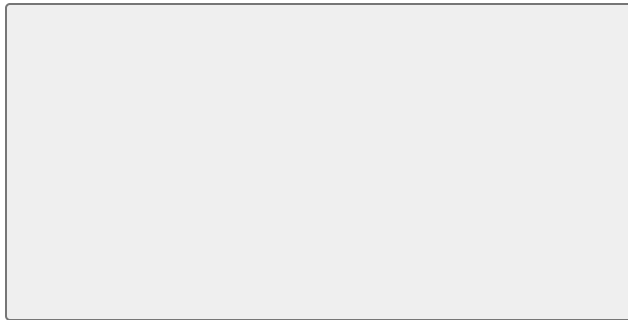


- [Request Information](#)
- [Visit](#)
- [Apply](#)
- [Give](#)

I Am A...

I Am A... Menu

- [Current Student](#)
- [Faculty/Staff](#)
- [Parent or Guardian](#)
- [PNW Alumnus](#)
- [Community Member](#)



Search

Search options

- All Academic Programs

Popular Searches

- [myPNW Login](#)
- [Brightspace Login](#)
- [Directory](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Bookstore](#)
- [PNW Calendar](#)
- [Getting to PNW](#)
- [Ask Leo](#)

[Purdue University Northwest](#) > [Dean of Students](#) > [Policies](#) > Code of Conduct

In this section

- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Bill of Student Rights](#)
- [Code of Conduct](#)
- [Free Speech and Open Expression Policy](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Grief Absence Policy for Students](#)
- [Student Absence Policy](#)
- [Student Academic Grievance Policy](#)

Code of Conduct

Regulations Governing Student Conduct, Disciplinary Proceedings and Appeals

As adapted from Purdue University West Lafayette Regulations Governing Student Conduct, Disciplinary Proceedings and Appeals approved by The Trustees of Purdue University, April 9, 2010 (from Vice President and Treasurer Memo A-16, Board of Trustees, April 30, 1970, with revisions dated January 9 and July 10, 1975, May 31, 1997 and April 2, 1999.) for Purdue University Northwest – as approved by the President of Purdue University on February 9, 2011, April 9, 2010, May 10, 2013, June 1, 2014, August 15, 2016, July 1, 2018, August 19, 2020 and August 25, 2025.)

Operationalized for Purdue University Northwest

A. Authority, Application, Amendments

1. Authority. These regulations are enacted pursuant to the power and authority conferred by the laws of the state of Indiana upon the Trustees of Purdue University, including without limitation, the power to do all acts necessary and expedient to put and keep Purdue University in operation, and to make all by-laws, rules, and regulations required or proper to conduct and manage the University, as provided in Indiana Code 21-27-7-4 and 21-27-7-5, and the power and duty to do all acts and things mandated or provided for in Indiana Code 21-39-2-2, 21-39-2-3, 21-39-2-4, and 21-39-2-5.

2. Application. These regulations, as from time to time amended, and as amended for Purdue University Northwest pursuant to Subsection A-4 below, shall apply to all undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students of Purdue University Northwest, and shall be deemed a part of the terms and conditions of the admission and enrollment of all students as of the stated effective date. Unless specifically noted, these regulations apply to behaviors that occur both off and on campus. Alleged violations of the University's Anti-Harassment Policy and of the University's Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, and Affirmative Action Policy are governed exclusively by the Procedures for Resolving Complaints of Discrimination and Harassment and not by these regulations. In case of any conflict or inconsistencies with any other rules, regulations, directives, or policies of the University now existing, these regulations shall govern. They shall be enforced by the Chancellor of Purdue University Northwest.

3. Amendments. Pursuant to the authority delegated to the President of the University by resolution of the Board of Trustees adopted April 9, 2010, any amendments to these regulations shall take effect on a date prescribed by, and shall remain in effect until rescinded or modified by, the President. Amendments may be proposed at any time by the Purdue University Northwest Student Government Association, University Senate, administrative staff, or by the Board of Trustees. The Office of the Dean of Students shall, in consultation with the Office of Legal Counsel, conduct a review of these regulations every two years for the purpose of identifying any necessary updates resulting from changes in applicable law or University policy.

4. Adaptation for Regional Campuses. The Chancellors are hereby authorized and directed to make and promulgate modifications of these regulations, as applied to the regional campuses, which are necessary because of the different student or faculty organizations or governments existing at the regional campuses. Such revisions shall be effective when approved by the President, acting under the delegated authority of the Board of Trustees.

5. Definitions.

Advisor means any person selected by a student to assist in a disciplinary proceeding. A student has the right to be assisted by an advisor, but the advisor is not permitted to speak or participate directly in any other manner during any disciplinary proceeding, nor may an advisor appear in lieu of the student. Students are responsible for representing themselves. The advisor need not be an attorney, but the student is allowed to have an attorney serve as his/her advisor in the disciplinary proceeding, at the student's own expense, with the understanding that the attorney's role is as an advisor rather than as an advocate. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange for an advisor who is available at the time of the scheduled disciplinary proceeding. Postponement or rescheduling of student disciplinary proceedings due to availability of an advisor will not be permitted.

Chancellor means the chief executive officer of the Purdue University Fort Wayne and Purdue University Northwest regional campuses.

Conduct Officer means a staff member authorized by the Office of the Dean of Students to administer disciplinary proceedings and represent the University at Community Standards Board hearings.

Dean of Students/Dean's Office means the Dean of Students or another person authorized to act on their behalf.

