

# **Code of Student Responsibilities**

**Boston University**

**2025 – 2026 Academic Year**



# Code of Student Responsibilities

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Boston University's Code of Student Responsibilities (the "Code") describes the University's behavioral expectations of its students. This Code is not a contract between the student and the University. The University reserves the right to amend this Code at any time.

Accountability is at the heart of the Code, ensuring that all students uphold community standards with integrity and take responsibility for their actions. Every student is responsible for reviewing and understanding the University's expectations outlined in the Code. By enrolling in or attending a course or program of study at Boston University, all students are deemed to have voluntarily agreed to respect the rights of the University and its members, to abide by the provisions of this Code and the rules and regulations of the University, and to be subject to any consequences which may be imposed for their violation.

The Code establishes expectations that emphasize accountability, integrity, self-discipline, and personal responsibility, while also outlining prohibited conduct in a broad but non-exhaustive manner. It reflects the University's commitment to fairness, student rights, and fostering a safe, supportive learning community built on mutual trust and respect. As a private institution, Boston University holds its students to high standards, sometimes exceeding those outside the University. Admission, enrollment, graduation, and facility use are privileges, not rights, and the Code ensures a fair and responsible system for addressing conduct violations. Student behavior that undermines academic integrity or the rights of others is not a private matter, as such actions threaten both the quality of life and the University's mission.

### a. Application and Scope

The Code of Student Responsibilities applies to:

- All undergraduate, graduate, non-degree, and Boston University Academy students;
- The entirety of a student's association with Boston University, including regular academic terms, Intersession, summer, and other academic breaks;
- Students on a leave of absence;
- Conduct that takes place on any of Boston University's campuses, off-campus locations, or online;
- Students cross-registered at other universities, engaged in internships or research, or studying abroad with Boston University or another university;
- All non-matriculated students enrolled in Boston University courses or residing in on-campus housing (i.e., orientation, summer programs, etc.)

The [Academic Code of Conduct](#), which is separate from these expectations, governs matters pertaining to academic misconduct.

## **II. EXPECTATIONS OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

### **a. Shared Responsibilities**

Boston University equips students with the knowledge and skills to overcome challenges, lead, and innovate across various fields while serving the broader community. To accomplish that goal, Boston University holds certain values to high standards for every member of our community.

- **Community:** A group of people who share common interests, values, or a sense of belonging, often living in the same area or working toward a shared goal.
- **Integrity:** The quality of being honest, having strong moral principles, and consistently doing what is right even when no one is watching.
- **Personal accountability:** Taking ownership of one's actions, decisions, and responsibilities, and accepting the consequences of one's choices.
- **Respect:** Showing consideration, appreciation, and kindness toward others, their feelings, rights, and opinions.
- **Responsibility:** The duty to take care of tasks, obligations, or people, and to act in a reliable and trustworthy manner.
- **Self-discipline:** The ability to control one's emotions, behavior, and desires in order to achieve goals or follow rules and principles.

While the university is invested in providing a rigorous academic experience where all members can achieve their aspirational goals, it places equal weight on cultivating an environment where respect and civility are the norms.

### **b. Student Behavior**

All Boston University students are responsible for:

1. Respecting the rights of others.
2. Respecting the highest standards of academic integrity and reporting any violations of those standards to the dean of their school or college or to the Associate Provost for Undergraduate or Graduate Affairs.
3. Respecting the property of others, and the property, equipment, facilities, and programs of the University.
4. Refraining from actions that endanger the health, safety, or welfare of any member of the University community or its guests.
5. Complying with federal, state, and local laws.

Failure to fulfill any of these responsibilities may result in disciplinary action under this Code.

### **c. Student Obligations Under the Law**

Students have rights and obligations under the law. When they enter the University, students retain those rights, and student status confers no immunity or sanctuary from federal, state, or municipal laws. Nothing in this Code is intended to infringe upon or limit the jurisdiction of courts and law

enforcement authorities over the Boston University community. By the same measure, nothing in this Code is intended to restrict the rights of the University to the modest limits of public law.

### **III. PROHIBITED CONDUCT AND DEFINITIONS**

Violations of this Code include, but are not limited to:

#### **1. Alcohol, Marijuana, Other Drugs & Good Samaritan Policy**

##### **a. Drugs**

- Engaging in, facilitating, or being in the presence of illegal drug-related activities, including the possession, use, consumption, promotion, manufacture, distribution, or sale of illegal drugs (including marijuana), salvia divinorum, prescription medications belonging to another individual, over-the-counter substances, nitrous oxide, or any other substances used to achieve a mind-altering state, without medical authorization. This also includes the possession, use, manufacture, distribution, or sale of drug paraphernalia, the promotion or sharing of illegal drugs, as well as the cultivation, manufacturing, or intent to sell or distribute drugs both on and off campus.
- Additionally, the misuse of prescription medication or other controlled substances without proper medical authorization is strictly prohibited.
- Medical marijuana is not permitted under any circumstances, regardless of state laws.

