GWU Student Conduct Process Outline

Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR) and those who resolve conduct cases evaluate each case individually. This chart provides a summary of the ways in which cases are typically processed under the Code of Student Conduct. For full details, refer to the Code of Student Conduct.

Last updated 8/2019

Warning for low-level cases.

Incident report or complaint received. A preliminary investigation may occur to clarify and inform the review of the report.

Referral to other campus resources.

No conduct follow-up

STUDENT CONDUCT CONFERENCEn

- Occurs if outcome is not likely to include removal from housing, suspension, or expulsion.
- Consists of an informal meeting between the respondent and a university administrator or University Hearing Board member.

STUDENT CONDUCT AGREEMENT

- An option for respondents who accept an in violation finding for all charges and agree to specific sanctions.
- Includes waiving the right to appeal and concludes the process.

UNIVERSITY HEARING BOARD

- Occurs if the outcome could reasonably include removal from housing, suspension, or expulsion.
- Consists of 3-5 full-time students, a faculty member or administrator (absence of faculty member/administrator does not prevent a hearing).

BOARD LEVEL CONFERENCE

- Resolves the case in a conference format.
- Maintains the full range of available sanctions.

OUTCOMES

IN VIOLATION (some or all charges)
- The respondent will receive an outcome in person if possible with follow-up in writing, including the finding, the rationale for finding, sanctions, and sanction rationale.

NOT IN VIOLATION (all charges)
- Respondent will receive an outcome in writing, including finding, rationale for finding.

Basic rights of respondents in university student conduct proceedings

- Notice of charges and date of conduct proceeding, reasonable access to case file at least three days before proceeding; question and respond to information to be used to make decision in a case; right to witnesses; right not to be sanctioned unless the hearing body finds a preponderance of the evidence that the respondent is in violation; right to appeal decisions.
- An advisor may be present (not legal representation).

For cases involving a complainant, the process will vary to incorporate the options relevant to that party.

APPEALS

- Submitted in writing within 5 business days after receipt of outcome letter.
- Grounds for appeal: material deviation from procedures, new and relevant information that was unavailable, sanction was inappropriate or disproportionate to the prohibited conduct.
- If the Assoc. Dean of Students finds that grounds are presented, the appeal will be forwarded to the Chair of the Appeals Board. The final decision is made by a Panel selected by Chair of Appeals Board.
GWU Status Sanction Descriptions
(see Code of Student Conduct for full details)

**Warning:**
Typically only assigned when a respondent has not been formally charged. An initial directive against similar behavior in the future. For purposes of external reporting, cases resulting in a warning do not create a student conduct record that is subject to release.*

**Censure:**
Typically the lowest level of status sanction once a student has been formally charged. An official written reprimand for violation of specified regulations, including a warning that continuation or repetition of prohibited conduct will be cause for additional student conduct action. For purposes of external reporting, cases resulting in censure and higher level status sanctions create a student conduct record that is subject to release with respondent authorization*.

**Disciplinary Probation:**
Period of probation when access to participate in certain activities may be limited, (see Code for further details). Additional restrictions or conditions may also be assigned. Violations of student’s probation or additional violations during the period of probation may result in suspension or expulsion. For some GWU purposes, students on probation are considered to be “not in good conduct standing.” Disciplinary probation is typically assigned for a period of time not less than one semester.

**Removal from University Housing:**
Termination of residence contract and possible exclusion from visiting within certain or all residential facilities. Any respondent who is removed from housing shall not be entitled to a refund of room fees. In rare cases, this may be assigned as a deferred status. This should be for exceptional circumstances in which a respondent would ordinarily have received removal from university housing, but unusual circumstances merit a reprieve. When a respondent is assigned “deferred removal from university housing” and is found to have committed a subsequent violation, the presumption should be that they will be removed from university housing upon that finding of a subsequent violation. A respondent may be removed from housing even if they do not currently reside in housing.

**Suspension:**
Exclusion from classes and other privileges or activities, including access to university premises or university-sponsored activities off campus for a specified period of time. Any suspended student shall not be entitled to any tuition or fee refund and is barred from university premises until readmitted. In rare cases, this may be assigned as a deferred status. This should be for exceptional circumstances in which a respondent would ordinarily have received suspension, but unusual circumstances merit a reprieve. When a respondent is assigned “deferred suspension” and is found to have committed a subsequent violation, the presumption should be that they will be suspended upon that finding of a subsequent violation.

**Expulsion:**
Termination of student status and exclusion from university privileges and activities, including access to university premises or university-sponsored activities off campus, in perpetuity. Any student who is expelled shall not be entitled to any tuition or fee refund and is barred from university premises. In rare cases, this may be assigned as a deferred status. This should be for exceptional circumstances in which a respondent would ordinarily have received expulsion, but unusual circumstances merit a reprieve. When a respondent is assigned “deferred expulsion” and is found to have committed a subsequent violation, the presumption should be that they will be expelled upon that finding of a subsequent violation.

*SRIR records are subject to FERPA and generally cannot be released to third parties outside the university without written permission from the involved student. Expunged records are not available for release to third parties outside the university, and such records can be maintained for internal, compliance, and/or aggregate data purposes.