responsibilities

Student Rights Within the University Community

With the approval of the Board of Trustees, the University affirms the following Student rights and privileges:

- ◆ To engage in discussion, to make inquiries, to exchange thought and opinion, to publish and exchange findings and recommendations, to speak, write, or print freely on any subject, and to sponsor speakers of their choice, in accordance with the guarantees of our Federal and State Constitutions, subject only to the right of the University to make reasonable rules and regulations related thereto.
- ◆ To associate with whomsoever, they please.
- ◆ To engage in the educational process.
- ◆ To engage in peaceful, orderly, and nondestructive picketing, protests, and demonstrations, to the extent they do not violate public law and do not interfere with the educational process or the rights of other members of the University.
- ◆ To be free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, disability, or status as a veteran.
- ◆ To be secure in their persons, living quarters, papers, and effects from unreasonable, illegal, or unauthorized searches and seizures; and in the event of a legally authorized search, whenever possible to have present an official of the University and the Student against whom the legally authorized search is directed.
- ◆ To be free from violence, force, the threat of force, entrapment, and coercion.
- ◆ To organize one's own personal behavior as long as such behavior does not violate public law or the rights of others and does not interfere with the educational process.
- ◆ To be informed of the standards and the norms of conduct established by the University and the right to have advance notice of any Sanctions for Violations thereof.
- ◆ To have the benefit of fair and equitable procedures for determining the validity of charges of alleged Violations of the University standards of conduct. All procedures shall be structured to facilitate a reliable determination of the truth or falsity of charges while providing due process and fundamental fairness to all persons.
- ◆ To retain unaltered status as a member of the University community and to be present on campus and attend classes during the consideration of any disciplinary matter, except for reasons relating to the safety and well-being of members of the University community or University Property or a Student's physical or emotional safety and well-being.
- ◆ To petition for redress of a grievance arising from negligent, malicious, or irresponsible actions of a member of the University community.
- ◆ To have University records reflect only such information as is reasonably related to the educational process of the University.
- ◆ To be informed of the existence, custodianship, and general character of all personal records maintained by the University.
- ◆ To inspect all personal records, except records determined to be confidential in accordance with properly established criteria.

- ◆ To have protection from disclosure of personal records to unauthorized persons. Information will not be released outside of the University community without the expressed consent of or waiver by the Student involved, except under valid legal compulsion or where there is a clear and present danger to a member of the University community, in which case the Student will be informed of any such release.
- ◆ To establish and elect a representative democratic student government which is accountable to the University and the Student community.
- ◆ To be heard and have one's views considered at appropriate levels of the decision-making process within the University community.
- ◆ To use designated University facilities as individuals and members of Registered Student Organizations for extracurricular activities sponsored by Registered Student Organizations and Student groups, subject to the priority of academic needs and to reasonable University rules and regulations regarding use of facilities.

Student Rights under FERPA

The Notification of Rights under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is available at: <http://www.registrar.pitt.edu/ferpa.html>

Guardian Notifications for Drug and Alcohol Violations

FERPA permits the University to notify parent(s)/guardian(s) when a Student who is under the age of twenty-one (21) is found responsible for or admits to an alcohol or drug Violation.

Notification to parent(s)/guardian(s) of such Violations is part of a strategy to connect parent(s)/guardian(s) with appropriate University representatives to reduce the risk of University Students developing patterns of behavior that may jeopardize their academic success, health, or well-being. Under special circumstances, professional staff at the University may use their discretion to determine whether or not this notification is in the best interest of the Student.

When and how parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified:

Parent(s)/guardian(s) may be notified via a written letter when the appeals period has ended, and a Student is found responsible for an alcohol or drug Violation. This does not include Students who are sanctioned solely for being "knowingly present" during drug and/or alcohol Violation(s).

Who should parents/guardians contact if they have any questions?

The Guardian Notification Letter will identify who to contact for additional information. Before calling for more information, the University encourages parent(s)/guardian(s) to speak to their Student to see if the Student requires any assistance and to encourage the Student to make responsible choices that will help the Student avoid future conduct Violations. If parent(s)/guardian(s) want to speak with staff, they should have their Student provide written permission to the staff member who signed the guardian notification letter.

Student Identification Requirements

Students are required to carry valid University ID (Panther cards) at all times. Students are required to present valid University ID when requested by an authorized University official. Additionally, all residence hall Students must carry, and present, valid University ID to gain access into their assigned residence halls.

Communication Requirements

Hearing Officers will communicate with students primarily via University-sponsored email accounts. Students are responsible for checking their University email accounts on a regular basis.

CHAPTER 2: Medical Amnesty

The University of Pittsburgh's primary concern is for the health, safety, and well-being of Students. All Students are expected to seek immediate assistance for themselves or others in situations where someone is experiencing an emergency due to alcohol or other drug use. Failure to summon, or limiting the ability of someone else to summon, emergency assistance for a Student experiencing an emergency due to alcohol or drug use, may result in University and/or criminal charges.

Scope:

1. **Medical Amnesty applies when the allegations under the Code of Conduct involve** violations related to consumption or possession of alcohol or drugs and/or any other alcohol or drug violation.
2. **Medical Amnesty eliminates responsibility for Code Violations outlined above for the** reporter and/or the individual experiencing the medical emergency.
3. **Medical Amnesty mitigates University conduct consequences for** Registered Student Organizations that call for emergency assistance.

Medical Amnesty does not prevent disciplinary action for other Violations of the *Code*, including, but not limited to unlawful distribution of alcohol or other drugs, harassment, hazing, possessing or using false identification, causing or threatening physical harm, sexual misconduct, or damage to property.

Medical Amnesty Process

In order for Medical Amnesty to apply to the reporter, the reporter must complete the following steps:

1. Contact appropriate University or emergency officials, identify themselves and report the incident.
2. Remain with the individual(s) needing assistance until emergency officials arrive.
3. Cooperate with University and emergency officials as requested.
4. Complete all assigned programs or interventions within the designated time frame.
5. Notify the Hearing Officer responsible that all steps have been completed. Medical Amnesty may not apply until verification of completion has occurred.

In order for Medical Amnesty to apply to the individual who experienced the medical emergency, this individual must complete the following steps:

1. Cooperate with University and emergency officials as requested.
2. Complete all assigned programs or interventions within the designated time frame.
3. Notify the Hearing Officer responsible for your case that all steps have been completed. Medical Amnesty may not apply until verification of completion has occurred.

Even when Medical Amnesty applies, the University and/or the Student may need to disclose information regarding the application of Medical Amnesty, including but not limited to study abroad programs, potential employers, professional governing bodies (ex. Bars or Medical Boards), or another University through an admissions process. While the main goal of Medical Amnesty is to encourage Students to make healthy decisions and to seek medical attention when they or one of their peers are in distress, repeated requests for Medical Amnesty will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Application of Medical Amnesty by the University does not prevent criminal action by police or civil action by third parties. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania drug and alcohol Good Samaritan and Response Immunity laws may be applicable.

CHAPTER 3: University of Pittsburgh Anti-Hazing Policy

Hazing at the University of Pittsburgh is considered a Violation of the University's Anti-Hazing Policy and *Code* and is absolutely prohibited. Hazing may also be considered a criminal act in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

For purposes of this definition, any activity as described in this definition upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be "forced" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding. Therefore, any Student who causes or participates in hazing may be subject to appropriate University discipline and/or may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Hazing is defined as follows:

Hazing

A person commits hazing if the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a minor or student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a minor or student's membership or status in an organization, causes, coerces or forces a minor or student to do any of the following:

- (1) Violate Federal or State criminal law;
- (2) Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the minor or student to a risk of emotional or physical harm;
- (3) Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics or exposure to the elements;
- (4) Endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment;
- (5) Endure brutality of a sexual nature;
- (6) Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the minor or student.

Aggravated Hazing

A person commits aggravated hazing if the person commits a Violation of hazing that results in serious bodily injury or death to the minor or student and:

- (1) the person acts with reckless indifference to the health and safety of the minor or student; or,
- (2) the person causes, coerces or forces the consumption of an alcoholic liquid or drug by the minor or student.

Organizational Hazing

A Registered Student Organization commits organizational hazing if the organization intentionally, knowingly or recklessly promotes or facilitates a Violation of hazing or aggravated hazing.

Students and others are encouraged to report incidents, and suspected incidents of hazing. Reports may be made to the University Police (412-624-2121), the Office of Student Conduct (412-648-7910) or the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (412-648-7832).

Although the University encourages students and others to make formal reports, you may file an anonymous report with the University Police online at <http://police.pitt.edu/anonymous-tip-line>. Anonymous reports greatly limit the University's ability to respond to and investigate the report.

Hazing related to any University of Pittsburgh athletics teams may also be reported to the Director of Athletics at 412-648-8230 or the Associate Athletic Director for Student Life and Compliance at 412-648-8452.

CHAPTER 4: Violations of the Student Code of Conduct¹

A Violation is committed when a Student or a Registered Student Organization:

1. Fails to comply with guidance set forth by the University, federal, state and/or local authorities regarding public health and/or safety.
2. Engages in conduct which is disorderly, lewd, or indecent or a breach of peace; or aids, abets, or procures another to do the same.
3. Possesses, consumes, or is under the influence of alcoholic beverages if under the age of 21, or dispenses alcoholic beverages to an individual who is under the age of 21.
4. Is knowingly present during the commission of the Violation(s) of "possesses or consumes alcoholic beverages if under the age of 21 or dispenses alcoholic beverages to an individual who is under the age of 21."
5. Consuming, carrying, or possessing an open container of alcoholic beverages in the public right-of-way, or on private property without the consent of the landowner or tenant, except as permitted by law.
6. Operates a motor vehicle while impaired by or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
7. Uses, misuses, possesses, distributes, manufactures, sells, or is under the influence of narcotics, hallucinogens, dangerous drugs, controlled or illicit substances except as permitted by law, or possesses paraphernalia which can be demonstrated to be linked to drug activity, such as pipes with drug residue. The use or possession of marijuana (medical or otherwise) in the workplace and on campus is restricted by federal laws, such as the federal Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and the Drug-Free Workplace Act. Accordingly, the University of Pittsburgh prohibits the use or possession of marijuana on campus.
8. Is knowingly present during the commission of Violation(s) of "uses, misuses, possesses, distributes, manufactures, sells, or is under the influence of narcotics, hallucinogens, dangerous drugs, controlled or illicit substances except as permitted by law, or possesses paraphernalia which can be demonstrated to be linked to drug activity, such as pipes with drug residue."
9. Without authority or consent, limits, or restricts the freedom of a person to move about in a lawful manner.
10. Physically abuses, injures or endangers a person's health, welfare or safety.

