

# Students' Rights and Responsibilities

(Adapted from the Student Handbook)

The primary purpose for the imposition of discipline in the University setting is to protect the campus community. Consistent with that purpose, reasonable efforts will also be made to foster the personal and social development of those students who are held accountable for violations of University regulations. The University student conduct system is not analogous or equivalent to the criminal justice system. The purposes, the standards of proof, the procedures and many other aspects differ.

The University reserves the right to take all necessary and appropriate steps to protect the safety and well-being of the campus community. Any act committed by a student, whether on or off campus, which is determined by the University to be a threat to the safety or well-being of the community or which is disruptive to the primary purposes of the University may result in discipline. Student, for the purposes of this policy, is defined as a person enrolled for one or more hours of academic credit, or in a non-credit course or courses offered in the name of the University; or person admitted or seeking admission to the University if action is related to University admission, function, or event. Violations by non-students may result in restricted access to campus or University events. Non-students are expected to abide by these policies as well. It is the responsibility of the student host of the non-student to make his or her guest aware of these behavioral expectations.

The classroom is an integral component of the educational community and FMU strives to provide an environment appropriate to the University setting. Disruption of classroom instruction by students is not tolerated and will result in the removal of the disruptive student or students from the class and may result in appropriate disciplinary action, to include suspension or expulsion from the University.

## Standards of Conduct

Francis Marion University prohibits the conduct listed below. Persons committing such acts are subject to disciplinary action from the University.

1. Academic cheating or plagiarism
2. Illegal manufacture, possession, use or distribution of drugs
3. Illegal manufacture, possession, use or distribution of alcoholic beverages
4. Sexual assault or inappropriate sexual conduct
5. Physical abuse or assault of any person, including self
6. Failure to comply with direction of a University official
7. Theft, wrongful appropriation, unauthorized possession of University property and any member of the University community
8. Furnishing false or incomplete information to a University official

9. Forgery, alteration, destruction, damage or misuse of University documents, records, or identification (e.g. FMU ID card, library materials, etc)
10. Arson, falsely reporting a fire or other emergency and knowingly setting off a fire alarm or emergency box when there is not an emergency or fire
11. Possession of weapons (rifles, shotguns, ammunition, handguns, air guns, knives with blades longer than 2 inches, explosives, etc.)
12. Unauthorized presence in, use, or entry into University facilities to include unauthorized use of keys and ID cards
13. Obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration or other activities on campus authorized by the University
14. Disorderly, disruptive, lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct, or attire that is inconsistent for the context of the activity or occasion
15. Violation of parking and traffic regulations on campus
16. Acts that incite others to violate policy on campus
17. Behavior that adversely affects or seriously interferes with the University's normal educational function, or which endangers the welfare of others in the community
18. Unauthorized use or misuse of the University's computing facilities, to include violations of the policy on acceptable computer use (see University Policy on Acceptable Computer Use)
19. Hazing, which is defined as any intentional or reckless act on or off campus by one student or many that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that student
20. Harassment, stalking and/or unauthorized surveillance
21. Other conduct which a reasonable person having sufficient intelligence to acquire postsecondary education would understand is injurious to the University, self or others

## **University Disciplinary Process**

The disciplinary process for student is based upon the elements of constitutional due process and local, state, and federal law which have been developed over the last several decades. While students maintain their rights, the disciplinary system differs from that of a legal system. Simply put, the University is not a court of law. Our process is educational and takes into account the community standards of the University. In the event of an emergency, the following procedures may be omitted when necessary to protect public safety.

1. The incident is reported either by another student, faculty, staff, or through a report from Campus Police.
2. If there has been a code violation, the matter will be processed by the Dean of Students.
3. Housing violations are typically handled by the professional housing staff unless the nature of the violation requires further investigation by the Dean of Students

4. Should a violation come from a community member or faculty or staff member, the matter is referred to the Dean of Students for processing.
5. Faculty – Academic Dishonesty violations are handled through the Provost Office

## **Hearing Bodies and Judicial Officers**

### **Hearing Boards**

The Dean of Students may convene Judicial Hearing Boards consisting of students, faculty, and/or staff members for the purpose of conducting a judicial hearing.

### **Judicial Officers**

Judicial Officers are members of the Student Affairs staff who are responsible for adjudicating alleged violations of University policy.

### **The Honor Council**

The Honor Council hears matters of alleged violations of academic cheating or plagiarism. It consists of four faculty member and is processed through the Provost Office.

**Please see the Student Handbook for information regarding Judicial Meetings, Hearings, and Appeals.**