##### **b. Alcohol**

- Students who are 21 years of age or older and possess a Massachusetts driver's license and/or a government-issued identification are extended the privilege to possess and consume alcoholic beverages in university residences.
- Students who are under 21 years of age may not possess, consume or be in the presence of alcoholic beverages on university property.
- Guests, regardless of age, may not bring alcoholic beverages onto University property.
- Quantities of alcoholic beverages permitted to be brought into or stored in any residence facility by any resident 21 years of age or older are limited to seventy-two ounces of beer (for example, a six-pack), and one liter of other alcoholic beverage. On-campus possession of a keg, beer ball, alcohol by the case, or other central sources of alcoholic beverages, or other unauthorized quantities of alcohol is not permitted.
- Rapid alcohol consumption devices that encourage high-risk drinking (BORGs, funnels, Alcohol Without Liquid, ice luge, beer bong, etc.) are prohibited regardless of age.
- No alcoholic beverage may be served or sold at Boston University functions that are attended primarily by undergraduate students. Applications for exceptions will be considered by the Dean of Students.
- Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed in any public areas of the University, including classrooms, lobbies, bathrooms, hallways and common areas.
- The university reserves the revoke any alcohol privileges for students 21 and over based on violation of this policy.

##### **c. Good Samaritan Policy**

- Boston University encourages students to prioritize safety and has instituted the [Good Samaritan Policy](#) to promote healthy decision making. If a student seeks help for themselves or others in an alcohol or drug emergency, neither will face sanctions for substance use as long as they complete an educational or counseling program.
- 2. **Disorderly Conduct:** Obstruction of others' access to or with the normal day-to-day conduct of the University's academic or administrative business, including classes, research projects, or other University activities or programs, obstruction of access to University facilities, property, or programs. The University [Statement on Free Speech and Expression](#) and [Events and Demonstration Policy](#) outline what is allowed and the processes to follow.
- 3. **Doxing:** The knowing disclosure of personal identifying information of a person without that person's consent [with the intent] to cause stalking, physical harm to person, or serious property damage, or to cause the person about whom the information pertains to reasonably fear for the physical safety of themselves or a close relation.
- 4. **Endangering Behavior:** Behavior that endangers the safety of oneself or others, including but not limited to possession and/or use of firearms, fireworks, weapons, or hazardous chemicals except where expressly permitted under conditions approved by the University; illegal, unsafe or improper use of a motor vehicle, motorcycle, motorized bicycle or scooter, electric skateboard or bicycle.
- 5. **Failure to Comply:** Failure to follow the reasonable directions of a University official. This includes failure to identify oneself upon the request of an appropriate University official or security officer, or failure to leave University premises upon request.
- 6. **Filing a False Report:** False reporting of emergency, including false reporting of bombs, fires, or other emergencies on University property. Filing a false report of misconduct under this Code or other policy is forbidden.
- 7. **Forgery:** The falsification or subversion of information on official government documentation and applications for admission to an educational program or activity to gain admission, financial aid, funding, or access services.
- 8. **Harassment:** Violation of the law or the University's policies concerning the repeated use of written, verbal, or electronic expression or physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at a person that places that person in reasonable fear for their physical safety or prevents them from conducting their customary or usual affairs, or substantially interferes with their educational experience is prohibited.
- 9. **Hazing:** Any intentional, knowing or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that (i) is committed in the course of an initiation or admissions into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a student organization [e.g., a club, student government, athletic team, fraternity, or sorority], and (ii) endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, causes or creates a risk of injury, causes mental or physical fatigue or distress or discomfort above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of embarrassment, ridicule, or intimidation, causes damage to or destruction of property, or which is a violation of University policy, law or this Code. Suspected incidents of hazing should be reported to the Boston University Police Department or the Office of the Dean of Students. See the [University Hazing Policy and reporting form](#).

10. **Improper or Unauthorized Use of University Computing Services:** See the [Acceptable Use of Computing Services Policy](#).
11. **Misuse of Property:** Theft, vandalism, damage, destruction, or defacement of University property or the property of others.
12. **Noise Disturbances:** Making excessive noise by any means, including but not limited to the use of sound reproduction equipment.
13. **Physical Assault:** including a physical attack upon or physical interference with a person that causes that person to suffer physical injury, and threatening behavior that puts another person in objectively reasonable fear for their physical safety, and/or results in minor or reactive physical contact with another person.
14. **Sexual Misconduct:** Sexual assault, harassment, stalking, dating or domestic abuse in violation of the University's [Interim Equal Opportunity and Title IX Policy](#)
15. **Unauthorized Access:** Unauthorized presence in University premises, facilities, or on University property; unauthorized use or possession of University property, equipment, keys or access cards and codes.
16. **Unauthorized Recording:** Use of electronic equipment, devices, software, applications, or platforms (i.e.: mobile phones, webcams, in-home security cameras/recording devices, etc.) to record, track, harass, or otherwise infringe on the privacy of others – particularly in spaces where individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy (such as residence halls, restrooms, locker rooms, private offices or personal living spaces) – is prohibited.
17. **Unauthorized Identification:** The making of false statements, theft, destruction, alteration or unauthorized possession or use of materials related to University documents, including forging, transferring, altering, or otherwise misusing any student identification card, course registration materials, or other document of record.
18. **Violation of Federal, State or Local Laws:** Engaging in actions that break public laws at the federal, state, or local level. This includes unlawful conduct that occurs on University property or off-campus when it negatively impacts the University's interests, community standards, or the safety and well-being of its members.
19. **Violation of University Policies:** Conduct that violates University policies (See Section X).