¹ Please note that just because the expression of an idea or point of view may be offensive or inflammatory, it is not necessarily a Violation of the Code. The University values freedom of expression and the open exchange of ideas, and the expression of controversial ideas and differing views is a vital part of the University's mission.

11. Threatens, intimidates, coerces, or uses physical force in a manner which causes another person to be reasonably apprehensive or which endangers a person's health, welfare or safety.
12. Harassment. Harassment may occur through verbal, physical, or electronic means when: 1. The conduct is severe or pervasive and objectively and subjectively has the effect of: a. Unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or equal access to education; or b. Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or academic environment; or 2. Such conduct, if repeated, is reasonably likely to meet the standard set forth in number 1 immediately above. Harassment can occur on University premises or, under limited circumstances, off campus. It can occur between people of the same or different protected group statuses.
13. Violates the [University of Pittsburgh Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) including, but not limited to:
 - a. Sexual Assault
 - b. Relationship Violence
 - c. Sexual Harassment
 - d. Stalking/Cyberstalking
14. Assists in the Violation of the [University of Pittsburgh Sexual Misconduct Policy](#).
15. Violates the University of Pittsburgh [Anti-Hazing Policy](#).
16. Assists in the Violation of the University of Pittsburgh [Anti-Hazing Policy](#).
17. Operates an unregistered Student Organization, including, but not limited to fraternities/sororities and club sports, or organizes or sponsors any event or activity that promotes or gives the impression or appearance that the group is a Registered Student Organization.
18. Providing assistance to or in any way perpetuating the activities of an Underground Group. An "Underground Group" is defined as a formerly recognized Registered Student Organization or group that has lost or been denied university registration or recognition or dissolved as a consequence of responsibility for Code and/or other policy Violations, even if operating under a different name.
19. Violates or assists in the Violation of any University policy, procedure or guideline including, but not limited to the following:
 - a. [University of Pittsburgh Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy](#)
 - b. [University of Pittsburgh Registered Student Organization Registration Guidelines](#)
 - c. [University of Pittsburgh William Pitt Union Student Alcohol Policy](#)
 - d. [University of Pittsburgh Drug Free Workplace/Drug Free Schools Policy](#)
 - e. [University of Pittsburgh Smoking Policy](#)
 - f. Any [Fraternity and Sorority Life policy](#)
 - g. Housing and Dining Services Contract, any [Registered Student Organization policy](#), the [Club Sports Handbook](#)
 - h. Any [Computing Services and Systems Development Policy](#)
 - i. Any provision of the [University of Pittsburgh Posting and Chalking Guidelines](#)
 - j. Any provision of the [University of Pittsburgh Demonstration Guidelines](#)

- k. Any other University policy, procedure, or guideline whether or not listed in the *Code*
20. Violates any provision of the [Residential Handbook](#), including, but not limited to:
 - a. Quiet Hours Policy
 - b. Visitation Policy
 - c. Possession of Prohibited Items
 - d. On-Campus Housing Alcohol Policy
 - e. Other
 21. Obstructs, interferes with, or denies another Student's Rights and Responsibilities affirmed by the Board of Trustees (please see the Rights listed in [Chapter 1](#)).
 22. Uses, possesses, or manufactures firearms, explosives, weapons, fireworks or other dangerous articles or substances injurious to person or property, while on University Property.
 23. Activates emergency warning equipment or communicates false information regarding any emergency situation.
 24. Abuses, removes, damages, or alters fire safety equipment, security equipment, and/or exit signs.
 25. Ignites or burns materials, including but not limited to incense and candles, without proper authorization, while on University Property.
 26. Throws anything from windows, balconies, patios, or any other area of any University building.
 27. Affixes, implants, or otherwise fastens any object to any University Property floors, ceilings, windows, or walls which might stain, scar, vandalize, or otherwise cause damage to said property.
 28. Without proper authorization, lends, possesses, abuses, damages, destroys, removes, (mis)uses, misappropriates, or sells the property of another, including, a business or the University.
 29. Obtains the personal information of another person by misrepresentation or fraudulent means.
 30. Without proper authorization enters or uses property of another, a business, or the University.
 31. Forges, alters, takes possession of, duplicates, or uses documents, records, keys, identification, or computer accounts without proper authorization.
 32. Fails to present University identification or gives false identification or identifying information upon the request of an authorized University official.
 33. Falsifies information or records submitted to a University official or office.

34. Fails without just cause to comply with the lawful direction of a University official, or other lawful authority having just cause and acting in the performance of their duties and authority.
35. Engages in solicitation of any type (including non-University commercial activity) on University Property unless approved in advance by an appropriate University official.
36. Participates in the sale or misuse of class materials including but not limited to: recordings, papers, examinations or any other class materials.
37. Disrupts or prevents the peaceful and orderly conduct of classes, lectures, quiet study, speaker presentations, and/or meetings or deliberately interferes with the freedom of any person to express their views.
38. Engages in any act or preparation intended to result in a Violation of this *Code*, which, if not prevented, would have resulted in the completion of the act intended.
39. Obstructs or interferes with the apprehension or discipline of another Student who may be involved in a commission of a Violation of the *Code*.
40. Intimidates, coerces, influences, or retaliates or attempts to do the same against a person who is participating or has participated in any University process or proceeding.
41. Disrupts or interferes with the conduct process.
42. Makes or distributes any unauthorized audio or video recording of any person in Violation of federal, state, or local law, or without their prior authorization.
43. Engages in games of chance in Violation of federal, state, or local law.
44. Violates any federal, state or local law(s), or while abroad, violates any international law(s).

CHAPTER 5: Process and Procedures: From Referral to Resolution (for Title IX matters, please see [Chapter 6](#))

Student Rights Within the University Community

Student Rights Within the University Community are listed in [Chapter 1](#) of this *Code*.

Commonly Used Terms

Adjudication: Completion of any investigative or hearing process and/or any accompanying Appeal process.

Complainant: A University community member who files a referral that alleges a Violation of the *Code*.

Conduct Referral: A report alleging Violations of the *Code*.

Level I Hearing: A meeting to determine an alleged Violation of the *Code* where a Respondent may receive a Sanction up to and including Disciplinary Probation or Housing Suspension.

Level II Hearing: A meeting or series of meetings to determine an alleged Violation of the *Code* where a Respondent may receive a Sanction up to and including Disciplinary Dismissal.

Respondent: Student/Registered Student Organization alleged to have violated the *Code*.

University Member: Any individual affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh

Process and Procedures

A. Filing a Conduct Referral

The University's Conduct Process is initiated when a University member files a Conduct Referral against a Student/Registered Student Organization alleging that there has been a Violation of the *Code*.

Any member of the University community who has witnessed, has been subject to or has knowledge of a potential Violation of the *Code* may contact the Office of Student Conduct to complete a Conduct Referral.

Conduct Referrals which allege Violations of the University's Sexual Misconduct Policy or Title IX will proceed under [Chapter 6](#) of this *Code*.

B. Review of the Conduct Referral and Initiation of the Conduct Process

Once a Conduct Referral is submitted, the Director of Student Conduct or their designee will determine whether the behavior alleged in the Conduct Referral, if substantiated, would constitute a *Code* Violation. In some instances, the Director of Student Conduct or their designee may need to meet with the alleged Respondent prior to making this determination.

If it is determined that the Conduct Referral alleges a *Code* Violation, the Director of Student Conduct or their designee will decide if the Conduct Referral will proceed under the Level I or Level II Process. Once this determination is made, the Director of Student Conduct or their designee will notify the Respondent of the next steps in the conduct process by sending an email to the Respondent's University e-mail address.

Most Conduct Referrals proceed under the Level I Hearing Process and are heard by the Office of Student Conduct, the Student Conduct Peer Review Board or Residence Life staff (collectively hereinafter referred to as “Hearing Officers”). Generally, after filing the Conduct Referral, Complainants do not participate in the Level I Hearing Process.

The Level II Hearing Process is facilitated by the Office of Student Conduct. This process is followed when:

1. The alleged Violations may result in Sanctions including, Disciplinary Suspension, Disciplinary Dismissal, or Dismissal from University Housing; or
2. The Respondent is a Registered Student Organization; or
3. Deemed appropriate by the Office of Student Conduct.

C. Interim Action

Prior to initiation of the conduct process, the Dean of Students or their designee may take limited or temporary action to protect the health, safety or well-being of the University community and/or to help ensure the effective functioning of the University. Examples of behavior that may lead to interim action by the University may include, but are not limited to, being charged with a serious criminal offense, physical violence, sexual assault, significant disruption of the educational or living environments of the University, significant damage to property, and possession and/or distribution of controlled substances. The Dean of Students or their designee will make reasonable efforts to give the Student an opportunity to respond to the alleged offense.

Interim action remains in effect only as long as the Dean of Students determines there is a need for such action **or** until the matter has been investigated, adjudicated, or otherwise resolved in accordance with the *Code*.

Interim actions may include suspension from the University, removal from University housing, suspension of privileges, and other similar measures.

Within ten (10) business days of an interim action, the Student/Registered Student Organization may request, in writing, that the Dean of Students reconsider the interim action. This request must include the reasons why the Student/Registered Student Organization believes the interim action should be lifted. The Dean of Students will consider the request and advise the Student/Registered Student Organization of any modification to the interim action within five (5) business days of the submission of the request. The interim action remains in place during the Dean of Students’ review.

Interim action does not replace the conduct process, which shall proceed as outlined in this *Code*.

D. General Information for Respondents and Complainants in both Level I and Level II Hearing Processes and Appeals

In addition to the [Rights](#) affirmed by the Board of Trustees, Respondents have the right to *decline to testify against themselves*. The Hearing Officer or the Level II Conduct Hearing Board will use a *preponderance of the evidence standard* (meaning more likely than not) when deciding if a Respondent is responsible for a Violation of the *Code*.

Legal rules regarding the wording of questions, hearsay, and opinions, as well as legal rules regarding admissibility of evidence will not be formally applied. Legal motions will not be entertained, but reasonable rules of relevancy will apply. Reasonable limits may be imposed on the number of factual and/or character witnesses and the amount of cumulative evidence that may be introduced.

Respondents/Complainants have the right to call witnesses during the hearing process.

If you have a disability and would like to request an accommodation during the conduct process, you are encouraged to contact both the Conduct Officer and Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, (412) 228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the process. DRS will engage in the interactive discussion and determine reasonable accommodations for the conduct process.

