

Student Code of Conduct

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<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/>

<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/>

Preamble

The Valdosta State University Student Code of Conduct contains the University's official statement of the rights and responsibilities of students, both as individuals and as members of the community. The Valdosta State University Student Code of Conduct is also the official record of conduct policies affecting student organizations and group activities, as well as student conduct oriented administrat

- vi. any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and
 - vii. any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law."
10. Hearing: A formal or informal process conducted to arrive at corrective recommendations regarding alleged student misconduct.
11. Hearing Panel: A group of individuals who hear cases of alleged student misconduct within the formal hearing process. Panel members for hearings of alleged student misconduct cases are composed of five members selected from the Student Conduct Committee; however, cases involving alleged sexual
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of Restorative Practices is informed by values and principles which emphasize the importance of involving those most affected in any given situation.

23. Sexual Exploitation: Sexual exploitation occurs when an individual takes non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for his or her own advantage or benefit, or to the benefit or advantage of anyone other than the one being exploited. Examples of sexual exploitation may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Invasion
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The most severe action that may be administered by any faculty member is a grade of "F" in that particular course.
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Finally, the University recognizes the right of all members of the University community to be private citizens and to exercise all legal rights and privileges. However, when an individual, publicly identified as a member of the University community, engages in an illegal act involving the misuse of alcohol, the University, as an educational institution concerned with the welfare of its membership, can and will take appropriate disciplinary action. Every member of the University community should know the rules and procedures of the University involving the proper use of alcohol and conscientiously follow them.

University students are expected to assume responsibility for their behavior regarding alcohol use. Students must understand that being under the influence of drugs and or alcohol does not lessen their accountability nor function as an excuse for behavior. All students in the University community will be held

1. No one shall assemble on campus



G. Explosives

No student shall possess, furnish, sell, or use explosives of any kind on University property or at functions sponsored or supervised by the University or any registered University organization. University property includes all land, buildings, facilities, adjacent streets or sidewalks, and other property (vehicles, etc.) that is in

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L. Misuse of Student Identification 1Cards or Permits

1. Lending, selling, or otherwise transferring a student 1Card or parking permit is prohibited.
2. Being in possession of or the use of a student 1Card or parking permit by anyone other than its rightful owner is prohibited.
3. Failure to surrender or display a 1Card or parking permit to a properly identified and authorized University official is prohibited.
4. The creation of a fake ID, 1Card or parking permit, as well as the altering of a valid student 1Card or parking permit is prohibited. The replication and or distribution of a 1Card or parking permit is also prohibited.

M. Theft

1. No student shall take, attempt to take, or be in possession of,
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R. Repeated Violations

Repeated violations of published rules or regulations of Valdosta State University are prohibited. Repeated violations are defined as three or more violations of any university policy during a student's tenure at the university.

S. Violation of Outside Law

Any violation of a local ordinance, state, or federal law, on or off-campus, constitutes a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Students accused of violations of local, state, or federal laws that adversely affect the interests of the University may be subject to the appropriate Valdosta State University disciplinary process. Pending civil or criminal matters shall not prevent Valdosta State University, at its discretion, from initiating appropriate disciplinary action against a student.

T. Appropriate Use of University Computing Equipment, Network, and Facilities

1. A student's use of personal or Valdosta State University computing equipment to damage Valdosta State University's computing infrastructure is prohibited, e.g., intentionally injecting viruses, creating a computer system malfunction, altering or damaging a program(s), etc.
 2. Any student logging on or attempting to log on as
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Some social media sites allow users to post anonymously. When this is the case, the Office of Student Conduct and Title IX are extremely limited in the response allowed, and will not be held responsible, even if a student chooses to utilize their VSU email address to register for an account on the third-party site. In these instances, the affected individual will be offered supportive measures where applicable and will be referred to outside law enforcement if they wish to discuss recourse.

Section II. Reporting Student Misconduct

Complaints or reports of student misconduct should be

fairness, and reasonableness have been met. The aim of any disciplinary action is to redirect student behavior toward the achievement of academic goals.

The President has delegated the function of student discipline to the Vice President of Enrollment & Student Affairs, and the Office of Student Conduct & Title IX is the designee overseeing the day-to-day disciplinary process. The Vice President of Enrollment & Student Affairs is assisted in the student disciplinary process by the Office of Student Conduct & Title IX designee and various disciplinary committees. The use of the "peer-review" process in student disciplinary matters is consistent with Valdosta State University's educational goals, as well as its practice of student participation in institutional governance.

B. Jurisdiction

The University will take necessary and appropriate action to protect the safety and well-being of its community. Accordingly, student misconduct will be addressed when such acts occur on University property or at University - sponsored or affiliated events, or otherwise violate the VSU Student Code of Conduct at non-University sponsored events.

Students accused of violations of local, state, or federal laws may also be subject to the appropriate Valdosta State University disciplinary process for these violations. Pending civil or criminal matters shall not prevent Valdosta State University at its discretion from initiating appropriate disciplinary action.