## **IV. REPORTING**

Any person who has reason to believe that a student has violated the Code should report the suspected violation to the Dean of Students. The person can call or write to the Office of the Dean of Students or the Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). The written report should include a description of the alleged misconduct, the name of the student(s) alleged to have engaged in prohibited behavior, and any supporting documentation, if available.

The Dean of Students will determine if the matter is to be referred to a school, college, or other unit or resolved by their office or relevant department within the Division of Student Affairs (i.e.: the OSCCR or Residence Life, etc.) The fact that a matter has been referred to a school, college, or other unit of the University does not prevent the Dean of Students from imposing an interim sanction (See Section VI.a) pending final resolution of the matter.

## V. COMPLAINT RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

The formal process by which a student brings forward a complaint regarding an issue related to university policies, student conduct, or other concerns affecting their rights or well-being. This process typically involves several steps, including submitting a written complaint, an initial review, investigation (if necessary), and attempts at resolution through mediation, administrative action, or disciplinary proceedings. Depending on the nature of the complaint, resolutions may include corrective actions, or sanctions against those found responsible. The goal of complaint resolution procedures is to ensure fairness, transparency, and a supportive environment for all students.

### a. Student Rights

The University strives to provide a resolution process, which allows for a careful, fair, and thorough review of the allegations. The goal is to ensure that students accused of nonacademic misconduct have an opportunity to describe their alleged involvement and, where applicable, the decisions they made. If found responsible, the process also provides mechanisms for students to take responsibility for their actions, receive appropriate educational interventions (e.g., substance use assessments), and repair harm to the individual(s) or community.

In disciplinary meetings based on allegations brought by the Dean of Students, the student will have the right to:

1. Receive a written notice of the alleged violation(s) in reasonable time to permit the student to adequately respond to the allegations of a Code violation.
2. Have a presumption of non-responsibility until a finding is reached.
3. Privacy to the extent possible, consistent with law and University policy.
4. Receive information about the University's policies and procedures.
5. Have an advisor of their choice present in a supportive role.
6. Receive reasonable and appropriate accommodations through Boston University's Disability & Access Services.
7. Identify witnesses and present evidence.
8. Receive written notification of the determination.
9. Appeal the finding of a Code violation and any sanction imposed.

Though access to language services is not guaranteed, the University will endeavor to enlist these services when appropriate to ensure that the Respondent can fully and meaningfully participate in the process.

### b. Definitions

**Allegation:** A claim or assertion that someone has engaged in wrongdoing or violated the Code, which has not yet been proven and is subject to investigation or review.

**Advisor:** A person, including a parent, friend, faculty member or attorney, who is permitted to accompany a student a meeting, interview or hearing in the conduct resolution process.

The advisor's role is to serve as a source of support both before and during any conversation, interview or hearing. A student's advisor may not participate in the meeting but is permitted to quietly confer with the student with or without the student conduct administrator in the room. The administrator has the discretion to allow the advisor to make a brief statement on behalf of the student and to instruct any advisor who is disruptive or fails to comply with any request or directive to leave the meeting.

**Appeal Hearing:** A meeting facilitated by the Chair of the panel of the University Board on Student Conduct (UBSC) in response to a student's appeal of a disciplinary determination.

**Complaint:** A written summary of an alleged Code violation.

**Complainant:** The person or persons making a report of a potential Code violation.

**Disciplinary Meetings:** A formal meeting between a student and representatives of the OSCCR to address alleged violations of university policies or codes of conduct. During this meeting, the student has the opportunity to respond to the allegations, present relevant information, and discuss potential consequences or resolutions. The meeting may result in disciplinary actions, sanctions, or referrals to further proceedings, depending on the severity of the violation and the university's policies.

**Evidence:** Relevant documentation and materials, which supports or corroborates a student's recollection of events. Evidence may be submitted before, during, or immediately after the student's conduct meeting and includes, but is not limited to, screenshots of social media posts or electronic conversations (e.g., Instagram, group chat, text- or e-mail messages, etc.), written communication, audio or video recordings, photos, receipts, mobile phone call logs, or any relevant information in any format (hard copy, electronic, or digital).

**Hearing Advisor:** A staff member selected by the hearing administrator to advise the student appealing the determination both before and during the appeal hearing. This person serves in a supportive role and may not participate in the proceedings.

**Hearing Administrator:** A member of the Office of the Dean of Students team, this person forms a panel of the UBSC, coordinates the exchange of information, and oversees all operational aspects both before and during the appeal hearing.

