What’s the deal with...

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR?

The “Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities” says, “The responsibility to secure and to respect general conditions conducive to the freedom to learn is shared by all members of the academic community.”

But what does that mean?

Becoming a student at The George Washington University presents many opportunities – to learn; to meet new people; to live in Washington, D.C. But along with those opportunities come certain obligations, like respecting your roommate, attending class, and meeting minimum standards of behavior. One of those minimum expectations is that students will not disturb the classroom environment. While the primary responsibility for managing the classroom rests with the faculty, students are expected to maintain respect for their professors and their peers and classmates. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may face judicial action from the University.

How does that affect life at GW?

Here are just a few examples of activities that the University considers violation of classroom behavior. These examples are taken from actual cases, but this is not meant to be an exhaustive list.

The University considers...

...entering or exiting the classroom in a disruptive fashion...
...unauthorized individuals entering the classroom without prior permission from the instructor...
...smoking in the classroom...
...persistently speaking without being recognized or called on...
...refusing to be seated...
...disrupting another students’ education...
...failure to comply with a instructor’s or faculty member’s direction...
...failure to abide by any additional standards set forth in the course syllabus...
...using offensive language with a faculty member or other students...
...shouting or yelling at a faculty member or other students...

...to be violations of classroom behavior policy.

What if I disrupt the classroom?

Managing the classroom environment is the responsibility of the professor. If the professor determines that your behavior is inhibiting his or her ability to teach and lead the class, then he or she will ask you to leave the room. If your behavior continues, the professor will notify the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities. At this point you will be contacted, and a Disciplinary Conference or University Hearing Board will take place to determine whether you violated University policy. The “Code of Student Conduct” suggests that students be suspended from attending class if they violate this policy. Other consequences for a violation of the classroom behavior policy will be assigned as needed, to include up to Suspension or Expulsion from the University.