

CODE OF CONDUCT AND UNIVERSITY DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM

When students enter Florida Tech, it is assumed that they have a serious purpose and a sincere interest in their own social and intellectual development. It is also assumed that they are familiar with the regulations, procedures and policies set forth for the students at the university and that they have accepted them as a way of life during their stay at the university. Students are expected to learn to cope with problems with intelligence, reasonableness and consideration for the rights of others; to obey laws and ordinances of the nation, state and community in which

they, as well as the university, are a part; and to conduct themselves peaceably in espousing changes. As they prize rights and freedoms for themselves, they are expected to respect the rights and freedoms of others.

Students are subject to all federal, state and local laws (as well as Florida Tech rules and regulations) and are accountable to the state and federal courts for any violations of such laws. A student is not entitled to greater immunities or privilege before the law than those enjoyed generally by other citizens. Students are subject to such reasonable disciplinary action as deemed appropriate, including suspension and expulsion, for violations of university policy and/or breach of federal, state or local laws. As a general rule, university disciplinary charges will not be brought against students for off-campus violations of state or federal law unless the matter constitutes a substantial disruption of/or material interference with the legitimate purpose and interests of the university. However, the Office of the Dean of Students shall have the authority to hear and decide any individual or group violations of the University Code of Conduct, regardless of where those violations occur and reserves the right to enforce this code whether or not civil authorities have acted. The university may consider, but is not bound by, any civil or criminal action taken in regard to the same violation by city, state or federal courts.

Code of Conduct/Grounds for Disciplinary Action

Grounds for disciplinary action may be construed to include a) active violation, b) attempt to violate, or c) solicitation of or aiding another in the commission of a violation. Disciplinary action may be taken in any case in which an individual or group is found in violation of any of the following:

1. **University Policies**—Violation of published university regulations or policies established for any area or academic unit by those having jurisdiction over it, including, but not limited to, parking, Security, Residence Life and Housing, Financial Aid, Health Services, Evans Library and Information Technology.
2. **Physical Abuse**—Intentionally or recklessly causing physical harm to any person or intentionally or recklessly causing reasonable apprehension of such harm.
3. **Endangering Conduct**—Any conduct that imperils or jeopardizes the health and safety of any person or the university community, including, but not limited to, tampering with safety equipment or fire warning devices, intentionally or recklessly initiating or causing to be initiated any false report, warning or threat of fire and/or explosion, setting a fire on university property or using cooking equipment in unauthorized areas of the residence halls.
4. **Harassment**—Any action, verbal or nonverbal, in conflict with the university's policy on harassment as stated in this Student Handbook. This may include a single action or a series of actions.
5. **Hazing**—Any action, verbal or nonverbal, in conflict with the university's policy on hazing as stated in this Student Handbook. This may include a single action or a series of actions.
6. **Hacking**—Gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to a computer system, whether through damage or destruction of data or programs, or through disruption of operational practices.
7. **Weapons**—Unauthorized use, possession or storage of any weapon or explosive material, including, but not limited to, fireworks, firearms, air guns, paint pellet guns, knives, ammunition, martial arts weapons or bombs on university premises or at university sponsored activities.
8. **Failure to Evacuate**—Failure to immediately evacuate a university building on the sounding of the fire alarm. Occupants must evacuate a building to points sufficient to ensure their safety. Occupants and/or residents may not re-enter the building at any time or for any reason while the alarm is sounding, unless instructed to do so by the university staff, security and/or local officials.
9. **Disorderly Conduct**—Disorderly, disruptive or obscene conduct or breach of peace that intentionally or recklessly interferes with normal university-sponsored activities or the rights of other community members on or off university property. Activities include, but are not limited to, studying, teaching, research, university administration, university-sponsored or supervised activities or fire, police or emergency services.
10. **Freedom of Expression**—Interfering with the freedom of expression of others.
11. **Compliance**—Failure to comply with the directives of university officials, including campus security or Resident Assistants acting in performance of their duties, and/or failure to comply with the terms of any disciplinary sanctions imposed in accordance with this code.
12. **Fraud**—Behaviors include, but are not limited to, forgery, misuse of and/or alterations of university documents (including identification cards).
13. **False Information**—Intentionally furnishing false information to the university, refusal to provide valid identification or knowingly furnishing false information to a university official in the performance of his or her duty.
14. **Academic Dishonesty**—All forms of academic dishonesty, including cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty or plagiarism.
15. **Controlled Substances**—Use, consumption, possession, sale, manufacture, trafficking, or transfer of any illegal drug or controlled substance, as defined by state or federal law. Use and/or possession of drug paraphernalia. Actions in conflict with university policy and Residence Life policies on illegal drugs as outlined in the current Student Handbook and other university publications.
16. **Stealing**—Theft or unauthorized possession of the property of another and/or the university, including theft of services and knowledge of the possession of stolen property.
17. **Damage**—Intentionally or recklessly destroying university property or the property of others.
18. **Facilities Usage**—Unauthorized entry or use of university premises, facilities or property.

19. **Alcohol**—Conduct in conflict with alcohol usage policy as stated in this Student Handbook.
20. **Responsibility for Guests**—Students are responsible for informing their guests, both student and non-student, about university policies and are held accountable for the behavior of their guests.
21. **Stalking**—Engaging in a course of conduct directed to a specific person or persons, that causes substantial emotional distress in such person(s) and serves no legitimate purpose. Course of conduct means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of purpose.