Degree deferral means a decision issued as to a student who has completed the coursework of their degree program but who, at the time of the conduct in question, had not yet received a degree. In the case of such a decision, student status shall be suspended, no grades (other than directed grades) or academic credit shall be given, no degree shall be awarded, and no diploma shall be given, in each case for such a period of time and subject to the satisfaction of such conditions as the University decision-maker imposing the decision may determine. In cases where a degree deferral decision has been issued, it will be notated on the student's academic transcript until the date, if any, on which a degree is awarded based on the expiration of the deferral or the satisfaction of the imposed conditions, or both. The term "degree deferral" is not intended to cover the University's temporary withholding of a degree from a student pending the completion of any educational decisions imposed under these regulations.

Degree revocation means rescinding a degree previously awarded by the University. In cases where a degree revocation decision has been issued, it will be noted on the student's academic transcript on a permanent basis.

Disciplinary outcome or disciplinary decision means expulsion, degree deferral, suspension, probated suspension, disciplinary probation, written warning, restriction(s), and/or educational decisions, as these terms are defined herein.

Disciplinary probation means a probationary student status imposed for a limited time as a result of an official determination of conduct. In the event the student is found in violation (under the procedures set forth in these regulations) of subsequent charges of conduct, records of such disciplinary probations shall be taken into consideration in determining the disciplinary decision, if any, to be imposed because of such subsequent conduct. Students placed on a status of disciplinary probation are restricted from holding elected and/or appointed positions in recognized student organizations and may be subject to additional restrictions as determined by the Conduct Officer.

Disciplinary proceeding means an administrative hearing conducted by a Conduct Officer or by a Community Standards Board panel in the manner described in these regulations for the purpose of considering whether a violation has been committed and making a determination as to any related disciplinary outcome/decision to be imposed.

Educational sanctions means the imposition of mandatory learning opportunities for students who violate the University's regulations, which require them to participate in reasonable and relevant educational activities that foster their personal, ethical and social development. Educational decisions may be proposed in combination with other disciplinary actions. Examples of educational decisions include but are not limited to referrals for assessments for substance use and abuse, educational seminars/workshops, community service, reflective writing assignments, research projects and presentations, and academic assessment referrals. Some educational decisions may have fees associated with them, with the fee being the responsibility of the student to pay.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity and Provost ("Provost") is the chief academic affairs officer at Purdue University Northwest, or another person authorized to act for them.

Expulsion means permanent termination of student status, generally without grades; however, in cases such as academic dishonesty, a directed grade for a particular course may be appropriate. In cases where expulsion is issued, it will be notated on the student's academic transcript on a permanent basis. In cases where expulsion is issued against a student who has completed the coursework of their degree program but who, at the time of the conduct in question, had not yet received a degree, the expulsion will result in no grades or academic credit being given, no degree being awarded, and no diploma being given.

Informal action means an action designed to educate students about the behavioral standards expected of them as members of the University community and to hold them accountable for inappropriate conduct.

Obstruction or disruption of a University activity means any unlawful or objectionable act or conduct (1) that seriously threatens the ability of the University to maintain or use its facilities for the performance of its educational, research and engagement activities, functions, or processes; (2) that is in violation of the reasonable rules and standards of the University designed to protect the academic community from unlawful conduct; or (3) that presents a serious threat to person or property of the academic community.

Such phrase shall include, without limitation of the foregoing general definition: (a) the unlawful use of force or violence on or within any buildings or grounds owned, used, occupied, or controlled by the University; (b) using or occupying any such buildings or grounds in violation of reasonable rules or regulations of the University, or for the purpose or with the effect of denying or interfering with the lawful use thereof by others; (c) injuring or harming any person or damaging or destroying the property of the University or the property of others within such buildings and grounds; (d) obstructing building entrances, walkways, and rights-of-way or otherwise obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic on or adjacent to campus; and (e) interfering with classes, meetings, events or ceremonies sanctioned or sponsored by the University or with other essential processes of the University.

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) is an administrative unit of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs responsible for promoting student responsibility and encouraging honesty, integrity, and respect among Purdue Northwest students through education, compliance with behavioral standards, and support of individual rights.

President means the chief executive officer of the University.

Probated suspension means conditional continuation of student status for a limited and defined period of time. The student is permitted to retain student status upon the condition that the student does not further violate any provision of Subsection B(2) of these regulations that would normally result in a disciplinary outcome/decision during the time probated suspension

is in effect. If, during the period of probated suspension, the student is found responsible for an additional violation of Subsection B(2) after a hearing, suspension may become immediately effective and may be extended for a longer period of time than the period of probated suspension originally assigned. Students placed on a status of probated suspension are restricted from holding elected and/or appointed positions in recognized student organizations and may be subject to additional restrictions as determined by the Conduct Officer.

Restriction means the withdrawal or limitation of privileges for a defined period of time. This may include the ability to access or enter certain campus facilities, the ability to participate in co-curricular activities, and the ability to hold positions in which one may represent the University in an official capacity.

Sealing means a process by which the Dean of Students or designee may seal or void a student conduct record for good cause.

Student means an individual who has been offered and accepted an offer of admission to Purdue University at the West Lafayette campus, the Indianapolis campus, a regional campus, or a Purdue Polytechnic Statewide location or who is otherwise enrolled or participating in any Purdue course or program of study at one of the foregoing campuses or locations. This definition includes individuals who withdraw after allegedly violating this code or who are registered for a future semester, even if not currently enrolled. In addition, persons who are living in University Residence Halls but not enrolled in the institution, are considered “students” for the purpose of enforcing this code.