**Mediation:** An option for resolving conflict between parties that, if successful, will result in a voluntary resolution agreement. Mediation is only appropriate if all parties voluntarily agree to engage in the process, which includes facilitated conversations or a restorative conference facilitated by a university staff member.

**No Contact Directive:** Also referred to as a Stay-Away Order, a No Contact Directive (NCD) can be issued to one or more parties and serves as formal notice that the parties may not have contact with one another. NCDs prohibit all intentional contact by words or by action, including on or off campus; and, contact by any means, including voice, text, or instant message, electronic mail, telephone, social media, through a third party or any networking site.

- NCDs prohibit third-party contact and direct the recipient not to ask or suggest that someone else contact the other individual on their behalf.
- If the recipient encounters the other party unexpectedly, they may not approach, confront, or initiate contact of any kind. It will be their responsibility to take immediate corrective action and remove themselves from the situation.
- In situations where mutual NCDs have been issued, the person who arrives second to an event is expected to vacate the space, unless there is sufficient distance between them to remain in compliance (e.g., Metcalf Hall in the George Sherman Union, Nickerson Field).
- A NCD remains in place for the duration of the involved parties' enrollment or until further notice.
- A NCD may be modified or amended to address unforeseen circumstances and to minimize contact with the parties to the extent possible, any accidental or unanticipated contact between the parties. These modifications may include the imposition of access restrictions or changes to a student's work or class schedule.
- A NCD is an administrative action, not a finding of responsibility, and is not reportable on background checks. No annotations are made to a student's disciplinary record or academic transcript.

**Preponderance of the Evidence:** The standard of proof used to determine if the Respondent violated the Code. Defined as "more likely than not" that a violation occurred.

**Privacy:** During the Complaint Resolution Process, the University will provide privacy to the extent possible, consistent with applicable law and University policy. Specifically, the University will disclose information about its investigation and resolution only to those who need the information to carry out their duties and responsibilities.

**Respondent:** The person who is alleged to have violated the Code.

**Student:** An individual with responsibilities under this Code, as defined in Section I(A).

**Stay of Sanction(s):** The Dean of Students or designee has the discretion to postpone or amend the imposition of disciplinary sanctions and any conditions pending the outcome of the student's appeal.

**Witness:** A person who may have observed or otherwise have direct knowledge of an event or incident. A witness may not serve as a student's advisor.

**University Board on Student Conduct (UBSC):** The group of faculty, staff and students who are empaneled during an appeal hearing.

### **c. Investigation**

The student conduct process ensures that all allegations of misconduct are reviewed fairly and thoroughly. When a complaint is received, the OSCCR follows a structured procedure to determine whether the allegations may constitute a violation of the Code of Conduct. This process includes notifying the student of the allegations, offering an opportunity for discussion, and conducting a

fact-finding investigation if necessary. The goal is to uphold community standards while providing students with due process and access to relevant resources.

### **1. Notice of Allegations**

Upon receipt of allegations, the Dean of Students or Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution will review the complaint to determine whether the complaint of the allegations may rise to a potential violation of the Code. OSCCR will send an email to the student's official University email account and include the following:

1. The specific allegations and a summary of the incident(s).
2. The date by which the student must schedule their student conduct meeting.
3. That the student may be accompanied by an advisor of their choice who may not participate in the meeting.
4. That a decision not to participate in the process either in whole or in part will not prevent the University from proceeding with the available information.

### **2. Informational Meeting**

When a student's alleged behavior is problematic or disruptive to the community but does not appear to rise to a Code violation, OSCCR or Residence Life may contact the student to make them aware of the concerns. This communication usually includes a request to meet to discuss the complaint(s) and should provide an opportunity for the student to learn about the complaint, discuss constructive strategies to better engage with the community, and/or learn about University support services and resources. Although a communication summarizing this conversation may be issued, no findings will be noted on the student's record.

### **3. Format of a Disciplinary Meeting**

Student conduct meetings provide an opportunity for the student to meet one-on-one to discuss the complaint and their alleged involvement. A meeting with OSCCR constitutes an disciplinary hearing. During the meeting, OSCCR clarifies the alleged policy violation(s), summarizes the reported information, and, if available, shares any relevant documentations (e.g., security footage, photos, etc.). The student:

- may, but is not obligated to, provide a written statement, which they may reference during the meeting.
- may submit relevant supporting documentation or materials (e.g., photos, screenshots of text-message exchanges, videos, etc.). OSCCR may decline to review materials that are not relevant to the investigation. Character references are accepted and included in the student's disciplinary record but do not factor in the determination.
- will be asked to provide their account of the incident and should be prepared to answer questions and provide the names of any witnesses.
- may take breaks as needed to confer privately with their advisor.
- may not record any meeting or interview but may take their own notes.

Students who require accommodations for a disability in order to participate in this process, should contact Disability & Access Services at 617-353-3658 or [access@bu.edu](mailto:access@bu.edu).