E. Support Person and/or Representative

While not necessary or required, Complainants and Respondents in both the Level I and Level II conduct process are permitted to have one representative from the University and/or one support person of their choice. The support person may accompany the party to any meeting or proceeding but may not stand in place of either the Complainant or the Respondent.

The representative may actively participate in the Level II Conduct Process but may not answer questions on behalf of the Complainant or Respondent. A Respondent's or Complainant's failure to secure a representative will not cause a Hearing to be postponed or canceled. Residence Life staff members cannot serve as representatives.

Throughout the conduct process, the Complainant and/or Respondent may request to review the Conduct Referral. Information regarding the processing of any referral will only be shared while the Complainant/Respondent is present.

Legal counsel shall be restricted to an advising role and may not directly participate.

If a Respondent chooses not to participate in any stage of the hearing process, Adjudication may proceed, and Sanctions may be imposed, or a Judicial Hold may be placed on the Student's account.

F. Level I Hearing and Appeal Process

Level I Hearing Process:

1. The Hearing Officer will read the alleged *Code* Violations and allow the Respondent to review the Conduct Referral.
2. The Respondent will have the opportunity to ask questions and to present relevant information through personal and/or witness testimony and/or documents.
3. The Hearing Officer(s) may ask questions regarding any information provided.
4. Using a preponderance of the evidence standard, the Hearing Officer will determine if the Respondent is responsible for violating the *Code* and if so, will inform the Respondent of the imposed Sanctions, either at the conclusion of the Level I Hearing or within a reasonable time thereafter.

5. If the *Respondent is found responsible for violating the Code*, the Respondent will have the option to:
 - a. Accept the findings and imposed Sanctions.
 - b. Accept the findings but reject and appeal the imposed Sanctions.
 - c. Reject the findings and imposed Sanctions and appeal both.
6. If the Respondent is *found not responsible* for violating the *Code*, no Sanctions will be imposed.
7. If the Respondent fails to attend the Level I Hearing, the Hearing may proceed in the Respondent's absence and Sanctions may be imposed or a Judicial Hold may be placed on the Student's account.

Level I Appeal Process

Respondents seeking to appeal a Level I Hearing must file an appeal form with the Office of Student Conduct within ten (10) business days of the date of the Hearing decision letter. The appeal form can be obtained by contacting the Office of Student Conduct.

The reason for appeal must fall within the scope of review. The scope of review shall be limited to statements and facts supporting one or more of the following questions:

1. Whether [Rights](#) affirmed by the Board of Trustees have been denied.
2. Whether established Level I Hearing procedures were not followed in a manner that would have significantly affected the decision.
3. Whether there was an absence of a rational connection between the facts found and the findings.
4. Whether the issued sanctions are substantially disproportionate to the severity of the Violation.
5. Whether new evidence is presented which was not available or discoverable during the Level I process that if available at the time would have significantly altered the findings or sanctions.

Once the Office of Student Conduct receives a request for an appeal, the Director of Student Conduct or their designee will review and notify the Respondent whether the appeal will be heard. If the appeal is to be heard, the Director of Student Conduct or their designee will notify the Respondent of the date, time, and place of the appeal meeting. Decisions following the appeal meeting are final.

G. Level II Hearing and Appeal Process

Level II Pre-Hearing Process

When a Conduct Referral falls under the Level II Hearing Process, the Office of Student Conduct will schedule a Disciplinary Conference with the Respondent. The purpose of the Disciplinary Conference, which may occur over a period of several meetings, is to 1) allow the Hearing Officer to discuss the alleged Violation(s) with the Respondent; 2) make recommended Sanction(s), taking as true all facts in the Conduct Referral; and 3) provide the Respondent the opportunity to choose their response to the Conduct Referral, as defined below:

- a. Accept responsibility for violating the *Code*, accept the recommended Sanction(s) and waive the Level II Hearing and Appeal Process.

- b. Proceed before the Level II Conduct Hearing Board for a Sanctions-Only Hearing.
- c. Proceed before the Level II Conduct Hearing Board for a Full Hearing.

If the Respondent elects to proceed with a Level II Hearing, a Hearing Officer will answer questions regarding the procedures and format of the student conduct process, will schedule the Level II Hearing, and will provide other assistance as appropriate.

Both the Complainant and Respondent will receive an e-mail notification of the date, time, and place of the Level II Hearing. If a party has been sent notice in accordance with the *Code*, and fails to appear at the scheduled date, time, and place, the Level II Hearing may be held in the party's absence.

Witnesses

The Complainant and Respondent may provide the Hearing Officer with a witness list, containing a brief description of each witness's proposed testimony. This description must be submitted to the Hearing Officer not less than ten (10) business days prior to the Level II Hearing date. It is the responsibility of the Complainant and Respondent to coordinate any witness's participation in the Level II Hearing. The Hearing Officer may provide reasonable assistance in facilitating any witness participation.

Where necessitated by fairness, the Hearing Officer may make arrangements for the recorded, telephonic, or written testimony for use in a proceeding.

Both Complainants and Respondents may review, not less than five (5) business days prior to the Level II Hearing date, any approved witness list submitted by the opposing party. To schedule such a review, Complainants and/or Respondents must contact the Hearing Officer to make an appointment.

Evidence

The Complainant and Respondent will have the opportunity to submit evidence that they intend to introduce at the Level II Hearing. Such evidence must be submitted to the Hearing Officer not less than ten (10) business days prior to the Level II Hearing date. Not less than five (5) business days prior to the Level II Hearing date, both the Complainant and Respondent shall have the opportunity to review all evidence that has been approved for use in the hearing. To schedule such a review, the Complainant and/or Respondent must contact the Hearing Officer to make an appointment.

Level II Hearing

The Director of Student Conduct or their designee will serve as the Hearing Moderator for all Level II Hearings.

The Hearing Moderator will convene the Level II Hearing and introduce the parties involved in the proceeding. The Complainant/Respondent, or their Representative as described above, may object to the participation of any member of the Level II Conduct Hearing Board or to the procedures, and the Hearing Moderator will make any necessary decisions regarding the validity of such concerns or objections. The Hearing Moderator shall read the alleged Violations.

The Complainant/Respondent or their Representative will have the opportunity to state their case, offer evidence, and call, question, and cross-examine witnesses. During any presentation, the Hearing Moderator and Level II Conduct Hearing Board Members also will have the opportunity to ask questions to the Complainant/Respondent or any of their witnesses.

At the conclusion of all testimony, the Complainant/Respondent or their Representative will be given the opportunity to offer a closing statement which may include information regarding the imposition of sanctions.

Deliberations for Sanctions-Only Hearing

1. The Level II Hearing will be concluded and all participants except the Level II Conduct Hearing Board will be dismissed.
2. The Level II Conduct Hearing Board will deliberate in private.
3. The Level II Conduct Hearing Board will create a written record of recommended Sanctions.

Deliberations for Full Hearing

1. The Level II Hearing will be concluded and all participants except the Level II Conduct Hearing Board will be dismissed.
2. Using the preponderance of the evidence standard, the members of the Level II Conduct Hearing Board will deliberate in private until a finding regarding responsibility is reached.
3. If the Respondent is found responsible, the Level II Conduct Hearing Board will deliberate to determine appropriate sanctions to recommend to the Dean of Students
4. The Level II Conduct Hearing Board will create a written record of findings and recommended Sanctions, if any.

Hearing Outcome

The Level II Conduct Hearing Board's findings and/or recommendation(s) will be sent to the Dean of Students. **The Dean of Students may increase, decrease, or otherwise change the recommended Sanction(s)** if they believe that the totality of circumstances, including but not limited to University precedent, justifies such a change.

The final decision of the Dean of Students shall be forwarded to the Respondent, as well as appropriate University officials.

Respondents have ten (10) business days from the date of the Dean of Students' decision letter to file petitions for appeal and for postponement of sanctions pending appeal. Prior to submission of the petitions for appeal, the Respondent may schedule an appointment with the Office of Student Conduct to review the conduct file.

Addressing Bias Incidents Through the Conduct Process

The University of Pittsburgh is committed to maintaining a campus environment free from unlawful discrimination and harassment. As such, all referrals filed with the Office of Student Conduct will be reviewed to determine if the reported information suggests or demonstrates that the alleged Code violation was motivated by bias. Any violation of the University of Pittsburgh Student Code of Conduct motivated by a University community member's race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, disability, status as a veteran or any other protected group status identified in the University's Non-Discrimination policy, will be deemed an aggravating circumstance, and will result in the issuance of an enhanced sanction up to, and including, disciplinary dismissal from the University, and/or the addition of educational sanctions designed to address the demonstrated bias.

Application of Sanction Enhancement

Process for Level I Referrals

If a referral contains information that the underlying conduct may have been motivated by bias, the referral will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct. At the respondent's hearing, a Hearing Officer will first determine whether the respondent is responsible for the alleged underlying Code violation. Upon a finding of responsibility, the Hearing Officer will identify appropriate sanctions for the underlying violation. To determine if the underlying Code violation was motivated by bias, the Hearing Officer will consider the referral and all information collected during the hearing. Upon a finding that bias was a motivating factor, the Hearing Officer will elevate the original sanction and/or add sanctions to the original sanction, in order to address the demonstrated bias.

Process for Level II Referrals

If a referral contains information that the underlying conduct may have been motivated by bias, the referral will first be discussed with the respondent at a disciplinary conference, as described under the "Level II Pre-Hearing Process" found on page 21 of this Code. During this disciplinary conference, the Hearing Officer will review all information contained in the referral and will discuss the alleged violations with the respondent. If the Hearing Officer, taking as true all facts contained in the Conduct Referral, finds that the alleged underlying Code violation was motivated by bias, the Hearing Officer will elevate and/or add to the sanction recommendation. The Respondent will then have the opportunity to choose their response to the Hearing Officer's recommended sanction in accordance with the steps outlined under the "Level II Pre-Hearing Process".

If the Respondent accepts the Hearing Officer's recommended sanctions, the Respondent will waive the Level II Hearing and Appeal Process and agree to complete all sanctions as directed.

If the Respondent elects a full hearing, the referral will proceed under the full-hearing process (See Chapter 5 of this Code). The Conduct Board will determine whether the Respondent is responsible for the alleged underlying Code violation(s). To determine if the underlying code violation was motivated by bias the Conduct board will consider the referral and all information collected during the hearing. If the Conduct Board finds that bias was a motivating factor for the Respondent's violation, the Conduct Board will recommend the application of Sanction Enhancement.

The Conduct Board will forward their findings and recommendation to the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students, considering the totality of circumstances and University precedent, will apply Sanction Enhancement.

