What’s the deal with…

NON-COMPLIANCE?

The “Code of Student Conduct” says students must follow the instructions of GW faculty and staff members. “Failure to comply with reasonable directions of University officials” is called Non-compliance, and is a violation of University policy.

But what does that mean?

Sometimes a University official may need to tell students what to do - not because he or she is on a “power trip” but because a legitimate reason exists for him or her to do so. Directing students to vacate a building in which a fire alarm is sounding, ordering two or more students to refrain from contacting each other, or directing students to have a field sobriety test are just some examples of frequent “reasonable directions” University officials may issue. Students who refuse to abide by the directions given by a University staff member may face disciplinary action taken by the University.

How does that affect life at GW?

For the most part, students are free to do as they choose, but sometimes they must follow the instructions of GW representatives. Students who disagree with the instructions of a GW staff member should still comply. Perhaps the directions the student received can be discussed later, but arguing a point during an incident will not help the situation. Sometimes students are confused as to whom the term “University official” applies. The definition includes many different people and job titles. These are just a few examples of University officials; this list is not exhaustive.

GW considers…
Center for Student Engagement staff (including student and professional staff members)  Vice Presidents and Deans…
Marvin Center staff…  Athletic Department staff…
GWU Police Officers…  Risk Management staff…
Professors and other faculty members…  Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities staff…
Employees of Gelman Library…  …to be University officials.

What if I am non-compliant?

If you fail to follow the reasonable directions of a University official, including displaying and/or surrendering a GWorld Card when requested to do so, you may face disciplinary action from the University. You will be afforded the opportunity to explain your actions in a Disciplinary Conference or University Hearing Board, and if found in violation, a sanction will be recommended. “The Code of Student Conduct” suggests a recommended minimum sanction of Disciplinary Probation for students found in violation of Non-compliance. The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities does not regularly attach conditions to Disciplinary Probation, but other programs, offices, and organizations have minimum standards for their members and participants. For instance, a student on Disciplinary Probation may be ineligible to study abroad, serve on the Colonial Cabinet, accept a position as a Center for Student Engagement or GW Housing staff member, become a member of the Student Association, or participate in other University activities.