Each student shall be responsible for their conduct from the time of application for admission through the actual awarding of a degree, even though misconduct may occur ~~before~~ classes begin or after classes end, as well as during the academic year and during periods between terms of actual enrollment. Should a student withdraw from the University with disciplinary charges pending, the student's academic record and/or the ability to register for classes may be encumbered by the appropriate university office.

Graduate or professional programs within the University may initiate charges against students for alleged violations of professional standards or ethics as a separate issue or as an extension of alleged acts of academic dishonesty or other violations of this Code of Conduct.

C. Rights of Students

Throughout all investigation and resolution proceedings, a respondent shall receive notice of the alleged misconduct,

review and resolution of alleged student misconduct. When a report of student misconduct is received by the Office of Student Conduct & Title IX, the report will be reviewed to determine whether the allegation(s) describes conduct in violation of VSU policies and/or Code of Conduct. If the reported conduct would not be a violation of VSU policies and/or Code of Conduct, then the report will be dismissed. Otherwise, a prompt, thorough, and impartial investigation and review will be conducted into each report received to determine whether charges against the student should be brought.

When the responding student or organization accepts responsibility for the alleged Code of Conduct violations and has voluntarily decided to participate in the informal administrative disciplinary

H. Investigations of Student Misconduct

If the Office of Student Conduct & Title IX determines that the potential sanctions for the alleged misconduct may involve a suspension or expulsion (even if such sanctions were to be held “in abeyance,” such as probationary suspension or expulsion), the investigation and resolution procedures will provide these additional precautions:

1. The respondent shall be provided with written notice of the complaint/allegations, pending investigation, charges, sanctions, and available support services. The notice will also include the identity of any investigator(s) involved. Notice will be provided via VSU email to the address on file. Where applicable, a copy shall also be provided to the alleged victim via the same means.
2. Upon receipt of the written notice, the respondent shall be given at least three (3) business days to respond in writing. In that response, the respondent shall have the right to admit or to deny the allegations, and to set forth a defense with facts, witnesses, and documents – whether written or electronic – in support. A non-response will be considered a general denial of the alleged misconduct.
3. Based on this response, the investigation shall consist of interviews of the respondent, the alleged victim (where applicable) and witnesses, and the collection and review of documents or other physical or electronic information, as well as other steps as appropriate. The investigator will retain written notes and/or obtain written or recorded statements from each interview. The investigator shall also keep a record of any proffered witnesses not interviewed, along with a brief, written explanation.
4. The investigation shall be summarized in writing in an initial investigation report and provided to the Office of Student Conduct & Title IX, who will relay the investigation report to the respondent and the alleged victim (where applicable) in person or via email. This summary should clearly indicate any resulting charges (or alternatively, a determination of no charges), as well as the facts and evidence in support thereof, witness statements, and sanctions.
5. To the extent the respondent is charged with any violation, the student shall also have the opportunity to respond in writing. The respondent’s written response to the charge(s) shall be due no earlier than three/h

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Before an interim suspension is issued, the Office of Student Conduct & Title IX designee will make all reasonable efforts to give the accused student the opportunity to be heard on whether his or her presence on campus poses a danger. If an interim suspension is issued, the terms of the suspension shall take effect immediately.

When requested by the responding student, a review to determine whether the interim suspension should continue will be held within three (3) business days of the request. The Office of Student Conduct & Title IX designee may assign the student's request to a review committee composed of three senior Student Affairs staff members or three members of the Behavioral Intervention Team. The purpose of this review is to consider rescinding the interim disciplinary action, so the student may be allowed to continue their presence at Valdosta State University until the appropriate institutional disciplinary action is administered.

Section IV. Disciplinary Hearing Procedures for Student Misconduct

Disciplinary hearings at Valdosta State University are hearings to arrive at corrective recommendations regarding alleged student misconduct. These recommendations affect the student or organization's relationship with the University. The administration of discipline is viewed as an educational process NOT a criminal or civil trial proceeding. As such, the disciplinary procedures used are determined and administered by educators. Such procedures will give cognizance to the test of fairness, truth, and due process.

In no case shall a hearing to resolve charge(s) of student misconduct take place before the investigation report has been finalized or before the respondent has had an opportunity to respond in writing, unless the respondent has chosen to go through an informal process or otherwise provided a written waiver of rights to these procedures. Further, unrelated charges and/or cases shall be heard separately unless the respondent voluntarily consents to the charges/cases being heard jointly.

Where the respondent indicates that the student contests the charges, and once the investigation report has been finalized and copies provided to the respondent and alleged victim (where applicable,) the case shall be set for hearing; however, the alleged victim (where applicable) and respondent may have the option of selecting mediation as a possible resolution in certain student misconduct cases where they mutually agree, except where deemed inappropriate by the Office of Student Conduct & Title IX designee.

Where a case is not resolved through mediation, the respondent shall have the option of having the charges heard either by an administrator (hearing officer) or the Student Conduct Committee.