If the Respondent accepts responsibility for the alleged underlying conduct violation, and elects a sanctions-only hearing, the referral will proceed under the sanctions-only hearing process (See Chapter 5 of this Code). The Conduct Board will consider the Respondent's acceptance of responsibility and will assign sanction(s) to the accepted violation(s). To determine if the underlying code violation was motivated by bias the Conduct board will consider the referral and all information collected during the hearing. If the Conduct Board finds that bias was a motivating factor for the Respondent, the Conduct Board will recommend the application of Sanction Enhancement. The Conduct Board will forward their findings and recommendation to the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students, considering the totality of circumstances and University precedent as may be applicable, will apply Sanction Enhancement.

Addressing Bias Reports that fall outside of the Conduct Process

There may be situations where a report is focused on an expression of language, ideas or points of view which an individual or a community found to be offensive or inflammatory, but where such expression does not rise to harassment and/or is not connected to any other underlying Code violation, or outside the protection of First Amendment rights. In these situations, where the reporting individual(s) or the community requests support, specially trained Student Affairs staff will review the reported information and will work with the reporting individual(s) and/or the community to address any negative impact through de-escalation, mediation and/or restorative justice practices.

Level II and Sexual Misconduct Appeal Process

Petition to Appeal and Petition to Postpone Sanctions

Appeal petitions related to Level II Hearings may be filed by Respondents. Appeal petitions related to Sexual Misconduct Violations may be filed by either the Complainant or the Respondent. Persons filing an appeal will have ten (10) business days from the date of the Hearing decision letter to file their petition with the University Review Board (URB), at URBModerator@pitt.edu. The appeal petition must include a thorough statement and all facts or evidence which support one or more of the following (Scope of Review):

1. Whether [Rights](#) affirmed by the Board of Trustees have been denied.
2. Whether established procedures were not followed in a manner that would have significantly affected the decision.
3. Whether there was an absence of a rational connection between the facts found and the findings.
4. Whether the issued sanctions are substantially disproportionate to the severity of the Violation.
5. Whether new evidence is presented which was not available or discoverable during the process that if available at the time would have significantly altered the findings or sanctions.

As discussed under University Review Board procedures, the URB Moderator and applicable URB members will make their determination of whether to proceed with an appeal based on submitted documentation only.

In addition, persons filing an appeal may also request postponement of sanctions pending appeal. Such requests must explain why the imposition of sanctions must be postponed. The question to be answered in determining whether to postpone Sanction(s) is, whether the immediate imposition or postponement of the

Sanction(s) will unfairly prejudice either party (the complainant or respondent), pending a final determination of the appeal.

All decisions regarding the postponement of Sanctions will be made within five (5) business days of the receipt of such a request and will be communicated to appropriate parties in writing through the URB Moderator.

URB Procedures for Reviewing Petition to Appeal

The URB Moderator, in consultation with one Student and one faculty member of the URB, will review petitions and determine whether the petition meets all requirements for filing an appeal; whether the petition raises a question within the Scope of Review; and, whether the appeal will proceed. In cases involving Sexual Misconduct, the URB Moderator will consult with two faculty members of the URB. The URB Moderator and applicable URB members will make their determination of whether to proceed with an appeal based on submitted documentation only.

Where the URB has determined that an appeal's petition does not fall within the Scope of Review, the URB Moderator and two URB members will render and submit a written opinion and recommended dismissal of appeal, accompanied by the record, to the Provost for review and consideration. Upon completion of this review and consideration, notice of the outcome will be given to the Respondent. In cases involving Sexual Misconduct, both the Complainant and Respondent will receive notice of the outcome of the review of the petition to appeal.

URB Procedures for Proceeding with an Appeal

Where it has been determined that a petition falls within the Scope of Review, the URB Moderator will notify the applicable parties that an appeal has been initiated.

The URB Moderator will then schedule an appeal proceeding. Applicable parties to the appeal proceedings will receive a copy of the appeal petition and procedures and written notification of the time, date, and place of the proceeding.

The appeal will be conducted under the procedural guidance of the URB Moderator, who also shall determine the composition of the URB panel.

The URB panel, in its discretion, may elect to decide an appeal based solely on the submission of documents from the applicable parties, without oral argument. The URB appeal process does not include testimony from witnesses.

If the URB, in its discretion, decides to allow oral argument, applicable parties will be given reasonable time to present their position. A party may refer to any records, documents, or recordings from a prior proceeding and may present written argument. A party may question the other about their argument, except in cases involving Sexual Misconduct. Members of the URB panel and the URB Moderator may question the parties.

The URB panel may remand a matter to the Office of Student Conduct or Title IX for further proceedings when the URB panel determines that there are insufficient written findings or prejudicial procedural error.

In other cases, the URB panel, by a majority, shall forward a written opinion, recommend action, and complete record to the Provost, or their designee. There may be an accompanying minority opinion.

Once a decision is made by the Provost or their designee, applicable parties will be notified.

Student Conduct Expungement

Giving current/former Students the opportunity to expunge a responsible finding for a conduct violation reflects the philosophy that Students learn from their interactions with the conduct process and that self-reflection and self-knowledge can produce change in individuals. Each case is unique, and the decision to approve an expungement will be based on individual circumstances.

Expungement Process

Current/former Students may apply to have a responsible finding of a conduct violation(s) expunged if the following criteria have been met:

- Two calendar years have elapsed since the incident date.
- The sanctions did not include Suspension or Dismissal.
- The student completed all sanctions on time.

Discretion to expunge a responsible finding for a conduct violation(s) rests with the Office of Student Conduct staff or designee. Applications for expungement are reviewed by the Office of Student Conduct staff or designee after the student has submitted a completed application for expungement along with any relevant supporting documentation, such as a reference letter, grade transcript, evidence of personal growth, a sustained commitment to abiding by the Student Code of Conduct and/or any other facts and circumstances the student would like the Office of Student Conduct to consider.

Additional Information about Expungements:

Even when a current/former student's responsible finding for a conduct violation is expunged, the University and/or the current/former Student may need to disclose information regarding the expunged responsible finding for conduct violation(s), including but not limited to, study abroad programs, a potential employer, a professional governing body (ex. a Bar or Medical Board), or another university through an admissions process.

If a Student violates a University policy after the responsible finding for a conduct violation(s) has been expunged, their expunged finding(s) will be reinstated.

Notice: New policy and procedure related to Title IX goes into effect August 14, 2020. Content related to this new policy and procedure has not yet been added to the Student Code of Conduct.

CHAPTER 6: Sexual Misconduct Process and Procedures Reporting Sexual Misconduct and University Response

This Chapter is a supplement to University Policy [06-05-01](#).

Complainant: A University community member who files a referral that alleges a Violation of the *Code*.

Respondent: Student alleged to have violated the *Code*.

Several options are available for you to report sexual misconduct.

- You may file a complaint with the University's [Title IX](#) Coordinator or any member of the Title IX Office. This office generally investigates complaints of sexual misconduct against faculty, teaching assistants (TAs), graduate student assistants (GSAs), and staff, as well as Students (**412-648-7860**).
- You may file a report through the Bias Report System on the Office of Diversity and Inclusion [Website](#).
- You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the Pitt police (**412-624-2121**) or City of Pittsburgh police (**911**).
- Although the University encourages Complainants to make formal reports as outlined above, you may file an anonymous complaint on the University of Pittsburgh Police Department Web site. See <http://police.pitt.edu/anonymous-tip-line>. Anonymous reports greatly limit the University's ability to respond to and investigate the report.

As part of the University's response to a report of sexual misconduct, and regardless of whether there has been a request for formal disciplinary or law enforcement action, the University may impose interim measures or offer accommodations to address issues that impact the Complainant or Respondent's educational, living or work environments. These interim measures can often be put in place very quickly, prior to the resolution of any referral, investigation, or criminal proceeding.

Once imposed, the University will take necessary action to enforce the implemented measures. Anyone who becomes aware of, or has a concern about a Student's failure to follow any University-imposed interim measure or accommodation, should report this concern to the Office of Student Conduct at 412-648-7910 or usjs@pitt.edu.

Interim Measures, Accommodations, and Resource Assistance for Complainants and Respondents

To quickly address a situation, the University, where it determines it is appropriate, may impose a wide-range of measures, or offer accommodations, on a limited or temporary basis, to any Complainant or Respondent. Such measures or accommodations may include:

- Any interim action as stated in [Chapter 5](#)
- A No Contact Order

- Change in University-related class or work schedules or job assignments
- Change in University-owned housing
- Assistance from University staff in completing housing relocation
- Assistance in addressing off-campus living arrangements
- Restricting a Student's access to certain University facilities or activities pending resolution of a matter
- Assistance with connecting to University's [Saferider](#) program
- Access to academic support services, such as, but not limited to, tutoring
- Rescheduling of exams and assignments
- Availability of alternative course completion options, including, but not limited to the opportunity to change class schedules by transferring course sections or withdrawing without penalty
- Voluntary leave of absence
- Any other interim measure or accommodation necessary and appropriate to facilitate the Complainant's or Respondent's access to educational opportunities
- Assistance with contacting the appropriate police department
- Access to counseling services, including assistance in arranging an initial appointment, on and/or off-campus
- Access to and assistance with obtaining necessary medical services
- Access to and assistance with connecting to pastoral care and support through University Chaplain's Office
- Assistance in contacting community resources such as Pittsburgh Action Against Rape or other support services
- Assistance in contacting legal resources such as County Bar Association Legal Referral, or other legal support
- Guidance and support with filing a report through the Title IX Office and/or through the criminal justice process.

Advisor or Support Person

Both a Complainant and a Respondent are entitled to one advisor or support person of their choice, and the advisor or support person may accompany the party to any meeting or proceeding under these processes. However, the advisor or support person shall not be permitted to participate directly in the Informal or the Formal resolution process. This includes advisors who are also attorneys. An advisor or support person may not stand in place of either the Complainant or the Respondent, and information regarding the progress of the inquiry or investigation will only be shared with the Complainant or Respondent, and not the advisor of choice. If the advisor or support person has any questions, they should contact the Title IX Coordinator, not the individual Title IX Specialist.

In keeping with the University's desire to resolve sexual misconduct complaints in a timely manner, the University reserves the right to proceed with any meeting regardless of the availability of the Student's advisor or support person.

Informal Resolution

The Informal Resolution process is a voluntary process, available to Complainants, which attempts to reach a resolution without initiating the Formal Complaint Process and a specific finding of a Policy and/or *Code* Violation. This process can include the application of Interim Measures, as referenced below. Under the Informal Resolution process, no disciplinary action is taken. Rather, a Title IX Specialist will review the facts and circumstances of the situation with the Complainant and based on the severity of the alleged incident make a determination on whether the Informal Resolution process is an appropriate response. In this process, the Title IX Specialist will contact the parties involved separately, review the allegations presented and develop an action plan to address the conduct.