Summary action means an immediate disciplinary suspension and exclusion from University property imposed under certain circumstances, as more particularly described in Subsection C(9) of these regulations.

Suspension means termination of student status for a limited time, generally without grades; however, in cases such as academic dishonesty, a directed grade for a particular course may be appropriate. In cases where a suspension decision has been issued, it will be notated on the student’s academic transcript for the duration of the suspension. At the end of the period of Suspension, the student is permitted to petition to return to the University. Reentry to the University is not guaranteed.

University activity is any teaching, research, service, administrative, or other function, proceeding, ceremony, program, or activity conducted by or under the authority of the University, or with which the University has any official connection, whether taking place on or off campus, including without limitation University cooperative education programs, internships, practicum, field experiences, and athletic or other intercollegiate activities.

University business day means a day when the University is open for normal business, regardless of whether classes are in session (e.g., the day preceding Thanksgiving).

University property means property owned, controlled, supervised, used, or occupied by the University.

Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs (VCEMSA) the chief student affairs officer or another person authorized to act on their behalf.

Written Warning is a disciplinary decision consisting of an official notification to a student that their behavior is inappropriate and not in compliance with the standards set forth in these regulations.

B. Student Conduct

1. General. Students are expected and required to abide by the laws of the state of Indiana and of the United States and the rules and regulations of Purdue University, to conduct their academic and scholarly pursuits with the highest levels of ethical and honest behavior, to conduct themselves in accordance with accepted standards of social behavior, to respect the rights of others, and to refrain from any conduct that tends to obstruct the work of the University or to be injurious to the welfare of the University. A student who violates these general standards of conduct may be subject to informal actions (as defined in Subsection A(5) of these regulations). If the violation falls within one of the categories of conduct listed in Subsection B(2) of these regulations, the student may also be subject to disciplinary action. No disciplinary outcome/decision may be imposed except for conduct covered by one of the categories listed in Subsection B(2). Violations of any anti-harassment or non-discrimination policies promulgated by the Office of the Vice President for Ethics and Compliance, as well as the investigation and resolution of complaints made under those policies, are governed exclusively by the Procedures for Resolving Complaints of Discrimination and Harassment and/or Procedures for Resolving Complaints of Title IX Harassment and not by these regulations.

2. Conduct Subject to Disciplinary Sanctions. The following actions constitute conduct for which students may be subject to informal action or disciplinary sanctions:

a. a. Dishonesty in connection with any University activity. The expectation to uphold the standards of academic integrity and honesty is a responsibility of every member of the University community. Cheating, plagiarism, including acts of self-plagiarism and multiple submissions, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University, are examples of dishonesty. As recognized by the University Senate, “the commitment of the acts of cheating, lying, stealing, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of ghost-written papers, the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest.” (University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972). Accordingly, the following behaviors will be considered violations of these standards and are subject to disciplinary action as set forth in these procedures.

i. Cheating: Students are expected to adhere to the guidelines provided by instructors for academic work so that no student gains an unfair advantage. Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, study aids, notes, or any other device in any academic exercise will not be tolerated. Unauthorized materials may include anything which or anyone who gives a student assistance that has not been approved by the instructor in advance.

ii. Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise, including presentation of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) or similar output as one’s own, or as any other person’s product, without proper attribution. The sole exception of the requirements of acknowledging sources is when the information is considered common knowledge. Plagiarism includes “self-plagiarism,” which is reusing portions of the student’s previously written text and/or assignments, without acknowledgement or proper attribution.

iii. Fabrication: Intentional and/or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in any academic exercise. Includes but is not necessarily limited to (A) the changing and/or manipulation of research data, results, processes, or research record; (B) the omission of results from the research record; and (C) the alteration and resubmission of a graded academic exercise.

iv. Multiple Submissions: The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

v. Collusion: Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any regulation governing the standards of academic integrity described in these regulations. Students may only collaborate on academic work within the limits prescribed by the instructor.

b. Forgery, alteration, or the unauthorized use of any documents, records, or identification.

c. Obstruction or disruption of any University activity (as defined in Subsection A(5) of these regulations) or inciting, aiding, or encouraging other persons to engage in such conduct.

d. Actions constituting (i) physical abuse of any person or conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any other person, (ii) an act of intimidation or a threat communicated with the conscious disregard of a substantial and unjustifiable risk that it may cause, or be viewed as threatening, harm to another person, or (iii) the wearing of a mask or personal disguise, or otherwise the concealing one's identity with the intent to intimidate any person or group, or for the purpose of evading or escaping discovery, recognition, or identification in the commission of violations of University policy, University regulations, or municipal, state, or federal laws, whether or not, in each case, such abuse, conduct, act of intimidation, threat, or identity concealment occurs on or in University property.

e. Hazing: Any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with others) against another person(s) that (1) is committed in the course act initiation, admission into, or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, a group or organization, or as part of any activity of a recognized student organization or student group; and (2) causes or creates risk of physical injury or psychological injury above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization

Examples of prohibited behavior under the hazing category include but are not limited to:

i. Misuse of authority by virtue of one's leadership position

ii. Assaulting an individual by paddling, beating, striking, or hitting

iii. Preventing an individual from attending class

iv. Requiring another to engage in any form of forced physical activity or exercise

v. Causing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in small spaces, or other similar activity

vi. Inducing a person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs or other substances

vii. Causing or coercing another person to perform sexual acts

viii. Any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct

ix. Any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, state, or federal law and/or any of Purdue's policies

x. Any activity that induces another person to perform a task that involves a criminal violation of local, state, or federal law and/or any of Purdue's policies

xi. Failing to report any of the foregoing behavior to the appropriate University officials (e.g., the Office of the Dean of Students and/or the Purdue University Northwest Police Department) after having firsthand knowledge of the planning of such activities or firsthand knowledge that an incident of this type has occurred.