#### **4. Fact-Finding Process**

OSCCR will attempt to resolve allegations of misconduct or Code violation(s) in the following manner:

1. They will seek to determine the facts and relevant information relating to the complaint or allegation. During the investigation, they may interview the student(s) against whom the allegations have been made.
2. Before making a determination or imposing any sanction, other than an interim sanction, OSCCR will inform the student(s) against whom allegations of misconduct have been made of the nature of the allegations.
3. If, as a result of the investigation, OSCCR determines that the matter should be closed without findings, they may do so and will so inform the student(s) involved.
4. OSCCR will endeavor to complete the investigation into a complaint within 45 days of the filing of the complaint. At the conclusion of the investigation and if the administrator determines that a violation of University policy occurred, a sanction or sanctions will be imposed (see Section VII).

#### **d. Notification and Considerations**

Disciplinary action against any student may entail serious consequences. This action may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Notification under FERPA:** In recognition of the support and concern provided by most parents and family members and considering the importance of such support to a student who has been found responsible for a violation of this Code, and received a suspension or expulsion, or other serious disciplinary action, it is Boston University's policy to notify a student's parents, guardian, or family members of serious disciplinary action involving the student, consistent with the information on file.

**Refund Schedule:** The University's published refund schedule applies to voluntary leaves and withdrawals only; there is no provision for any refund of tuition and fees when a student is expelled or suspended due to conduct.

#### **e. Withdrawal, Postponements, and Corrective Measures**

Except for good cause shown, the failure of the appealing student to attend a hearing will be considered a withdrawal of the request for a hearing. For special reasons out of the ordinary, the Dean of Students or the panel chair may postpone a hearing if such a request, supported by good cause, is received 24 hours prior to the time of the hearing. Either may grant a new hearing or reopen a hearing. Except for requests made during a hearing, all other requests shall be submitted to the Dean of Students.

If the Dean of Students or the Provost determines that a student has been unfairly affected by the University's failure to follow the procedures outlined in this Code, they may implement appropriate corrective measures to address the situation.

Procedural errors do not invalidate the proceeding or disposition. The proceedings or decisions of a hearing panel will not be invalid by reason of a defective recording.

## VI. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

The following, individually or in combination, are authorized disciplinary sanctions. Where appropriate, the statement of the sanction shall include the period of duration, any conditions to be observed during that period, and the conditions for termination of the sanction.

The Dean of Students or OSCCR may make a formal determination of findings and impose such sanction or sanctions as they deem appropriate. This sanction may take into account whether the student is currently on a disciplinary sanction for nonacademic misconduct and any conditions imposed.

The Dean of Students may approve a negotiated sanction and may agree, but will not be required to agree, that a negotiated sanction be omitted from the student's permanent disciplinary record. A negotiated sanction may provide for the student's voluntary withdrawal from the University or a program of the University or continuation under specific conditions. A student who accepts a negotiated sanction will be required to waive their right to appeal the matter. Negotiated sanctions are subject to review and final determination by the Dean of Students or the Provost.

### a. Interim Sanctions

The Dean of Students may impose an interim sanction, including suspension from the University, or the imposition of specific conditions or restrictions on the student if the health, safety or welfare of the University community requires action prior to the final determination. If sanctions are imposed prior to the student having received notification of the complaint, the student will be given the opportunity to respond to the complaint within one day. The student may appeal an interim sanction imposed by the Dean of Students to the Provost in accordance with the appeal procedures.

### b. Major Sanctions

Sanctioning practices include both punitive and educational consequences and, in some instances, allow the student to repair harm to the community, as noted in Section VII.

1. **Expulsion** from the University or a program of the University, which is the permanent removal from Boston University. Students are permanently banned from entering all University property and participating in University-sponsored activities. A permanent notation will appear on the student's transcript.
2. **Suspension** from the University or a program of the University for a specific length of time. While on suspension, students are banned from entering all University property, participating in University-sponsored activities or making any progress towards their degree. A permanent notation will appear on the student's transcript.
3. **Deferred suspension** from the University or a program of the University, which is the most serious form of written warning. Further violations while on deferred suspension may result in suspension or expulsion from the University. This sanction will appear on a student's conduct record for seven years.
4. **University probation.** University probation may involve restriction of student or access privileges; prohibitions against participation in University activities or events, including athletic



or non-athletic activities; and prohibitions against holding office or participating in student organizations or residence, school, or college organizations or activities. This sanction will appear on a student's conduct record for seven years.

5. **Denial of credit, grade, or honors;** denial of graduation, diploma, or degree; deferral of graduation, diploma, or degree for a specific period of time.