A Complainant may choose to start with the Informal Resolution process in an attempt to resolve the issue and then choose to move to the Formal Complaint Process if needed or desired. A written record of any measures, meetings or communications from this Informal Resolution process will be kept on file in the Title IX Office. The Title IX Office maintains all informal resolution process records and files for seven years. Once an incident has been resolved through the Informal Process the matter is closed. A Violation of any action plan instituted under the informal resolution process may trigger the Formal Complaint process or disciplinary action under the *Code*.

The University will also consider additional interim measures appropriate to the situation at hand. When necessary, the University may make any “interim” measure permanent. The imposition of interim measures or accommodations does not affect the ability of the Complainant to pursue disciplinary action.

Formal Complaint Process and University-Initiated Investigations

The Formal Complaint process is initiated when the Complainant provides a signed statement that includes a brief description of the alleged incident and, to the extent known, the Respondent’s name(s) and the date, time and location of the incident (hereinafter “Complaint”). The Formal Complaint process may also be initiated by the University under appropriate circumstances and consistent with the University’s obligations under Title IX. The Formal Complaint process involves a prompt, and equitable investigation conducted by a Title IX Specialist or their properly trained designee (University Investigator). The investigation is a fact-finding process, giving all parties notice and the opportunity to be heard, to identify witnesses and offer evidence, and to pose questions to parties and witnesses. Interim measures may be applied at any time throughout the Formal Complaint process.

The Formal Complaint process will generally progress as follows:

1. Once the Complaint is received or the University otherwise initiates the Formal Complaint process, a University Investigator will interview the Complainant.
2. Following the completion of their interview with the Complainant, the University Investigator will notify the Title IX Coordinator as to whether or not the allegations set forth in the Complaint, if substantiated, would constitute a Violation of the University’s Sexual Misconduct Policy, and accordingly, a Violation of the *Code*.
 - a. If the University Investigator’s notification indicates that such allegations, if substantiated, would not constitute a Violation of University’s Sexual Misconduct Policy, the Title IX Coordinator, may dismiss the Complaint, and that decision shall be final, barring new information. The Title IX Coordinator shall provide the Complainant and Respondent(s) with written notice of such dismissal.

- b. In the event that the University Investigator's notification indicates that the allegations set forth in the Complaint, if substantiated, would constitute a Violation of University policy, or if the Title IX Coordinator determines that the matter should be investigated, the University Investigator will conduct a fact-finding investigation. Steps including in this investigation will include, as appropriate:
 - The Respondent will be provided with written notification of investigation, and be made aware that a Formal Complaint has been submitted to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The Respondent will be provided with an opportunity to review the Complaint at the University's Office of Diversity and Inclusion.
 - The University Investigator will meet separately with the Complainant and the Respondent(s).
 - The University Investigator will interview relevant witnesses and review relevant physical, documentary or other evidence.
 - As described below, each party will be given an opportunity to identify relevant witnesses. In order to have a prompt and equitable process, the investigator may provide deadlines for providing information. Delays in providing witness contact information and/or evidence may impact the University Investigator's ability to consider these elements.
3. The University Investigator may consider the credibility of the parties and witnesses and relevant information, including evidence of pattern. Both parties may provide information and names of witnesses to the University Investigator. The University Investigator will not apply rules of evidence followed in court proceedings and will not entertain legal motions. Legal rules pertaining to the wording of questions, hearsay, and opinions will not be applied. Reasonable rules of relevancy will guide the University Investigator in deciding on the admissibility of evidence and witness statements. Reasonable limits may be imposed on the number of factual witnesses and the amount of cumulative evidence that may be introduced.
4. After the Complainant(s) and/or Respondent(s) have been interviewed by the University Investigator, each will be provided with an opportunity to review a written summary of their own interview. The Complainant and Respondent will then have five (5) business days from the date the summary is made available to review their own interview summary and provide any comments or new evidence to the Investigator. Comments will be reviewed and retained in the investigative file but may not necessarily result in a change to the summary.
5. After the Investigator concludes gathering and evaluating evidence, including witness interviews, an investigation summary will be prepared. At this time, the Complainant and Respondent will have an opportunity to review, in the Title IX Office, the investigative summary. The investigative summary will include the relevant information provided by the Complainant, Respondent, and any witnesses, as well as other evidence gathered during the investigation which will be considered in making a determination regarding the alleged University's Sexual Misconduct Policy and/or *Code Violation*. Within five (5) business days of the date that the investigative summary was first made available for review, the Complainant and Respondent must submit verbally or in writing to the University Investigator any comments (including additional statements, proposed witness questions and additional evidence) concerning the summary. This portion of the investigation may be an iterative process.
6. Following the receipt of any comments on the investigative summary, or after the five (5) day period has lapsed without comment, the University Investigator will prepare a final written report

that includes the investigative summary and a determination of whether a Violation has occurred and a recommendation of the Sanction(s) to be imposed, if any. The final written report will include the basis upon which the University Investigator reached their determination of responsibility. This determination will be made using the preponderance of the evidence standard, asking whether it is more likely than not that the University's Sexual Misconduct Policy has been violated.

7. The report will be provided first to the Title IX Coordinator for review and input. After the Coordinator's review and input, the final report will be forwarded to the Dean of Students for approval of any recommended Sanctions. The Dean of Students will have discretion to accept or alter the recommended Sanction(s), if they believe that the totality of circumstances, including but not limited to University precedent, justifies such a change. Once the Dean has made a determination on Sanctions, either the Title IX Office or the Dean of Students will provide written notification of the completion of the Formal Complaint process, to both the Complainant and Respondent. At this time, a copy of the final Title IX report will be available in the Title IX Office for review.
8. Once the Dean of Students has made a determination on Sanctions, either the Title IX Office or the Dean of Students will provide written notification of the completion of the Formal Complaint process, to both the Complainant and Respondent. At this time, a copy of the final Title IX report will be available in the Title IX Office for review.
9. Both the Complainant and the Respondent may submit an appeal to the University Review Board within ten (10) business days from the date of the decision letter. See the [Level II Hearing Appeal Process](#).

The University's Prohibition of Retaliation

Retaliation against anyone involved in the investigation of alleged incidents of sexual misconduct, whether they are the Complainant, a witness, an investigator or anyone else, is prohibited. Retaliation is the act of taking adverse action against a Complainant, a Respondent, or any other person involved in the process based on the person's reporting or participation in the process. Retaliation includes behavior on the part of the Respondent or the Complainant and other related persons, including, but not limited to, acquaintances, friends, and family members. Although independent action will be taken against anyone engaging in retaliation, the Complainant and the Respondent are responsible for discouraging such actions and will also be held responsible to the extent of their involvement in the retaliation.

Retaliation will constitute separate grounds for disciplinary action. An individual who believes that they have experienced retaliation should contact the Title IX Office, and the University will investigate the complaint. If the University determines that evidence exists to support that retaliation occurred, appropriate action will be taken regardless of the outcome of the underlying sexual misconduct complaint. This may involve referral of the retaliation concerns to another University process for resolution.

To review the University's Statement on Confidentiality and Non-retaliation, please follow this link: <https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/make-report>. In addition to outlining the University's stance against retaliation, this statement also clarifies that all individuals involved in the investigation process are expected to honor the confidentiality of the process and the information involved.

Filing with External Agencies

Any person may file a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. Inquiries may also be directed to the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education at (800) 421-3481 or by email at OCR@ed.gov.

Appendix A: Sanctions

The University may impose a wide range of Sanctions for Violations of this *Code*. Any of these Sanctions may be used outside of the conduct process as an interim action to help ensure the health, welfare, safety, or educational environment of the University community or any individual member thereof, or to otherwise limit disruptions to the neighboring environments. Sanctions may be imposed by the Dean of Students or their designee. A record of imposed Sanctions will be maintained in the Office of Student Conduct and any other appropriate office(s) to which the Sanction(s) or interim action(s) apply.

If a Student fails to complete Sanctions, a Judicial Hold may be placed on the Student's account and/or the Student may face further disciplinary action. Registered Student Organizations that fail to complete Sanctions may face additional disciplinary action.

Some Sanctions may affect both University and non-University opportunities, including, but not limited to studying abroad, participation in a Registered Student Organization, and employment.

Individual Student Sanctions

Alternative Sanction — A mandated Sanction to be created and assigned.

Community Service — Events or activities in which Students provide unpaid assistance to a charitable or philanthropic organization. The Student is responsible for providing verifiable documentation that the community service has been completed. Any hours submitted by the Student to address a criminal court matter may not be used to fulfill University obligations.

Counseling Assessment — An assessment by the University Counseling Center, which may include recommendations for additional resources.

Disciplinary Dismissal — This action results in the permanent separation of the Student from the University, its programs and facilities. Upon Dismissal, the Student is placed on *Persona Non Grata* status from all University Property and is not permitted to enter or use University Property unless the Student receives permission from the Dean of Students or their designee.

In accordance with University Policy 09-05-08, there may be no financial adjustment made to tuition or fee charges for Students who are Disciplinary Suspended/Dismissed.

Disciplinary Hold — A restriction placed on a Student's account which may prevent activities, including, but not limited to, registering for classes and/or the issuance of a housing contract. A Disciplinary Hold permits the release of academic transcripts.

Disciplinary Probation — A designated period of time during which a Student’s status is conditioned upon future behavior. The issuance of additional sanctions may occur if the Student is found to be in Violation of any university regulation during the probationary period. During the probationary period, a Student may be excluded from representing the University in intercollegiate athletics, holding a Student officer or similar position, or other extracurricular University activities. Such loss of privilege(s) will depend on each individual set of circumstances.

Disciplinary Reprimand — A written and/or oral notice to students that their behavior violated the Student Code of Conduct.

Disciplinary Suspension — A termination or a restriction of a Student’s ability to register for classes for a period of time. During the Disciplinary Suspension, a Student is excluded from classes and all other University privileges or activities.

The Student will be Persona Non Grata from all University Property during the suspension and may not enter or use University Property unless the Student receives permission from the Dean of Students or their designee.

Prior to returning, the Student must contact the Office of Student Conduct to discuss the Student’s return to campus.

In accordance with University Policy 09-05-08, there may be no financial adjustment made to tuition or fee charges for Students who are Disciplinary Suspended/Dismissed.

Fines — A monetary Sanction.