Individuals or groups may not consent to these types of prohibited behavior. Individuals will be held accountable for their own actions, and neither citing the activity as a “tradition” nor being coerced by current or former members, alumni, and/or student leaders of such groups or organizations will suffice as a justifiable reason for participation in such activity.

The foregoing list of prohibited behaviors under the hazing category is not intended to prohibit the following conduct:

- i.** Planning or participating in customary public athletic events, contests, or competitions that are sponsored by the University or the organized and supervised practices associated with such events; or
- ii.** Planning or participating in any activity or conduct that furthers the goals of a legitimate educational curriculum, a legitimate extracurricular program or a legitimate military training program as defined and approved by the University.

f. Theft or attempted theft of, or the unauthorized use or possession of, or the unauthorized exertion of control over, or causing damage to, property of any kind.

g. Unauthorized entry or access to, or unauthorized use or occupancy of, any University property, including without limitation lands, buildings, structures, telecommunications, computer or data processing equipment, programs, systems, software, or other facilities or services connected with a University activity.

h. Violation of any University rule governing student organizations, or the use of University property (including the time, place, and manner of meetings or demonstrations on University property), or of any other University rule that is reasonably related to the orderly operation of the University; provided, however, that no disciplinary outcome shall be imposed in any such case unless it is shown that the accused student knew, or, in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known, of the rule in question.

i. Use, possession, providing, selling, manufacturing, or distribution of any illegal drug, controlled substance, narcotic or prescription drug, except as expressly permitted by law. Intentionally or recklessly inhaling or ingesting any substance (e.g., nitrous oxide, glue, paint, etc.) for the purpose or effect of altering a student’s mental state is also prohibited.

j. Lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct on University property or in connection with a University activity.

k. Failure to comply with directions of University officials acting in the performance of their duties, including but not limited to failing to present identification upon request of a University official acting in the official capacity of their position.

l. Any conduct that substantially threatens or interferes with the maintenance of appropriate order and discipline in the operation of the University, or any conduct on University property or in connection with a University activity that invades the rights of others, including acting in concert with or at the direction of another to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate any person in the free exercise of their rights.

m. The possession, sale, use, or manufacturing of alcohol beverages in or on any University property, unless expressly permitted by law or University Regulations (University Senate Document, 99-9, April 24, 2000). Additionally, prohibited behavior includes displaying behavior of public intoxication, operating a vehicle or other mode of transportation under the influence of alcohol, and providing or distributing alcohol to a minor, whether or not such conduct occurs on University property.

n. The possession, use, or distribution of any explosives, guns, or other deadly or dangerous weapons reasonably calculated to cause bodily injury on University property or in connection with a University activity, unless specifically authorized by the University (University Senate Document 99-10, April 24, 2000).

o. Violating the terms of any University disciplinary outcome/decision. This behavior includes violating standards outlined in these regulations while currently under a University disciplinary outcome/decision for previous behavior or failing to meet deadlines and/or requirements assigned in conjunction with a violation of these regulations.

3. Demonstrations. Any individual or group expressive activity that has the intent or effect of calling attention to the participants' point of view on an issue is not of itself misconduct. Demonstrations that do not involve conduct beyond the scope of constitutionally protected rights of free speech and assembly are, of course, permissible. However, conduct that is otherwise improper cannot be justified merely because it occurs in the context of a demonstration. Demonstrations that involve violations of any provision of Subsection B(2) of these regulations will not be permitted. A student will be charged with misconduct for any individual misconduct committed by the student in the course of a demonstration.

4. Status During Suspension and Degree Deferral. No grades (other than directed grades) or academic credit shall be given, no degree shall be awarded, and no diploma shall be given to any student who has been suspended from the University so long as the suspension is in effect. Similarly, no grades (other than directed grades) or academic credit shall be given, no degree shall be awarded, and no diploma shall be given to any student who received the decision of a degree deferral until such time as the degree deferral period has expired and all conditions related thereto have been satisfied.

5. Status During Appeal. No grades (other than directed grades) or academic credit shall be given, no degree shall be awarded, and no diploma shall be given to any student who is appealing an Expulsion or Suspension. After the time for any appeal of Suspension or Expulsion has expired, or upon the conclusion of any unsuccessful appeal of Suspension or Expulsion, no grades or academic credit shall be given, no degree shall be awarded, and no diploma shall be given.

6. Status During Disciplinary Proceedings. Except where summary action is taken as provided in Subsection C(9) of these regulations, the status of a student charged with misconduct shall not be affected pending the final disposition of charges; provided, however, that no diploma shall be given, and no grades (other than directed grades), academic credit, or degree shall be awarded, to a student against whom charges are pending for which a disciplinary decision may be imposed. The effective date of any

disciplinary decision shall be a date established by the final adjudicating University authority.

7. Conduct Subject to Other Penalties. As provided by Indiana Code 21-39-2-5, conduct that constitutes a violation of these rules and regulations may be subject to a disciplinary or educational outcome/decision after determination of responsibility by the procedures herein provided, without regard to whether such conduct also constitutes an offense under the criminal laws of any state or of the United States or whether such conduct might result in civil liability of the violator to other persons.