A. Procedures for Disciplinary Committee Hearings for Student Misconduct

1. All disciplinary hearings involving the responding student, and the appropriate disciplinary committee are open meetings but will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and applicable law.
 2. Disciplinary hearings are presided over by the chairperson of the committee. The disciplinary committee chair may exclude any person from the disciplinary hearing who materially interferes with the disciplinary hearing proceedings. Any disruptions of a disciplinary hearing can result in disciplinary action being taken against the student and or organization involved in the disruption. The chairperson of the committee makes such a determination with input of the Office of Student Conduct & Title IX designee, and when that determination is made those causing the disruption will be asked to leave the hearing and its premises immediately. If they do not voluntarily leave, the University Police will be contacted to escort them off the premises. A disciplinary committee quorum is one more than 50% of its membership present. A hearing may proceed with less than a quorum if the accused elects to proceed.
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questions of the advisee, but shall not participate directly. The University shall not prohibit family members

E. Restrictions: Loss of University privileges,

The Vice President's decision shall be the final decision of the institution. Should the respondent or alleged victim (where applicable) wish to appeal the decision of the Vice President, they may request review by the Board of Regents in accordance with the Board of Regents Policy 8.6 on Discretionary Review.

Section VII. Recusal/Challenge for Bias

Any party may challenge the participation of any University official, employee, or student panel member in the disciplinary process on the grounds of personal bias by submitting a written statement to the Office of Student Conduct & Title IX designee, setting forth the basis for the challenge. The designee may

Jurisdiction:

Valdosta State University will continuously take necessary and appropriate action to promote the safety and well-being of its community. Accordingly, Sexual Misconduct will be addressed when such acts occur on University property, at University-sponsored or affiliated events, or otherwise violates the University's student conduct policies, regardless as to where such conduct occurs. Title IX jurisdiction is slightly narrower.

Access to Advisors:

For formal Title IX complaints: Both the Complainant and the Respondent, as parties to the matter, shall have the opportunity to use an advisor (who may or may not be an attorney) of the party's choosing. The advisor may accompany the party to all meetings and may provide advice and counsel to their respective party throughout the Sexual Misconduct process, including providing questions, suggestions and guidance to the party, but may not actively participate in the process except to conduct cross-examination at the hearing as outlined in the Resolution/Hearing section below. If a party chooses not to use an advisor during the investigation, the University will provide an advisor for the purpose of conducting cross-examination on behalf of the relevant party. All communication during the Sexual Misconduct process will be between the University and the party and not the advisor. VSU will copy the party's advisor prior to the finalization of the investigation report when that report is provided to the parties for their right to inspect and review directly related information gathered during the investigation, if the party has requested. If it has not been requested, the parties will be responsible for sharing the document with their advisor. At the party's request, the advisor may be copied on all communications.

For non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct complaints: Both the Complainant and the Respondent, as parties to the matter, shall have the opportunity to use an advisor (who may or may not be an attorney) of the party's choosing at the party's own expense.

The advisor may accompany the party to all meetings and may provide advice and counsel to their respective party throughout the Sexual Misconduct process but may not actively participate in the process. All communication during the Sexual Misconduct process will be between the University and the party and not the advisor. At the party's request, the advisor may be copied on all communications.

Interim Measures:

Interim measures may be implemented at any point after the institution becomes aware of an allegation of Sexual Misconduct and should be designed to protect any student or other individual in the VSU community. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the

Section III. Addressing Reports of Student Sexual Misconduct

A. Support Services

Once an individual makes a complaint, receives notice that a complaint has been made against him or her, or the Title IX Coordinator otherwise learns of a complaint of sexual misconduct, the complainant, respondent and alleged victim (where applicable) will receive written information about support services, such as counseling, advocacy,

supplement the notice. Throughout the Sexual Misconduct process the Complainant and the Respondent will have the right to present witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.

3. If the Respondent admits responsibility, the process may proceed to the sanctioning phase or may be informally resolved, if appropriate.
 4. An investigator will conduct a thorough investigation and will retain written notes and/or obtain written or recorded statements from each interview. The investigator will also keep a record of any party's proffered witnesses not interviewed, along with
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Hearings shall be conducted in-person or via video conferencing technology. Where the University determines that a party or witness is unable to be present in person due to extenuating circumstances, the University may establish special procedures to permit that individual to provide testimony from a

3. In case of a health or safet

While Valdosta State University will enact policies to promote campus safety, to ensure the proper functioning of the academic environment and other important institutional objectives, these policies will not unduly burden the free expression rights of students, faculty, and staff. Any parameters placed on time, place, and manner of expression will not be based on the content of the expression. To better facilitate the free exchange of ideas, Valdosta State University provides the stage on the Palms Quadrangle on main campus, which is located next to the primary student dining facility and several student residence halls as a public forum. Valdosta State University may designate alternative area (s) to accommodate large crowds or other special requests. Students who are planning an event that has more than 30 anticipated attendees or necessitates planning and coordination on the part of the university must follow the procedures in the “Policies & Procedures For Facility and Event Reservation For Non-Classroom Instruction” or