A \$250 “host” fine may be imposed upon any Student who, in their residence, provides an opportunity for guest(s) to violate alcohol or drug policies or laws.

Information Technology Resource Probation — A designated period of time during which a Student’s access to university technology is conditioned upon a Student’s future behavior. The issuance of additional sanctions may occur if the Student is found to be in Violation of any university technology regulations during the probationary period.

Information Technology Resource Suspension — A temporary loss of part or all of a Student’s access to information technology resources for a specified period of time. No refund of any fees charged and applied to information technology resources will be made.

Information Technology Resource Termination — A permanent loss of part or all of a Student’s access to information technology resources. No refund of any fees charged and applied to information technology resources will be made.

Involuntary Change of Housing Assignment — A written directive to relocate a resident to an alternative housing accommodation within a specified period of time which is imposed by the Dean of Students or their designee. Involuntary Change of Housing Assignment is imposed to help ensure the safety and well-being of a member of the University community, to help ensure the Student’s own physical or emotional safety or well-being, to protect the security and structure of University Property, or to help ensure that a building/floor has a community environment that is conducive to academic success.

Judicial Hold — A restriction placed on a Student’s account, which may prevent activities, including, but not limited to, registering for classes, obtaining enrollment or degree verification, receiving an official transcript, and issuance of a housing contract.

Letter of Apology — A written statement of apology for action (s) or behavior.

Marijuana 101 — MJ 101 consists of online education, and a one-hour meeting. To schedule MJ 101, please email shsohep@pitt.edu OR call 412-383-1830.

Marijuana 102 — MJ 102 consists of several one-on-one meetings, one hour in length. To schedule MJ 102, please email shsohep@pitt.edu OR call 412-383-1830.

No Contact Order — A directive to cease and desist from any intentional contact, direct or indirect, with one or more designated persons or group(s) through any means, including, but not limited to personal contact, e-mail, telephone, texting, social media or any electronic or other means, or through third parties. Should the Student fail to cease contact, the Student will be subject to additional action, up to and including suspension and/or dismissal from the University. Additionally, failure to follow the No Contact Order may result in criminal arrest or the initiation of criminal action. No Contact Orders may be issued outside of the conduct process. In these instances, the No Contact Order would not be considered a Sanction.

University Housing Dismissal — A termination from any University owned and/or University contracted housing.

University Housing Probation — A designated period of time during which a Student’s residence in University owned housing and/or University contracted housing is conditioned upon future behavior. The issuance of additional sanctions may occur if the Student is found to be in Violation of any university regulation during the probationary period. During the probationary period, a resident may be excluded from participation in extracurricular on-campus housing activities, and may be excluded from holding any appointed or elected position within the on-campus housing community.

University Housing Suspension — A temporary loss of residence in university owned housing and/or University contracted housing for a specified period of time. The Student will be Persona Non Grata on all such housing during the period of suspension. This status means the Student will not be permitted to enter or use on-campus housing for visitation, meals, employment, or any other purpose. This status also includes exclusion from lobbies and patios. If the Student appears in any of the specified areas during the suspension period, the Student would be subject to arrest.

University Member – Any individual affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh including but not limited to all full- and part-time faculty, staff, students, visitors, volunteers, fellows, trainees, and interns on all campuses.

Persona Non Grata — An exclusion from a facility or area for a specified period of time or until otherwise notified. During this time, the Student is excluded from a specified facility or area of the University and may not enter or participate in any function within the confines of the University area or facility. The Student will not be permitted to enter or use the specified University Property for visitation, meals, employment, or any other purpose. This status also includes exclusion from the specified property’s lobbies and patios. Should the Student appear in any of the specified areas, the Student will be subject to arrest.

Persona Non Grata may be issued outside of the conduct process. In these instances, the Persona Non Grata would not be considered a Sanction.

Personal Education, Assistance, and Referral Program I (PEAR) — PEAR I is an alcohol education course that consists of a class session and a one-on-one meeting. To register for PEAR I, please visit: www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/shs/education/pearclasses/ (using the link under “How to Register for PEAR I”). You can also call 412-383-1830 or email shsohep@pitt.edu.

Personal Education, Assistance, and Referral Program II (PEAR II) — PEAR II is an alcohol education course that consists of several one-hour, one-on-one meetings. To schedule PEAR II, please email shsohep@pitt.edu OR call 412-383-1830.

Restitution — A written directive to make specific compensation for property of another or the University, which was damaged, destroyed, or misused.

Suspension of Privileges — A loss of specific privileges for a specified period of time.

Termination of Privileges — A permanent loss of specific privileges.

Registered Student Organization Sanctions

Alternative Sanction — A mandated Sanction to be created and assigned.

Community Service — Events or activities in which members of the organization provide voluntary aid and assistance to a charitable or philanthropic organization. The Registered Student Organization is responsible for providing verifiable documentation that the community service has been completed.

Disciplinary Reprimand — A written and/or oral notice to a Registered Student Organization that its behavior violated the Student Code of Conduct.

Educational Programming — An educationally-driven Sanction to be created and assigned. The Registered Student Organization may be responsible for costs associated with the programming.

Fines — A monetary Sanction. This fine may be in addition to any restitution owed.

A fine up to \$1,000 may be imposed on any organization or individual member who has been found responsible for a fire safety Violation.

Group Alcohol Awareness Program (GAAP) — A program specifically designed for Registered Student Organizations to increase the awareness of issues with alcohol and other drugs through a presentation and discussions. The program also provides information on resources available for Students who may wish to get support for alcohol or other substance abuse or who may be in recovery. To schedule GAAP please email shsohep@pitt.edu OR call 412-383-1830.

Letter of Apology — A written statement of apology for an action or behavior.

Membership Review — The members shall be reviewed by the National organization and/or alumni to determine which members may continue their participation. If there is no National organization or alumni associated with the Registered Student Organization, then either the Student Organization Resource Center, Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, or the Office of Student Conduct will determine what individual and/or entity will manage the review.

Mock Social Event — A program designed to assist Registered Student Organizations in hosting a social event that complies with established risk management and social event policies.

Restitution — A written directive to make specific compensation for property of another or the University which was damaged, destroyed, or misused.

Restriction of Privileges — A loss of specific privileges for a specified period of time, including, but not limited to:

- a. Receive or retain University funds
- b. Participate in any intercollegiate activities
- c. Participate in any social event or other activities where alcohol is present
- d. Sponsor any speaker or guest on campus
- e. Educate new members
- f. Sponsor, co-sponsor, and/or participate in recruitment activities
- g. Use University vehicles
- h. Use University facilities
- i. Solicit and/or sell on campus
- j. Other loss of specified privileges

Risk Management Programming — Functions sponsored by a Registered Student Organization, which educate members of the organization and/or other organizations on successful event planning and management in adherence to University and any relevant National Risk Management policies. A programming plan must be pre-approved.

Social Probation — The loss of privileges to host, sponsor, co-sponsor, and/or participate in any social activities.

Suspension of Registration — A cessation of organizational operations for a specified period of time.

Termination of Registration — Revocation of registration of the Registered Student Organization's status or the chapter's charter as a recognized University fraternity or sorority, with no established date or conditions for reinstatement. The Registered Student Organization/chapter shall cease its operation at the University of Pittsburgh.

Appendix B: Title IX and Sexual Misconduct Resources and Information

The University of Pittsburgh values the safety and health of all members of the Pitt community and seeks to foster an environment in which Students and employees treat other persons with respect, civility, and dignity. Any behavior that involves sexual misconduct or harassment, relationship violence, or stalking of another person is prohibited. Sexual misconduct can be a Violation of criminal law, Title IX, other laws, and this *Code*.

The University has the authority to take disciplinary action for conduct occurring on campus and off campus when the conduct, among other things, effects the educational environment or threatens the safety of the University community. The University will provide a prompt, fair, and impartial investigation and resolution.

Getting Help

What to do if you are assaulted

IMMEDIATELY AFTER AN INCIDENT

• Physical Safety:

Your immediate safety is the top priority. As quickly as possible, find a safe place away from the perpetrator or any other potential danger.

You are encouraged to seek medical attention as soon as possible for your own physical health and to preserve all physical evidence. You can receive treatment at any medical facility, however, hospital emergency departments may be in the best position to treat you and collect physical evidence. Please note that not all hospitals employ trained sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE). Magee Women's Hospital generally has SANE nurses available. SANE nurses are registered nurses who have completed specialized education and clinical preparation in the medical forensic care of the patient who has experienced sexual assault or abuse. Also, be aware that all hospitals are required by law to report to the police any injury that is the result of a crime. This does not obligate you to file formal criminal charges.

• Preserving Physical Evidence:

In the aftermath of a sexual assault, although it may not be foremost on your mind, the preservation of evidence is strongly encouraged. Even if you do not think you want to pursue a criminal or civil proceeding, preserving evidence keeps your options open in case you change your mind. To preserve evidence, do not shower, douche, or change clothes or bedding before you seek medical attention. Also, if oral contact took place, do not brush teeth, smoke, or eat. Optimally, evidence collection should occur within 72 hours of the assault, but many hospitals will attempt to collect evidence 7-10 days after an assault. There are medical facilities in Oakland that can assist you:

- Magee Women’s Hospital of UPMC Emergency Room
300 Halket Street, **412-641-4933**
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) is generally available at this location.

- UPMC Mercy Hospital Emergency Department
1400 Locust Street, 412-232-8222
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) is generally available at this location.

- UPMC Presbyterian
Emergency Room
200 Lothrop Street, **412-647-3333**

- Student Health Service
Wellness Center, Nordenberg Hall
119 University Place, **412-383-1800**

- **Contact the Police:** You are strongly encouraged to call the University of Pittsburgh Police Department (**412-624-2121**) or the City of Pittsburgh Police at **911** and report the situation. The Police are trained and able to assist in obtaining other physical evidence, such as video surveillance.

- **Contact the SHARE Coordinator, at 412-648-7930** (8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday through Friday) or **412-648-7856** (after 5 p.m. and on weekends). The SHARE Coordinator will advise Students of reporting and resource options, and, if desired, can guide Students through the process of receiving a medical exam, and assist in notifying campus authorities or local police.

Confidentiality

The University encourages victims of sexual misconduct to talk to somebody about what happened and to seek the support they need to address their individual situations. Telling someone will also allow the University to respond appropriately.

You may have concerns about confidentiality, and you should know that different employees on campus have different abilities to maintain a Complainant’s confidentiality. *If you are still unsure about confidentiality requirements after reviewing the following explanation, please contact the Title IX Coordinator.*

The Different Types of Employees and Their Confidentiality Responsibilities

A. Privileged and Confidential Resources

- ***Pastoral Counselors***

Pastoral counselors are not required to report any information about an incident to the Title IX coordinator without a victim's permission.