C. Procedures in Student Conduct Cases

1. Any individual from inside or outside the University community may file a complaint against a student suspected of violating University regulations. The complaint shall be directed to the Office of the Dean of Students. Complaints should be submitted as soon as possible after the event takes place, preferably no later than during the semester in which the event happened. Upon receipt of an alleged violation, the Conduct Officer will conduct an initial review of the information provided.

After this initial review of the complaint, the Conduct Officer will determine:

- a.** Whether there is insufficient information to move forward with student disciplinary proceedings;
 - i.** The Conduct Officer may elect to conduct a preliminary investigation of the complaint to determine if additional information may be obtained that would lead to student disciplinary proceedings being initiated.
 - ii.** In addition, the Conduct Officer may request to meet with the student identified as the subject of the complaint to discuss the circumstances surrounding the incident. (This meeting may, but need not, also serve as the pre-hearing information session described in Subsection C(2)(b) of the regulations below.) In addition, the Conduct Officer may request to meet with the student identified as the subject of the complaint to discuss the circumstances surrounding the incident. (This meeting may, but need not, also serve as the pre-hearing information session described in Subsection C-2-b below.)
- b.** Whether there is sufficient information to initiate student disciplinary proceedings as described in these regulations, and
- c.** If student disciplinary proceedings are to be initiated: (i) whether an individual hearing with the Conduct Officer of record or a hearing before the Purdue University Northwest Community Standards Board (CSB) panel should occur, or (ii) whether, in the Conduct Officer's sole discretion and judgment, the information supports the offer of diversion from formal proceedings involving the Community Standards Board via the Diversion Program described in Section D of these regulations.

2. Disciplinary Proceedings, General. Except for a disposition pursuant to the Summary Action procedures described in Subsection C(9)(e)(ii) of these regulations and the Diversion Program procedures described in Section D, the procedures hereby established and set forth in Subsection C(1) to C(7) of these regulations shall be followed in all cases in which the University initiates disciplinary proceedings against students for alleged violations of the standards of student conduct set forth in Subsection III-B of these regulations.

a. Relationship to Other Procedures. These procedures shall not affect additional jurisdiction or procedures established by recognized student organizations or agencies/offices authorized to act on behalf of the University (e.g., Office of Vice President for Ethics and Compliance, Housing and Residential Education, Athletics, etc.).

b. Pre-Hearing Information Session. At any pre-hearing information session held with the student, a representative of ODOS will meet informally with the student prior to the hearing to explain the disciplinary process and to answer questions about the procedures and possible consequences. The attendance of the student at such a pre-hearing information session is required in cases where the alleged misconduct may result in the student's being suspended or expelled from the University or receiving a degree deferral decision. In other cases, the pre-hearing information session will be offered to the student as an optional step in the process. The pre-hearing information session may be held either before or after a notice of charges is formally delivered to the student.

3. Initiation of Disciplinary Proceedings

a. Disciplinary proceedings shall be initiated by the Conduct Officer by the issuance of a written notice of charges.

b. The notice of charges (and all other written notices given to students against whom disciplinary proceedings are initiated) shall be delivered by the most effective method (including electronic means) to the student's address as it then appears on the official records of the University. The notice shall inform the student of the rule or regulation allegedly violated, fairly inform the student of the reported circumstances of the alleged violation and either (i) require the student to appear before the Conduct Officer for an individual hearing regarding the alleged violation, or (ii) inform the student that there will be a hearing regarding the alleged violation before a panel of the Community Standards Board as described in Subsection C(7) of these regulations. A reference to these regulations shall accompany each notice of charges. A copy of the notice of charges may be sent to the parent or guardian of the student if the student is a dependent as defined in Section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

4. Failure to Respond to Charges

a. If the notice of charges requests the student to appear before the Conduct Officer and the student fails or refuses to appear, the Conduct Officer may, after conducting such investigation as he/she may deem necessary, dismiss the charges or impose a disciplinary outcome/decision as defined in Subsection A(5) of these regulations.

b. If the Conduct Officer imposes a disciplinary outcome/decision as defined in Subsection A(5) of these regulations, they shall notify the student in writing of such action, and the student may, subject to the eligibility criteria and procedures set forth in Subsection C(8) of these regulations, appeal this action to the VCEMSA (or their designee), the Provost (or their designee), or the Director of Graduate Studies (or their designee), as applicable, in each case as provided in Subsection C(8) of these regulations.

c. When it appears necessary to avoid undue hardship or to avoid injustice, the Conduct Officer may extend the time to enable a student to respond to the charges.

5. Response to Charges

a. If the student appears before the Conduct Officer in response to the notice of charges, either (i) for the purpose of an individual hearing regarding the alleged violation as provided in Subsection C(3)(b) or (ii) of these regulations for the purpose of a pre-hearing information

session as provided in Subsection 2(b) of these regulations, the Conduct Officer shall advise the student as fully as possible of the facts concerning the charges.

b. The student will be informed that they are afforded the following rights in connection with the student disciplinary proceeding:

- i.** The right to be informed of the allegations that have formed the basis for the charges;
- ii.** The right to make a statement regarding the allegations and the right not to make statement regarding the allegations, which will not be held against the student in determining whether or not they are responsible for committing a policy violation;
- iii.** The right to be informed of any witnesses that the University will call as part of the disciplinary proceeding;
- iv.** The right to present witnesses as part of the student's response to the allegations. Students may present witnesses in person, with the exception of character witnesses, which will be considered in written format only. It is the responsibility of the student to present witnesses at the time of the scheduled disciplinary proceeding. Postponement or rescheduling of student disciplinary proceedings due to the availability of a witness will not be permitted;
- v.** The right to have one person of the student's choosing serve as a non-speaking advisor to the student during the disciplinary proceeding;
- vi.** The right to be informed of the outcome of the student disciplinary proceeding; and
- vii.** The right to appeal the decision of the Conduct Officer subject to the eligibility criteria and procedures set forth in Subsection C(8) of these regulations (Appeal of the Disciplinary Decision).