### **c. Other Sanctions**

1. **Residence separation,** which is the permanent removal from on-campus housing. This sanction will appear on a student's conduct record for seven years.
2. **Residence separation for a specific length of time,** which provides for the possibility of returning to campus housing as specified. This sanction will appear on a student's conduct record for seven years.
3. **Deferred residence separation** (with or without relocation to a different residence location) is the most serious outcome before removal from the residence occurs. Students on this sanction may have privileges limited. If found responsible for further violations of the Code, residence separation may be imposed. This sanction will appear on a student's conduct record for seven years.
4. **Residence probation.** Residence probation may involve restriction of specific residence privileges or mandated meetings with residence staff. This sanction will appear on a student's conduct record for seven years.
5. **University or Residence disciplinary reprimand or warning.**
6. **Restitution.** The student will reimburse the University and/or other appropriate party for damage to or loss of property or for costs or expenses incurred by the University or other party. Restitution will be made at full cost of replacement or repair, and other expenses.
7. **Fine.** A fine will not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).
8. **Confiscation of prohibited materials or equipment.** The University may confiscate materials prohibited by law or University rules; the University may confiscate equipment used in a dangerous manner or in violation of University rules.
9. **Mandated participation** in an alcohol or drug educational program, or meeting(s) with appropriate members of the Boston University staff or faculty.
10. **Community service.** The student must complete specified service hours to benefit the community and submit appropriate documentation validating that they successfully met this requirement.

## VII. ALTERNATIVE RESTORATIVE OPTIONS

The University recognizes that not all allegations of misconduct need to go through the complaint resolution process described in Section V of this Code and that in some cases an Alternative Resolution Option (“ARO”) is appropriate. An ARO may include conflict mediation or a restorative conference with a University staff member.

In cases where OSCCR determines that a situation is appropriate for an ARO and the student(s) involved have elected to pursue an ARO, students will be directed to one of four conflict resolution programs offered by and deemed most appropriate by OSCCR.

Alternative resolution processes include the following options:

1. **Conflict Coaching:** a one-on-one meeting with a trained facilitator to discuss interpersonal conflict, explore conflict resolution styles, and review collaborative resolution options.
2. In **Facilitated Discussions/Mediation** two or more students involved in an interpersonal conflict meet with a trained facilitator to gain a deeper understanding of the others’ perspective within the conflict. (Students who live in University housing and experience a roommate conflict should contact their Resident Assistant or a member of the Residence Life professional staff for assistance). During the structured discussions(s), students have opportunities to explore potential agreements and work towards a resolution.
3. **Restorative Conferences** are structured meetings in which students engage with those who caused or experienced harm. The meeting provides a safe space to discuss the incident, and its consequences. The goal of the meeting is to discuss options for repairing the harm in a meaningful way and may include a mutually agreed upon outcomes plan.
4. **Peer Mediation:** trained students facilitate student-on-student mediation sessions under the supervision of an OSCCR staff member.

In cases where OSCCR determines that the ARO was not successful and involves allegations of violations of the Code, the case will be referred to the conduct process described in Section V of the Code.

## **VIII. APPEAL PROCESS**

A student who has been found responsible for a violation of the Code by the Dean of Students or OSCCR may request a hearing before a panel of the UBSC or waive their right to a hearing and appeal directly to the Provost. The Dean of Students, OSCCR, or their designee will inform the student of their rights and appeal options if the student would like to contest the determination and sanction(s).

A student who has appealed their determination to the UBSC and is found responsible for a Code violation by the hearing panel can then appeal a second time to the Provost. Decisions of the Provost are final.

A student may request a stay of sanction from the Dean of Students while their appeal is under review. If granted, this means the imposed sanction will be temporarily paused until a final decision on the appeal is made. Approval of a stay is not automatic and will be considered based on the nature of the sanction and the circumstances of the appeal.

A student who has an interim sanction imposed by the Dean of Students may request that the Dean stay the sanction while an investigation is underway. The decision of the Dean of Students can be appealed to the Provost.

### **a. Grounds for Appeal**

A student who has been found responsible for a Code violation may request an appeal hearing before a panel of the UBSC. Appeals must clearly outline at least one of the following grounds for appeal:

1. *Procedural Error*: a procedural error occurred during the investigation that impaired their right to a fair review.
2. *New Information*: Information is available that could not reasonably have been made available during the investigation and may be sufficient to alter the determination of the Dean or designee.
3. *Review of the Sanctions*: The student(s) assert that the sanctions are too severe for the violation.

### **b. Timing of the Appeal**

An appeal must be submitted to the Dean of Students in writing no later than ten (10) days after notification of the findings. The Dean may accept a late request for a hearing.

### **c. University Board on Student Conduct**

#### **1. Role of the Office of the Dean of Students**

The Office of the Dean of Students is responsible for the administrative functions of the Board. That role is called the hearing administrator. The hearing administrator manages the UBSC members, conducts pre-hearing meetings and provides information on the case with the panel members. The

hearing administrator is a resource to the appealing student, outlining the appeal process and providing an hearing advisor if requested.

## **2. Composition and Appointment of the Board**

The hearing administrator will reach out to the UBSC notifying the members of an appeal hearing. The date and time of the hearing will be shared. Board members will confirm their availability and then the hearing administrator will perform conflict checks with the appealing student. Once confirmed, a panel is formed consisting of one faculty, one staff and one student member. The faculty or staff member will be the chair of the panel.