The contact information for these individuals can be found at:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~chaplain/>

- ***Professional Counselors: University Counseling Center; Medical Staff, Counselors, and Advocates: Student Health Service (SHS)***

Both the University Counseling Center (UCC) and Student Health Service (SHS) keep reports of sexual misconduct confidential. However, they generally report de-identifying information to the University of Pittsburgh Police Department for Clery reporting purposes. This de-identified report – which does not include information that would directly or indirectly identify the Complainant – will include the nature, date, time, and general location of an incident.

Before filing any de-identified report, the UCC and SHS staff will take reasonable efforts to make sure that the report contains no personally identifying details.

In addition, a Complainant who speaks to a professional or non-professional counselor or advocate must understand that if they only want to share de-identified information, the University will unlikely be able to conduct an investigation into the particular incident or pursue disciplinary action against the Respondent.

However, the Complainant who at first requests that only de-identified information be shared, may later decide to file a complaint with the University or report the incident to local law enforcement, and thus have the incident fully investigated. The UCC and SHS counselors and other personnel will provide the Complainant with assistance if the Complainant wishes to do so.

Here is contact information for University Counseling Center and Student Health Service:

[Office of Sexual Harassment & Assault Response and Education \(“SHARE”\)](#)

Part of the University Counseling Center. Call 412-648-7930 (M-F 8:30am – 5:00pm) or 412-648-7856 after hours and weekends.

SHARE provides specialized counseling services designed to assist Students who have experienced sexual misconduct, dating violence, stalking and/or harassment.

[Student Health Service](#)

Call 412-383-1800 to schedule an appointment

The SHS can assess for pregnancy risk, test and treat for sexually transmitted diseases, and assess, treat and/or refer for physical injuries.

B. Exceptions to Confidential Communications

While the University Counseling Center and SHS personnel may maintain a Complainant’s confidentiality as described above, they may have reporting or other obligations under state law. For example, Pennsylvania law requires mandatory reporting to law enforcement in cases involving minors and certain crimes.

If the University determines that the Respondent(s) pose(s) a serious and immediate threat to the University community, the Department of Public Safety may be called upon to issue a timely warning to the community. Any such warning should not include any information that identifies the Complainant.

There are other times where the University may override a request for confidentiality. These are detailed below in “[Requesting Confidentiality](#)”.

C. Reporting to “Responsible Employees” and Confidentiality

Generally, all Pitt employees are responsible employees unless their job requires professional confidentiality, as in the case of mental health counselors, physicians, nurses, and clergy. A “responsible employee” is a University employee who has the actual or reasonably perceived duty to report or authority to help address incidents of sexual misconduct.

With respect to confidentiality, a responsible employee must report to the Title IX coordinator all relevant details about the alleged sexual violence shared by the survivor– including, if known, the names of the survivor and alleged perpetrator(s), any witnesses, and any other relevant facts, including the date, time, and specific location of the alleged incident.

To the extent possible, information reported to a responsible employee will be shared only with people responsible for handling the University’s response to the report. A responsible employee should not share information with law enforcement without the survivor’s consent or unless the victim has also reported the incident to law enforcement, or if there is a health or safety emergency. Please visit titleix.pitt.edu for additional information on responsible employee role.

Requesting Confidentiality from the Title IX Office

The Title IX Coordinator will evaluate requests for confidentiality.

Once the Title IX Coordinator receives notice of an incident, the Complainant may request that any disclosed information remain confidential and that no investigation into a particular incident be conducted or disciplinary action taken. The Title IX Coordinator will weigh this request against the University’s obligation to investigate all matters of sexual misconduct and to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all Students, including the Complainant.

If the University honors the request for anonymity, a Complainant must understand that the University’s ability to meaningfully investigate the incident and pursue disciplinary action against the Respondent(s) may be limited.

Although rare, there are times when the University may deny a Complainant’s request for confidentiality in order to help protect the greater campus community and provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all Students.

When weighing a Complainant's request that no investigation or discipline be pursued, the Title IX Coordinator will consider a range of factors, including, but not limited to, the following:

- The increased risk that the Respondent will commit additional acts of sexual or other violence, such as:
 - whether there have been other sexual misconduct complaints about the same Respondent;
 - whether the Respondent has a history of arrests or records from a prior University indicating a history of violence;
 - whether the Respondent threatened further sexual violence or other violence against the Complainant or others;
 - whether the sexual violence was committed by multiple Respondents;
- whether the sexual violence was perpetrated with a weapon;
- whether the Complainant is a minor;
- whether the University possesses other means to obtain relevant evidence of the sexual violence (e.g., security cameras or personnel, physical evidence);
- whether the Complainant's report reveals a pattern of perpetration (e.g., via illicit use of drugs or alcohol) at a given location or by a particular group.

Depending on the totality of the circumstances, the presence of one or more of these factors could lead the University to investigate and, if appropriate, pursue disciplinary action. If none of these or similar factors are present, the University will likely respect the Complainant's request.

If the University determines that it must investigate the incident, the University will inform the Complainant prior to starting an investigation and will, to the extent possible, only share information with people responsible for handling the University's response.

The University will remain ever mindful of the party's well-being and will take ongoing steps to protect both parties from retaliation or harm and work with the parties to create a safety plan. Retaliation, whether by Students or University employees, will not be tolerated. The University will also:

- assist both the Respondent and Complainant in accessing other available resources, academic support, counseling, disability, health or mental health services, and legal assistance both on and off campus;
- provide other security and support, which could include issuing an interim or permanent no-contact order, helping arrange a change of living or working arrangements or course schedules (including for the Respondent pending the outcome of an investigation) or adjustments for assignments or tests; and
- inform the Complainant of the right to report a crime to campus or local law enforcement and provide the victim with assistance if the victim wishes to do so.

Because the University is under a continuing obligation to address the issue of sexual violence campus-wide, reports of sexual violence (including non-identifying reports) will also prompt the University to consider broader remedial action. Such action may include increased monitoring, supervision or security in locations where the reported sexual violence occurred; increased education and prevention efforts, including to targeted population groups; climate assessment and victimization surveys; and/or revision of University policies and practices.

Public awareness events such as "Take Back the Night," the Clothesline Project, candlelight vigils, protests, "survivor speak outs" or other forums in which Students disclose incidents of sexual misconduct, are not considered notice to the University of sexual misconduct for purposes of triggering its obligation to

investigate any particular incident(s). Similarly, participation in a research study, or writing submitted for a class, are not considered notice to the University.

University Sexual Misconduct Resources Explained

The University's Office of Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Education (SHARE)

The University's SHARE office provides counseling to Complainants of sexual misconduct, assists Complainants in obtaining medical care, and offers support in all aspects of the recovery process. The office also coordinates the University's educational programs and active approach to preventing sexual misconduct on campus.

Seeking emotional support in the aftermath of sexual misconduct is very important for recovery. SHARE offers specialized counseling services designed to assist Students who have experienced sexual misconduct or harassment, relationship violence, and/or stalking by another person.

The SHARE Coordinator can be reached by phone at 412-648-7930 during business hours, or 412-648-7856 after 5 p.m. The SHARE Office is located in the Wellness Center on the second floor of Nordenberg Hall, 119 University Place. The SHARE Coordinator can also assist with referrals to additional specialized counseling services such as the University Counseling Center (UCC) (**412-648-7930**) and Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) (**1-866-363-7273**).

The University Counseling Center (UCC)

The UCC is the primary mental health service for Students enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh. The UCC offers a variety of mental health services to Students utilizing a short-term, time-limited approach, including assessment, counseling and psychotherapy services (individual, group, and couples), and psychiatric services.

The University of Pittsburgh Counseling Center is located in the Wellness Center on the second floor of Nordenberg Hall, 119 University Place, **412-648-7930**

Student Health Service

The University of Pittsburgh's Student Health Service provides ongoing confidential medical treatment for any physical problems related to an assault. The Student Health Service can assess for pregnancy risk, test and treat for sexually transmitted infections, and assess, treat, and/or offer/give referrals for physical injuries.

Student Health Service is located in the Wellness Center on the second floor of Nordenberg Hall, 119 University Place, **412-383-1800**.

Additional Resources

University of Pittsburgh Students can contact their resident assistant (RA), resident director (RD), or other residence life staff member for support (available 24 hours a day). Monday – Friday 8:30am – 5pm, 412-648-1200; after hours, call 412-648-1100.

Any member of the University community also may contact the University's Title IX coordinator at **412-648-7860** or at titleixcoordinator@pitt.edu. This office provides resources and investigates allegations of sexual misconduct.

Title IX Coordinator
University of Pittsburgh
2nd Floor Webster Hall
4415 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Phone: 412-648-7860
titleix.pitt.edu
titleixcoordinator@pitt.edu

If you do not want to call the police after an incident, but feel the need to leave the current environment, Pitt's SafeRider program may be able to provide transportation back to your residence by calling **412-648-CALL (2255)**. More information about SafeRider can be obtained at <http://www.pc.pitt.edu/transportation/saferider.php>.

Community resources include [Pittsburgh Action Against Rape \(PAAR\)](#) at **1-866-363-7273** and the [Center for Victims](#) at **1-866-644-2882**. Both organizations answer 24 hours a day. Both organizations provide an advocate/escort to accompany Complainants through the medical and/or legal process. Students who seek assistance from these organizations are not obligated to file criminal charges.

Title IX can refer parties to community resources who can assist with legal protections from abuse and intimidation.

Title IX explained

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, a Federal law, was historically associated with actual or perceived gender-based disparities in athletic programs. However, it is a far broader law. Title IX actually covers all aspects of educational and academic-related programming and prohibits gender discrimination. Importantly, Title IX prohibits sexual misconduct which may affect the educational or campus environment. The law provides that:

No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Title IX prohibits gender-based discrimination in all University of Pittsburgh programs and activities, including, but not limited to, recruiting, admissions, financial aid, academic programs, student services, counseling, guidance, advising, grievance procedures, discipline, course/class assignments, grading, recreation, athletics, housing, meal services, and employment.