6. Procedures for Conducting Individual Hearings with Conduct Officer

a. Each hearing shall be conducted before a Conduct Officer. Although the hearing process is informal in nature, it shall be conducted in accordance with the rights described in Subsection C(5) of these regulations and shall provide the following procedural safeguards:

- i.** The student shall have the opportunity to hear information regarding the alleged violation;
- ii.** The student shall have the opportunity to rebut statements made by witnesses;
- iii.** The student shall have the opportunity to present witnesses or any relevant information on the student's own behalf; and
- iv.** The student shall be given the opportunity to respond to any new information gathered during any investigation conducted subsequent to a preliminary meeting with the Conduct Officer as described in Subsection C(1)(a)(ii) of these regulations or subsequent to the individual hearing described in this Subsection C(6) of these regulations.

b. After hearing all relevant information and conducting such further investigation as the Conduct Officer may deem necessary, the Conduct Officer has the responsibility to determine whether it is more likely than not that the student is responsible for the alleged violation(s). The decision of the Conduct Officer shall be based solely on information obtained at any preliminary meeting between the student and the Conduct Officer, introduced at the hearing,

or obtained during any subsequent investigation conducted by or at the request of the Conduct Officer. The finding shall be rendered by the Conduct Officer, who shall be present for all testimony and discussion of the results of any such investigation.

c. No person other than the student, their advisor as defined above, witnesses, the Conduct Officer, and staff members of ODOS shall be present during the discussion between the Conduct Officer and the student except by mutual agreement of both parties.

d. Normally, within five University business days following the conclusion of the hearing and any subsequent investigation that the Conduct Officer may have deemed necessary, the Conduct Officer shall make the determination as to whether it is more likely than not that the student is responsible for the alleged violation(s). The Conduct Officer shall notify the student of the decision. The decision letter shall contain a finding as to the responsibility of the accused student and a brief statement of the reasons for the disciplinary decision/outcome(s), if any. Any disciplinary decision imposed or informal action taken is subject to the provisions of Subsections B(4) and B(5) of these regulations, as well as all other applicable University rules, regulations, or directives.

e. Subject to the eligibility criteria and procedures set forth in Subsection C(8) of these regulations (Appeal of the Disciplinary Decision), a student may appeal a disciplinary outcome/decision that has been issued. If an appeal is allowed and properly submitted in accordance with Subsection C(8) of these regulations, instructions regarding the appeal form and notification of appeals procedures, including the address (which may be an email address) to which the appeal may be submitted, shall be provided in the decision letter to the student.

7. Community Standards Board Hearings

a. **Purpose.** The Community Standards Board (CSB) is organized by ODOS to adjudicate student conduct cases that may result in suspension, degree deferral, expulsion, or degree revocation for the charged student. Cases that may not result in separation from the University may also be forwarded to the CSB for adjudication at the discretion of ODOS.

b. **Composition.** The CSB membership is composed of a pool of panelists representing undergraduates, graduate students, staff and faculty who have voluntarily applied and been trained to serve on a CSB panel. CSB members are trained to function as a team, to ask clear, sensitive and relevant questions designed to determine the facts of the case, and to consider the facts carefully and make recommendations for fair disciplinary outcomes/decisions.

c. **Organization and Governance.** For each case brought before it, the empaneled CSB generally consists of three students, one faculty member and one administrative staff member selected by ODOS from among the CSB membership. In cases involving alleged academic dishonesty or in cases where degree revocation is a possible outcome, the CSB panel must include a faculty member. Each CSB panel selects a chair from among its membership to preside over its proceedings. In order to constitute a quorum necessary to proceed with a hearing, the CSB panel must have three members present, including at least two students and one staff or faculty member. Decisions of the CSB panel shall be rendered by vote of a majority

of the quorum. In the event of any tie, the chair of the CSB panel shall be empowered to break the tie.

d. Procedures for CSB Hearings.

i. Each hearing shall be conducted before the members of a CSB panel and shall follow procedures similar to those of an individual hearing with the Conduct Officer. Although the hearing is formal in nature, it shall be conducted in accordance with the rights described in Subsection C(5) of these regulations and shall provide the student with the opportunity (A) to hear information regarding the alleged violation; (B) to rebut statements made by witnesses; (C) to present witnesses or any relevant information in the student's own behalf; and (D) to respond to any new information gathered during any investigation conducted subsequent to the preliminary meeting with the Conduct Officer as described in Subsection C(1)(a)(ii) of these regulations.

ii. Both the referred student and the Conduct Officer will have the opportunity to appear before the CSB panel to present information about the incident. As noted above, the student may present witnesses. The Conduct Officer may also present any of the witnesses who were previously disclosed to the student. CSB panel members may direct questions to the student and/or to the witnesses.

iii. No person other than the student, their advisor, witnesses, or staff members of ODOS shall be present during the hearing except by mutual agreement of the CSB panel and the student.

