

SECTION TWO: STUDENT RIGHTS

2.1 General Responsibility of Students

Governors State University recognizes the basic rights and responsibilities of the members of the University and accepts its obligation to preserve and protect those rights and responsibilities. Further, the University must provide for its members the opportunities and protections which best serve the nature of the educational process. The Student Conduct Code governs the behavior of students of the University and it must ensure that the basic rights of the individual as well as the practical necessities of the community are met.

As members of the academic community, students are entitled to the same rights and protections enjoyed by members of society. Students are subject to certain obligations by virtue of membership in the University community. Students are subject to civil law, the enforcement of which is the responsibility of duly constituted civil authorities.

The accrediting groups for the various academic programs at Governors State University may have different ethical standards and requirements regarding student conduct which complement the University's student conduct policy and procedures.

When students violate a University regulation, they are subject to disciplinary action by the University whether or not the conduct violates civil laws. When a student has allegations of violating federal, state, and/or local laws, the University may investigate and address potential conduct code violations. The University conduct process shall go forward notwithstanding any criminal complaint that may arise from the same incident.

Each GSU student is accountable for his/her actions. Students may be held responsible for the actions of their guests. When a Guest commits a violation, the student host may be charged with violating of the student code of conduct. Guests include but are not limited to: University guests, guests of students residing in University owned and operated residence halls. Students may be held accountable for the behavior of their guests including restitution for property damage. Students and their guests are expected to follow the rules and regulations defined in the following Student Code of Conduct.

Students are expected to:

1. treat students, faculty and staff of the University with fairness and respect,
2. represent themselves in an honest manner (see Policy 24-Academic Honesty),
3. respect University property and the activities conducted at University facilities, or University-sponsored events,
4. respect the property of others, and
5. uphold University policies and all applicable laws.

University is expected to:

1. be in compliance with the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, *1961 Dixon v. Alabama Board of Education and 1974 Goss v. Lopez*, which requires all public

institutions of higher learning to afford students minimal procedural process before taking disciplinary actions;

2. ensure due process for all students: all students implied to be in violation of the student code of conduct must be informed of any charges and provided with an impartial opportunity to be heard on alleged charges against them.

2.2 Student Records (FERPA)

As required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, Governors State University maintains individual records and information about students for the purpose of providing educational, vocational, and personal services to the student following the university's Access to Student Educational Records procedures for access to student records. The student records policy is intended to ensure the confidentiality of student education records, to establish the right of students to inspect and review their education records, and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate or misleading data. The University has an obligation to limit access to student information to those legitimate uses defined in the policy, and to insure that data is stored securely to prevent unauthorized access. The following briefly outlines procedures for access to student records as required by FERPA. Questions regarding FERPA should be directed to the Registrar's Office, Room C1300 or (708) 534-4500.

The complete policy can be found under University Policies – Access to Student Educational Records (Policy 12) which can be found at: www.govst.edu/policies

2.3 Religious Observances

Governors State University will not discriminate against students for observing religious holidays and will reasonably accommodate the religious observance of individual students in regard to admission, class attendance, as well as the scheduling of examinations and academic work requirements.

- It is the responsibility of the student to notify (in writing) the GSU administrator/faculty member involved at least three class periods in advance of the date of the religious observance.
- Accommodations considered unreasonable are those which would necessitate the modification of academic standards or create undue hardship on the University or its staff.
- If a student feels he/she has been discriminated against, redress can be sought through the Student Grievance Procedure.

A more detail description of this University policy can be found at www.govst.edu/policies under Reasonable Accommodation for Students' Religious Observances (Policy 38).

2.4 Sexual Misconduct

Governors State University has committed itself, unequivocally, to ensuring a working and learning environment in which the dignity of every individual is respected. GSU is committed to providing an environment for employees, students, and campus visitors that is free from illegal harassment based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or veteran status. Likewise the University prohibits discrimination on the basis of

gender in all University activities and programs. Any form of sexual harassment, including sexual assault and sexual violence, is a violation of [University Policy 52](#) and the Code of Student Conduct.

At GSU, we strive to comply with all applicable legal requirements prohibiting harassment against any member of the GSU community. In addition to facing University consequences, those who engage in sexual harassment, sexual assault and/or sexual violence may also be prosecuted criminally.

The University has a duty to prevent harassment, to have policies against it, to investigate complaints, and to take prompt action to stop harassment when it occurs.

If you experience sexual harassment or assault or know someone that has, we encourage you report it so that we can help an environment that is free of unlawful harassment.

Contact the Title IX Officer to report such incidents:

Joyce Coleman, Title IX Officer
1 University Parkway (C-1360)
University Park, IL 60484
Telephone Number: 708-235-7169
Fax: 708-534-1642
Email: jcoleman7@govst.edu

To learn more about Title IX, please visit:

www.govst.edu/About/Offices_and_Departments/Human_Resources/Title_IX/

2.5 American Disabilities Act

Governors State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as well as other federal and state legislation which states that, “No otherwise qualified person with a disability in the United States...shall, solely on the basis of disability, be denied access to, or the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity provided by any institution receiving federal financial assistance.”

Access Services for Students with Disabilities (ASSD) is dedicated to creating an accessible environment and equality of educational opportunities for students with documented disabilities. Legally mandated access and accommodations are available to all qualified students who self-identify with ASSD. Students must provide documentation by a qualified professional that can verify the functional impact of the disability as well as recommendations for appropriate accommodations. The information provided by students is voluntary and confidential. For more information and/or to arrange for appropriate accommodations, please contact the Director of Student Disability Services in the Academic Resource Center – B1215 or (708) 534-4090

www.govst.edu/arc

2.6 Good Samaritan Practice

The health and safety of every Jaguar student is important to GSU. The Office of the Dean of Students recognizes that the potential for a misconduct action may deter students from seeking needed medical assistance for a fellow student or themselves. As a university we support and encourage all students to reach out for assistance in cases of a medical emergency and/or when you see a fellow Jaguar in need. Through the Office of the Dean of Students' *Good Samaritan* practice, students are encouraged to be empowered witnesses who respond to a potentially risky circumstance, such as alcohol overdose, without fear of penalty from the University. For that reason, a *Good Samaritan* who makes a call to obtain medical assistance will not face formal non-academic misconduct disciplinary action, as long as the student has committed no violation of the Student Conduct (Policy 4) other than the possession and/or use of alcohol/drug by persons under 21 or intoxication in or on any property owned, controlled or used by Governors State University, including residence living. GSU's *Good Samaritan* practice also can apply to situations that may arise during an approved university-sponsored activity where alcoholic-beverages may be served and an individual may need medical assistance as a result of the over-consumption of alcohol. In such cases, the Office of the Dean of Students will also consider the *Good Samaritan* practice. Nevertheless, should a situation arise, the Office of the Dean of Students will consider the actions taken by a student and/or student club/organization/team into consideration when addressing any Student Conduct (Policy 4) violation.

For medical assistance, contact the Department of Public Safety (DPS) 708-534-4900 or 911. All students who reach out for assistance need to self-identify so that the university can recognize your *Good Samaritan* practice.

For more information about the Office of the Dean of Student's *Good Samaritan* practice, please contact us at deanofstudents@govst.edu or 708-534-7595.