

THE DREXEL UNIVERSITY STUDENT CONDUCT PROCESS

The Drexel University Student Conduct process will facilitate the social, ethical and intellectual development of students by adjudicating violations of the Student Code of Conduct. As such, the University Conduct process functions as an aspect of the University's educational process.

The goals of the Conduct process are:

- to promote a campus environment that supports the overall educational mission of the University;
- to protect the University community from disruption and harm;
- to encourage appropriate standards of individual and group behavior;
- to foster ethical values and civic virtues;
- to foster personal learning and growth while at the same time holding individuals and groups accountable to the standards of expectations established by the Code of Conduct.

The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards fulfills its mission by providing programs and services that:

- Develop, disseminate, interpret, and enforce campus rules and regulations.
- Teach students about appropriate behaviors and the consequences for unacceptable and/or inappropriate behaviors through the use of critical thinking skills.
- Intervene effectively when behavior violates the Code of Conduct.
- Offer educational and leadership opportunities for students who participate in the operation of the Student Conduct System.

Statement of Philosophy and Purpose

Drexel University expects that all students as well as student organizations will conduct themselves responsibly and in a manner that reflects favorably upon themselves and the University. When a student or organization does not act responsibly and violates the University policies, rules, regulations, or standards of conduct, formal disciplinary action may result.

The Conduct process reflects the University's concern that students and organizations maintain high standards. The conduct process attempts to foster personal learning and growth, while at the same time holding individuals and groups accountable for inappropriate behavior.

The pool of hearing board members is comprised of at least 44 members of the University community as follows:

- 13 faculty members
- 8 administrators
- 20 undergraduate students appointed by the USGA and
- 3 graduate students appointed by the GSA

The University Conduct Board is chaired by the Student Chair and is advised by a Student Conduct and Community Standards staff member, who serves as an ex-officio, non voting member of the board.

Frequently Asked Questions...

What is the University Hearing/Appellate Board?

The University Hearing Board hears all cases of misconduct in which the accused student or student organization has contested the charges. The Board decides whether or not the student/organization is "in violation" of the policies stated in the University's Code of Conduct based on the information presented (direct information from

the appropriate witnesses) by the student/organization and the accusing party. Should the Board find the student/organization “in violation,” the board will then recommend the appropriate developmental and punitive sanctions to the University Hearing Officer.

The University Appellate Board hears all cases in which the student/organization has chosen to appeal the decision of the University Hearing Board and/or the decision of the University Hearing Officer. The University Appellate Board will determine if sufficient grounds exist for the appeal and will then uphold or deny the appeal. Should the board uphold the appeal, depending upon which grounds on which the appeal was based, the board then will determine more appropriate sanctions and/or order the case to be re-opened, reconsidered, or re-tried.

For obvious reasons, in no instance will any Hearing Board member who sat on the original case serve on the Appellate Board for the same case.

How much time commitment is involved?

The best answer for this question is that “it depends.” It depends, obviously, on the number of cases presented to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. Based on past experience, nearly 90% of all cases are resolved at the administrative hearing level, meaning that the student/organization has opted not to contest the charges(s). Typically more hearings go before the University Appellate Board than before the University Hearing Board. We try, as best as we are able, to spread the caseload among the respective board members.

All Hearing Board members are required to participate in a mandatory orientation/training workshop in order to be eligible to serve. Hearing Board members who have not participated in training will be deemed inactive until they are trained.

Responsibilities of Board Members

1. Display appropriate behavior, serve as a role model for the Drexel community, and strive to preserve the rights and responsibilities of Drexel students.
2. Attend all training sessions.
3. Respond to requests to serve on hearings and communicate scheduling conflicts with the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.
4. Participate in Board hearings by:
 - a. Displaying questioning skills to help determine what occurred, who bears responsibility, and how the University should respond;
 - b. Displaying good judgment and decision-making skills;
 - c. Displaying the ability to work in a group to reach consensus.
5. Be familiar with the Code of Conduct and Residence Hall Regulations and Policies found in the Student Handbook as well as campus resources and student support services.

Other duties as assigned.

More information:

More detailed information may be found in the Student Handbook, which is available on-line at: <http://www.drexel.edu/studentlife/SLhandbook.htm> . Please contact the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (215-895-6074 or scs@drexel.edu) should you have questions or need additional information regarding this process.