e. Recommendation of the CSB Panel. After hearing all relevant information, the CSB panel will (A) deliberate and make a written recommendation to the Dean of Students regarding whether it is more likely than not that the student is responsible for the alleged violation(s), and, if so (B) recommend disciplinary outcomes/decisions to the Dean of Students. The recommendation of the CSB panel shall be based solely on information introduced at the hearing. In cases in which degree revocation is the recommended outcome, this recommendation will also be forwarded to the Provost (for undergraduate students) or to the Director of Graduate Studies (for graduate students), or their respective designee.

f. Decision by Dean of Students. Normally, within five University business days following the conclusion of the hearing and any further investigation deemed necessary, the Dean of Students, or in cases involving degree revocation, the Dean of Students and Provost (for undergraduate students) or the Director of Graduate Studies (for graduate students) (or their designee), shall review the recommendation of the CSB panel and make the determination as to whether it is more likely than not that the student is responsible for the alleged violation(s) and if so, the appropriate disciplinary outcomes/decisions(s). The Dean of Students may elect to affirm or modify the recommendations made by the CSB panel. The Dean of Students shall notify the student of the decision. The decision letter shall contain a finding as to the responsibility of the accused student and a brief statement of the reasons for the disciplinary outcomes, if any. Any disciplinary outcome imposed or informal action taken is subject to the provisions of Subsections B(4) and B(5) of

these regulations (relating to status during suspension, degree deferral, or expulsion), as well as any other applicable University rules, regulations, or directives.

g. Appeal. Subject to the eligibility criteria and procedures set forth in Subsection C(8) of these regulations (Appeal of the Disciplinary Decision), a student may appeal a disciplinary outcome/decision that has been issued by the Dean of Students. Instructions regarding the appeal form and notification of appeals procedures, including the address (which may be an email address) to which the appeal may be submitted, shall be provided in the decision letter if the student is found responsible for the violations.

8. Appeal of the Disciplinary Sanction/Decision

a. A student may appeal a disciplinary outcome/decision where:

i. There is significant new information related to the case that was not available at the time of the individual hearing with the Conduct Officer or initial hearing and that would alter the finding and/or outcome/decision(s) assigned in the case. The new information must be detailed in an appeal letter with an explanation of why the information was not available at the time of the individual hearing with the Conduct Officer. A student who fails to appear for his/her initial disciplinary proceeding after notice has been sent to his/her University-issued email address will be deemed to have waived the right to present witnesses and relevant information in the student's own behalf and thus foreclosed from presenting "significant new information" on appeal;

ii. There is evidence that the University failed to follow established procedures.

iii. The assigned outcome of expulsion, suspension, degree deferral, probated suspension, disciplinary probation, or restrictions, is grossly disproportionate to the violation. Assigned decisions of a written warning and/or educational decisions may not be appealed.

b. A student involved in alleged academic dishonesty or degree revocation may appeal a disciplinary decision of the Dean of Students to the Provost or their designee provided the above appeal criteria has been met. All other appeals of disciplinary decisions imposed by the Dean of Students may be appealed to the VCEMSA or their designee provided the above appeal criteria has been met.

c. The appeal must be submitted by the student in accordance with the instructions provided and state the specific grounds for the appeal. The appeal must be received by the appropriate appeal officer within five University business days of the date of the decision letter. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the appeal notice is received by the appropriate appeal officer by the specified due date. Disciplinary decisions not properly appealed by such date are deemed final, or in the case of degree revocation, are recommended to the Board of Trustees for final action.

d. Appeals will be decided solely on the basis of the record of the original proceeding and the written materials provided to support the appeal.

e. The appeal officer shall review all material pertinent to the case. The appeal officer may affirm the findings and/or decisions, decrease the disciplinary decisions, or remand the case to the original hearing authority for a second hearing. The appeal officer may also, at their discretion, remove or add additional educational decisions.

f. The appeal officer shall notify the student in writing (which may be sent to their University-issued email address) of the outcome of the case, normally within ten University business days of the appeal officer's receipt of the appeal. All decisions of the appeal officer are final, subject only, in the case of a degree revocation, to the final action by the Board of Trustees.

9. Summary Action

a. Summary action by way of an immediate disciplinary suspension and exclusion from University property may be imposed when the student's continued presence poses a threat to

i. the safety, security, or well-being of members or guests of the University community,

ii. University property, or

iii. the ability of the University to maintain normal operations and carry on its programs, services and activities free of disruption.

b. Summary action may be taken by the Dean of Students, the VCEMSA, or the Chancellor.

c. During the period of summary action, the student may be denied access to University-owned housing, University property, and classes (whether delivered through on-campus or online methods). In addition: (i) the student may be restricted from all other University activities or privileges for which the student might otherwise be eligible.

d. Whenever summary action is taken under this Subsection C(9) of these regulations, the applicable procedures provided for in Subsection C for a hearing and any appeal in the related disciplinary proceeding shall be expedited so far as possible to shorten the period of summary action.

e. A student subject to summary action may submit a written appeal to the Conduct Officer of record within five University business days of receiving notice of the summary action. The appeal may be accompanied by written evidence, which may include written testimony of witnesses, bearing on the issue of whether summary action is appropriate in the case. The Conduct Officer of record shall make a decision on the appeal normally within five business days following its receipt.

f. A favorable decision on the appeal shall be limited to lifting or modifying the terms of the summary action and shall not affect the conduct of the hearing and any appeal in the related disciplinary proceeding.