## **3. Scheduling a Board Hearing**

If a student requests a hearing on a matter that can be appealed to the UBSC, the Dean of Students hearing administrator will attempt to schedule a hearing as soon as possible and will notify the student of the date and time of the hearing.

Where related offenses are charged against more than one student, the Dean may assign a panel to hear the cases together. If the chair of the panel assigned to hear the case concludes that this may result in unfairness to one or more students, separate hearings may be held.

## **4. Pre-Hearing**

Prior to the hearing, the Office of the Dean of Students will conduct a pre-hearing meeting with the student(s). The hearing administrator will provide the following guidance in the pre-hearing:

- Review the written documentation submitted by the student that forms the basis for the appeal.
- Review how hearing process will progress and explain possible outcomes.
- Familiarize the student and their advisor, if applicable, with the operations of the UBSC Panel and answer preliminary questions.
- Discuss the names of any witness(s) to be provided by the student to the hearing facilitator.
- Character witness requests must be submitted prior to the hearing. The chair of the panel will determine whether any character witnesses should attend the hearing or provide a written statement for the panel's review post hearing.

## **5. The Appeal Hearing**

The Appeal Hearing will be conducted as follows:

- The chair of the panel will preside at the hearing and may make such decisions as they consider necessary for the orderly conduct of the hearing.
- The hearing will be closed to the public; the chair will, however, have discretion to admit interested parties where the presence of such persons will not jeopardize the orderliness of the hearing.

- The rules of evidence and procedures applicable to courts of law will not be applicable at the hearing. The chair may make appropriate rulings to safeguard the integrity and fairness of the hearing. The hearing will be conducted with emphasis on common sense in attempting to ascertain the truth and reach a finding appropriate to the rights of the student and the University community.
- The hearing will be recorded, and the student will have the right to access a copy of the recording, without cost, from the Office of the Dean of Students.
- The Dean of Students, OSCCR, or designee, will be responsible for presenting the Code violations. This may include presenting evidence and calling witnesses. The student may also present evidence and have witnesses answer questions on their behalf.
- Members of the panel may ask questions of any witness; they may request that additional witnesses or information be provided. The chair may grant a continuance of the hearing for such purposes. The members of the panel may take notice of the facts or information within the knowledge of the University community or based on University records.
- All questions to the parties must be directed to the chair. Direct questioning and direct cross-examination of the parties is not permitted.
- The chair may permit a witness to remain in the hearing before or after giving testimony, and they may exclude any person from the hearing to the extent necessary to ensure a fair and orderly hearing.
- At any point during the hearing the student may request a brief recess to confer privately with their advisor.
- After completion of the hearing, the panel will deliberate and issue its decision within five days. Each finding of responsibility must be reached by a majority of the panel. The specification or description of an offense may be modified by the panel to conform to the evidence, provided that the modification does not deprive the student of their right to respond to charges.
- The panel may also determine that the case be remanded back to the OSCCR, or the Dean of Students for additional review. The Panel's findings are given final review by the Dean of Students.
- The Dean of Students will notify the student of the Panel's findings and, if the student has been found responsible, of the sanction(s) imposed by the Dean.

#### **d. Appeal the Findings of the Board**

An appeal of the findings of a hearing panel shall be filed by submitting a written appeal to the Office of the Provost by email at [provappe@bu.edu](mailto:provappe@bu.edu) no later than (10) days after the date of the Dean of Students' notification of the panel's determination.

The filing of an appeal will not stay the effect of sanctions imposed. However, the appeal may request that sanctions be stayed or modified pending the appeal, and the reasons for the request must be described in the appeal. The Provost, in their discretion, may suspend, stay, or modify sanctions imposed, subject to such conditions as they deem appropriate.

The Dean of Students will forward relevant records to the Provost. The Dean of Students or OSCCR may submit a written response to the appeal and will provide the student with a copy of their written response. Only information submitted in writing will be considered by the Provost.

The Provost or their designee will review the appeal, any response, and the record. The decision of the Provost will be in writing, with copies provided to the student and the Dean of Students. The decision of the Provost will be final.

In response to an appeal, the Provost may:

1. Affirm, modify, or reverse the findings of responsibility.
2. Affirm or modify, either to increase or decrease, the sanctions imposed.
3. Remand the matter to the Dean of Students or a hearing panel for additional investigation, a new hearing, or a reopening of the case. If a case is remanded, the decision will specify whether the sanctions are to be maintained, modified, suspended, or reversed pending completion of the matter on remand.

## **IX. DISCIPLINARY RECORDS, READMISSION, AND TRANSFER OF CREDITS**

### **a. Disciplinary Records**

Boston University maintains student conduct records to ensure accountability and integrity within the university community. All student conduct histories are retained on file and remain reportable for a period of seven years following a student's graduation or date of last attendance. After this retention period, the conduct record will be expunged unless otherwise required by law or university policy. Expulsion and suspension remain on file and reportable permanently. Conduct records are only disclosed to third parties by written consent of the student unless otherwise required by law.