Some Examples of Unlawful Practices Under Title IX Include:

- **Sexual Harassment** – unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

- **Sexual Misconduct** – rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual exploitation, sexual coercion, forcible fondling, and any other form of non-consensual sexual activity (including when an individual is not in a condition to give legal consent).
- **Stalking** – repeatedly following, harassing, threatening or intimidating another individual using such methods including, but not limited to, telephone, mail, electronic communication, and social media.
- **Domestic Violence** – in addition to physical abuse, also includes emotional, verbal and economic abuse.
- **Dating Violence** – in addition to physical abuse, also includes emotional, verbal and economic abuse.
- **Retaliation** – adverse academic, social, employment or other actions against anyone reporting a Violation or participating in an investigation of any Title IX allegation.

In addition to being considered discriminatory, *sexual violence is criminal activity*.

Definitions of Sexual Misconduct

A summary of important definitions related to sexual misconduct and relationship violence can be found on the Title IX website at <http://www.titleix.pitt.edu/policies-procedures>.

Title IX Contact information can be found here: <http://www.titleix.pitt.edu/resources/title-ix-and-sexual-assault-response-programs-contacts>.

Prevention

Prevention and Awareness Programs

The University has a comprehensive array of prevention and educational programs aimed at ending sexual assault and harassment, relationship (dating and domestic) violence, and stalking.

Peer Education

There are two organizations, SAFE and Panther WELL, with well-trained students that provide peer-to-peer educational programming.

SAFE (Sexual Assault Facilitation and Education)

The SAFE program is sponsored by the sexual violence prevention office within the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the SHARE program. Trained peer educators, present workshops to fellow students on topics including consent, healthy relationships, supporting survivors of sexual misconduct, bystander intervention and campus resources. The workshops are designed to provide students with the skills necessary to safely intervene in situations that could lead to violence, harassment or a bias incident. Available SAFE workshops include: Bystander Intervention, Supporting Survivors of Sexual Violence, Talk Dirty to Me (affirmative consent), and Healthy Relationships.

Learn More: <https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/education/title-ix-training/sexual-assault-facilitation-and-education-safe-peer-educators>

PantherWELL

PantherWELL Peer Health Educators, which is part of the Office of Health Education and Promotion, conduct health and wellness programs on campus, including programs that explore bystander intervention training, as well as various aspects of wellness and safety. Campus-wide sexual assault and consent awareness campaigns are conducted throughout the year—including the It’s On Us campaign—to educate students about the issues surrounding sexual assault through distribution of videos, social media messaging, and creative advertising.

studentaffairs.pitt.edu/shs/education/pantherwell

New and Transfer Students

Incoming students are required to attend mandatory programs during orientation week, where students are provided with information regarding University policies, expectations and resources.

Relationship Violence Awareness Month

Special events and programming take place every October to draw attention to relationship violence. Throughout the month, the University promotes training around healthy relationships.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

A variety of programs occur each spring during Sexual Assault Awareness Month with the goal of supporting survivors and providing education aimed at eradicating sexual misconduct on Pitt’s campus.

New and Ongoing Employee Education

Provided through both online and in-person modules, employees receive training on prevention and reporting sexual misconduct at orientation and on an annual schedule.

University Police Seminars

Members of Pitt Police are trained in responding to and investigating sex offenses, domestic violence, and stalking incidents. The Pitt Police provide special programs on sexual assault and other safety issues to student groups upon request.

Community Speakers

Pittsburgh Action Against Rape, the Women’s Center and Shelter and SETPoint provide regular training for University community members.

Bystander Intervention

First-year students are required to attend active bystander training, which plays an important role in helping to prevent sexual assault, harassment and bias incidents. Some examples include:

- speaking up when someone discusses plans to take sexual advantage of another person;
- confronting people who seclude or attempt to engage in sexual activity with people who are incapacitated;
- calling for assistance when you are concerned about a person’s safety or wellbeing.

Glossary

Adjudication: Completion of any investigative or hearing process and/or any accompanying Appeal process.

Complainant: A University community member who files a referral that alleges a Violation of the *Code*.

Conduct Referral: A report alleging Violations of the *Code*.

Consent: An informed decision made freely and actively by all parties to engage in mutually acceptable sexual activity. Consent is given by clear words or actions and may not be inferred from silence, passivity, or lack of resistance alone. Existence of a current or previous dating, marital, and/or sexual relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent to additional sexual activity. Consent to one type of sexual activity does not imply consent to other types of sexual activity.

Someone who is unconscious, asleep, or otherwise mentally or physically incapacitated, whether due to alcohol, drugs, or some other condition, cannot give consent. Consent cannot be obtained by force, intimidation, threat, coercion, isolation, or confinement. Agreement obtained under such conditions does not constitute consent. A person's use of alcohol and/or other drugs does not eliminate his or her responsibility to obtain consent.

Disciplinary Conference: A meeting with a Hearing Officer to discuss an alleged Violation of the *Code*. The purpose of this conference, which may occur over several meetings, is to determine whether the Respondent will accept general responsibility and the recommended Sanctions or will proceed to a Level II Hearing.

Full Hearing: A Level II Hearing before the Conduct Hearing Board, to determine whether the Respondent is responsible for violating the *Code* and whether Sanctions should be recommended to the Dean of Students. For a full description, please refer to Level II Hearing in Chapter 5.

Hearing Officers: Individuals, including but not limited to, Office of Student Conduct staff, Hearing Board members, Student Conduct Peer Review Board members or Residence Life staff who have the authority to adjudicate cases.

Level I Hearing: A meeting with a Hearing Officer to determine responsibility for an alleged Violation of the *Code* where a responsible finding would include sanctions up to and including University housing suspension. For a full description of the Level I process, please refer to Chapter 5.

Level II Conduct Hearing Board: The Conduct Hearing Board authorized to adjudicate Level II Violations.

The Level II Conduct Hearing Board may include undergraduate and graduate/professional Students and/or University faculty and staff members. Three members will participate in each Level II hearing.

In extraordinary circumstances where the complexity of factual issues and/or matters of law so dictate, the Chancellor may appoint an ad hoc hearing body to hear cases. Any proceeding before such an ad hoc body shall provide due process and ensure the rights of Students.

Level II Hearing: A meeting or series of meetings to determine an alleged Violation of the *Code* where a Respondent may receive a Sanction up to and including Disciplinary Dismissal. All Level II Hearings begin with a Disciplinary Conference, but may end in one of the resolutions below:

- A. **Disciplinary Conference:** The Respondent admits general responsibility for the Violations of the Code and agrees to the hearing officer's recommended Sanctions.
- B. **Sanctions-Only Hearing:** A Level II Hearing before the Conduct Hearing Board, in which the Respondent admits general responsibility for the Violations of the Code but does not agree to the hearing officer's recommended Sanctions. The Conduct Hearing Board, after considering Respondent's testimony and/or evidence, will recommend Sanctions to the Dean of Students.
- C. **Full Hearing:** A Level II Hearing before the Conduct Hearing Board, to determine whether the Respondent is responsible for violating the Code and whether Sanctions should be recommended to the Dean of Students.

Respondent: Student/Registered Student Organization alleged to have violated the *Code*.

Sanctions-Only Hearing: A Level II hearing before the Conduct Hearing Board, in which the Respondent admits general responsibility for the Violations of the Code but does not agree to the hearing officer's recommended Sanctions. Conduct Hearing Board, after considering Respondent's testimony and/or evidence, will recommend Sanctions to the Dean of Students. For a full description, please refer to Level II Hearing in Chapter 5.

Student: All individuals taking courses at the University, pursuing undergraduate, graduate, or professional studies, both degree and non-degree seeking, as well as individuals enrolled in non-credit courses and programs. *Code* jurisdiction also includes individuals who have accepted an offer of admission to the University; and Students who withdraw after allegedly violating the *Code*, who are on leave of absence from the University, or who are not officially registered and/or enrolled for a particular term, but have a continuing relationship with the University.

Student Conduct Peer Review Board (SCPRB): The Student Conduct Peer Review Board (SCPRB) hears cases involving *Code* Violations which will not result in disciplinary suspension or dismissal. The SCPRB is staffed by undergraduate, graduate, and/or part-time Students in good academic standing. The SCPRB may determine responsibility and issue sanctions. The SCPRB will provide due process for Students while protecting the rights of all members of the University community. All SCPRB members will receive appropriate training. No SCPRB member will serve on a panel when they have any direct interest or prior involvement in or knowledge of the incident under consideration, or where the Respondent has identified the member as having a possible bias.

Registered Student Organization: Any student group registered through the University's Student Organization Resource Center (SORC).

University Property: All property (real, intellectual, and/or personal) owned, leased, controlled, or utilized by the University.

University Review Board (URB): The University Review Board (URB) is the duly authorized appellate body which serves as an advisor to the Provost, or their designee.

URB Structure for the Student Code of Conduct

The URB shall be a standing body of University community members appointed for staggered terms of two years. Appointment shall be made in the following manner.

1. A sufficient number of faculty members elected by the University Senate.
2. Five (5) graduate and professional Students appointed by the Graduate and Professional Student Association.
3. Five (5) undergraduate Students.
 - a. Two (2) appointed by the General Studies Student Council.
 - b. Three (3) appointed by the Undergraduate Student Government.

In matters involving sexual misconduct, no Students shall be on the panels. Initiated appeals shall be heard by a review board of members. Except in cases involving sexual misconduct, the URB shall be composed of two faculty members and three Students.

URB Moderator for the Student Code of Conduct

Administrator(s), who shall serve as the URB Moderator, is authorized to:

1. Conduct the administrative and procedural operation of the URB.
2. Determine the appropriateness and completeness of Petitions to the URB in consultation with one Student and one faculty member of the URB.
3. Provide advice and assistance to members of the University community regarding the processing of an appeal.
4. Select members from the URB membership to serve on review boards.
5. Moderate all proceedings before the URB.

Violation: Behavior and/or attempts to engage in behavior inappropriate to the University community for which disciplinary actions may be instituted. This may include Violations of any federal, state, or local law, and/or of any rule, policy, or *Code* provision of the University of Pittsburgh.



The University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, as fully explained in Policy 07-01-03, the University prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, disability, or status as a veteran. The University also prohibits and will not engage in retaliation against any person who makes a claim of discrimination or harassment or who provides information in such an investigation. Further, the University will continue to take affirmative steps to support and advance these values consistent with the University's mission. This policy applies to admissions, employment, access to and treatment in University programs and activities. This is a commitment made by the University and is in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations.

For information on University equal opportunity and affirmative action programs, please contact: University of Pittsburgh, Office of Diversity and Inclusion (and Title IX, 504 and ADA Coordinator), 2nd Floor Webster Hall 4415 Fifth Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15260 (412) 648-7860.

For complete details on the University's Nondiscrimination Policy, please refer to Policy 07-01-03. For information on how to file a complaint under this policy, please refer to Procedure 07-01-03.