D. PNW Community Standards Diversion Program

1. Purpose. The University's Community Standards Diversion Program presents students who would otherwise be referred to the Community Standards Board an opportunity to have their cases resolved through an alternative adjudication process that allows students to accept responsibility for their behaviors and be disciplined by a sole Conduct Officer in lieu of the more formal Community Standards Board process.

2. Process. At the sole discretion of the Conduct Officer, a student whose case would be referred to the Community Standards Board may be offered a diversion from these formal proceedings.

a. In determining whether any alleged violation is eligible for disposition through the Diversion Program, the Conduct Officer may consider:

i. The nature and severity of the alleged violation, including any mitigating or aggravating circumstances;

- ii. The student's past conduct record;
- iii. The likelihood that the student will accept responsibility for the behaviors documented and that the student will benefit from the Diversion and comply with its requirements and;
- iv. Whether there are specific and tangible actions that the student can take that will correct the violation.

3. Disciplinary proceedings will be initiated as outlined in Section C(3)(a) of these regulations.

4. During the pre-hearing information session, the Conduct Officer, at their sole discretion, may present the student with the option of having their case resolved through the Diversion Program or to have their case forwarded to the Community Standards Board. If a student chooses to have their case forwarded to the Community Standards Board, the case will be resolved as outlined in Section C(7) of these regulations.

5. If a student chooses to have their case resolved through the Diversion Program, the Conduct Officer will provide the student an opportunity to respond to the allegations as outlined in Section C(6)(a) of these regulations. The Conduct Officer may provide the student with a reasonable amount of time, normally three to five university business days, to prepare a response to the allegations and to obtain any witness statements for the Conduct Officer to consider.

6. In response to the allegations, the Conduct Officer, normally within three business days, will prepare and present a written Diversion Agreement, which will contain the following:

- a.** The specific disciplinary decisions and/or educational requirements that the student must complete and the deadlines by which they are to be completed;
- b.** Any limitations to campus access pending fulfillment of the requirements of the Diversion Agreement
- c.** A statement indicating that the student's violation of the Diversion Agreement, including not meeting deadlines of assigned disciplinary outcome/decisions and/or educational requirements will constitute a violation of B(2)(o) these regulations; and
- d.** The specific duration of the Diversion Agreement.

7. The student will be given three business days to either accept or reject the terms of the Diversion Agreement. If the student agrees to the terms of the Diversion Agreement, they shall do so in writing by signing the Diversion Agreement. If the student rejects the terms of the Diversion Agreement their case will be referred to the Community Standards Board for resolution. A student who fails to respond to an offered Diversion Agreement by the prescribed deadline will by default reject the terms of the Diversion Agreement and will have their case referred to the Community Standards Board for resolution.

8. A student who is offered this diversion will be afforded the same procedural rights as described in Section C(5)(b) of these regulations, with the exception of the right to appeal the decision of the Conduct Officer. The decision of the Conduct Officer pursuant to this Section D is final.

9. A student will be eligible for only one CSB Diversion Program during their enrollment at the University.

10. A student who commits a violation of these regulations while subject to the terms of a Diversion Agreement may be disciplined for both the original violation and the subsequent violation.

E. Student Conduct Records

Student conduct files and records are maintained and controlled by the Office of the Dean of Students. In order to protect the privacy of these records, ODOS, in conjunction with the Office of Legal Counsel, maintains strict policies regarding the review and duplication of these files. Students have the opportunity to review their record in ODOS. Individuals may not remove, make any copies of files, or photograph any records located in or associated with ODOS without the explicit permission of ODOS. Records will not be provided to a student's advisor or other party without the authorization of that student.

Student conduct records will be maintained by ODOS in accordance with record retention policies of the University. Student conduct records will be maintained for as long as administratively valuable. Normally, student conduct records will be maintained for a period of seven years from the student's graduation date or from the last semester of enrollment. Student conduct records of students who have been expelled, suspended, blocked from reenrollment or in which may result in future litigation will be retained permanently.

Some student conduct records may be sealed for good cause by the Dean of Students and/or designee upon receipt of a written request by the student. Factors to be considered in review of such petitions shall include, but are not limited to:

- the nature of the violation and the severity of any damage, injury or harm resulting from the incident;
- the student's demonstrated understanding of their behavior and its impact;
- the completion of any required disciplinary outcomes/decisions associated with the violation; and
- the behavior of the student following the incident

If a student's conduct record is sealed, the University will not release any information from that record, including the existence thereof, without the written consent of the student or as otherwise required to do so by law.

[Purdue University Northwest](#)

Hammond Campus

2200 169th Street
Hammond, IN 46323
[\(219\) 989-2400](tel:(219)989-2400)
[\(855\) 608-4600](tel:(855)608-4600)

[Hammond](#)

Westville Campus

1401 S. U.S. 421
Westville, IN 46391
[\(219\) 785-5200](tel:(219)785-5200)
[\(855\) 608-4600](tel:(855)608-4600)

[Westville](#)

- [College Scorecard: U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [Academic and Administrative Offices](#)

- [Human Resources](#)
- [Careers at PNW](#)
- [University Police](#)
- [Faculty & Staff Directory](#)
- [Website Feedback Form](#)

Give to PNW

[Your Support Means Everything](#)

•

•

•

•

•

-
- © 2026 Purdue University Northwest
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Consumer Information](#)
- [Legal and Privacy](#)
- [Anti-Harassment Policy](#)

For assistance with accessibility issues while using this page, please contact Marketing and Communications at marketing@pnw.edu.

Last Updated on October 2, 2025