Expulsion or suspension from the University or a program of the University will also be permanently entered on the student's academic transcript (which is separate from the conduct record) unless this provision is waived by the Dean of Students and the Provost concurs.

The University Registrar will be notified of all suspensions and expulsions from the University or from a program of the University. No student who has been suspended will be permitted to re-enroll in the University unless the Dean of Students permits the student to re-enroll. Students who have been expelled are prohibited from re-enrolling at the University.

### **b. Withdrawal and Readmission**

The Dean of Students will notify the University registrar if a student voluntarily withdraws from the University or a program of the University while a Code violation complaint is pending or as part of a negotiated settlement that resolves a Code violation complaint, and the student will not be permitted to re-enroll unless they demonstrate that they have permission to re-enroll. Only the Dean of Students or the Provost can permit a student to re-enroll, and ordinarily will only do so if the pending complaint has been resolved.

If the student does not have permission to re-enroll, the student may petition the Provost for permission, setting forth in their petition the relevant facts and the basis upon which the petition is made. Petitions to re-enroll must be sent to the Provost via email at [provappe@bu.edu](mailto:provappe@bu.edu). The decision of the Provost will be final.

A student's failure to comply with a sanction or condition imposed or to obtain permission for re-enrollment may be a basis for denial of re-enrollment or may be deemed a violation of the Code and may result in expulsion or denial of academic credit during such period.

### **c. Policy on Transfer of Credits Earned During Suspension for Misconduct**

It is University policy that no progress can be made towards a Boston University degree while a student is suspended from the University for disciplinary reasons. The University will not accept credit for courses taken at another institution when a student is suspended from Boston University for a disciplinary matter.

#### **d. Responsible Parties**

Office of the Dean of Students & Division of Student Affairs  
775 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 204  
Boston, MA 02215  
617-353-4126  
[dos@bu.edu](mailto:dos@bu.edu)

Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution  
25 Buick Street, Suite 150  
Boston, MA 02215  
617-358-0700  
[judws@bu.edu](mailto:judws@bu.edu)

#### **e. Related Policies and References**

- a. Acceptable Use of Computing Services Policy
- b. Academic Conduct Code
- c. Events and Demonstrations Policy
- d. Interim Equal Opportunity and Title IX Policy
- e. Interim Equal Opportunity and Title IX Procedures
- f. Interim Hazing Prevention Policy
- g. Student Lifebook



## X. OTHER RELEVANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STATEMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Given the size of the University and the diversity of its programs, no one policy describes all the rules governing student conduct. Other applicable University policies include, but are not limited to:

1. **Acceptable Use of Computing Services:** This policy defines acceptable use of the computing services provided by the University as well as the responsibilities of users and requirements to which all clients must agree as a condition of being granted access to the University's computing services. Some, but not all, suspected student violations of the Acceptable Use of Computing Services Policy are referred to the Office of the Dean of Students for adjudication under the Code.
2. **Academic Conduct Code:** Conduct that potentially violates academic standards is addressed by the schools and colleges. In the event of a conflict between the academic code and this document, the University Provost and Chief Academic Officer ("Provost") will determine whether misconduct should be addressed under the Academic Conduct Code or Code of Student Responsibilities.
3. **Conduct in the University Residences:** The Director of Residence Life, or their designee, investigates and adjudicates allegations of misconduct involving students who reside in university housing in accordance with the procedures described in the [Student Lifebook](#).
4. **Disability Discrimination:** When a student believes they have been discriminated against on the basis of disability, they may file a formal grievance, in writing, with the Director of Disability and Access Services as stipulated in the [Grievance Procedures in Cases of Alleged Disability Discrimination](#).
5. **Discrimination and Harassment:** Any student who believes that they have been subjected to discrimination or harassment based on a protected category may make a complaint to Boston University's Equal Opportunity Office as outlined in the [Interim Equal Opportunity and Title IX Policy](#)
6. **Free Speech:** Boston University is committed to a climate that supports the expression of and respect for divergent viewpoints. As set forth in the [Statement on Free Speech and Expression](#) the University embraces the free exchange of different ideas, even when the opinions expressed are offensive or hateful.
7. **Good Samaritan Policy:** When a student seeks help for themselves or others who have misused alcohol or drugs, neither student will receive a disciplinary sanction for alcohol or drug use if the student successfully completes an educational or counseling program offered or recommended by Boston University's Student Health Services.
8. **Sexual Misconduct:** Allegations of sexual assault, harassment, stalking, dating or domestic abuse in violation of the University's [Interim Equal Opportunity and Title IX Policy](#) and [Interim Equal Opportunity and Title IX Procedures](#)

9. **Use of Campus Spaces:** The [Events and Demonstrations Policy](#) describes the requirements for events that are held on the University's campuses and organized by University affiliates. This policy outlines the use of campus spaces and all restrictions that apply.

## **XI. POLICY HISTORY**

The creation of the Code of Student Responsibilities was approved by the Trustees of Boston University on May 12, 1983. Amended on June 29, 2022 and July 1, 2025.