

# Code of Student Conduct

*Contribute, Cultivate, Care.*

Students at Smith should expect to be challenged by a diversity of thought, experience and expression. The diversity of Smith is essential to creating a robust culture for living and learning, both on campus and beyond. Each member of our community is encouraged to inquire freely and to express ideas and criticism in a civil manner, while also recognizing the opinions, cultures, traditions and individuality of others, and their right to maintain them. Everyone in our community should be able to both speak and be heard while abiding by our conduct expectations. Matters involving discriminatory harassment are addressed separately pursuant to the College's [Discriminatory Harassment Policy](#). These matters will be referred to the college's Office for Non-Discrimination Issues.

The Code of Conduct and Social Responsibility is a social contract identifying the expectations of our learning community at Smith. It is premised on taking responsibility for how an individual's actions affect others.

Ethical student conduct is critical to a supportive and inclusive community that fosters learning and achievement. As noted in the [Statement of Student Ethics](#), students have freely associated themselves with Smith College in a relationship based on mutual trust, personal respect and individual integrity.

Joining the Smith community entails both rights and responsibilities. These include:



s; and

3. to contribute, discuss, negotiate and take responsibility for personal conduct and the conduct of one's invited guests.

## Provisions

Being dedicated to the advancement of learning and to the pursuit of truth, students, faculty and staff expect compliance with the policies of the college. The following behaviors, by individuals or groups, are prohibited:

- **Conduct That Threatens or Endangers a Person**

Physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats of harm, intimidation, harassment, coercion and other conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person or that unreasonably interferes with, impedes or harasses other students in the pursuit of their education. Such conduct may occur in person or via audio, visual, electronic or other means.

Related Policies:

- [Bullying & Cyber-Bullying](#)
  - [Discriminatory Harassment](#)
  - [Equal Educational Opportunity Policy](#)
  - [Sexual Misconduct Policy](#)
- **Controlled Substances**

Alcohol: Use, possession or distribution of alcoholic beverages, engaging in drinking games or other potentially dangerous behaviors or encouraging others to do so, and/or public intoxication, except as expressly permitted by the law and college regulation.

Illegal Drugs: Use, possession or distribution of narcotics, other controlled substances (including the distribution of prescription drugs) or drug-related paraphernalia, except as expressly permitted by law.



## and Recreational Cannabis

- [Federal Law](#) ↗
- [College Policies Regarding Alcohol](#)
- [Smoking Policy](#)
- [Social Events](#)

- **Dishonesty**

Acts of dishonesty

Examples include:

1. Lying or furnishing false information to any college official, college office, or faculty member;
2. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any official document, college key, identification, or record;
3. Abuse of or interference with the Student Government Association's policies and procedures, including tampering with the election of any college or SGA-recognized student organization.

Any instance of Academic Dishonesty, such as plagiarism, is adjudicated by the [Academic Integrity Board](#).

Related Policies:

- [Copyright](#)
  - [Illegal Downloading](#)
- **Disruption**

Substantial disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, college activities on or off-campus, or other authorized non-college activities when the act occurs on college premises or at college events.



## Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression

- **Five-College Policy and Off-Campus Conduct Violations**

While engaged in activities at any of the institutions that are part of the Five-College consortium or otherwise off-campus, Smith students are subject to the policies and regulations of the institution where the activity takes place, in addition to the policies of Smith College. The College Community Standards Board and the administration reserve the right to conduct proceedings and impose sanctions for misconduct at other campuses or off-campus, independent of actions by courts or other tribunals outside of the college. The College's conduct process may continue before, during or after proceedings at other institutions.

- **Failure to Comply**

Failure to comply with directions of college officials or law enforcement officers acting in the performance of their duties, and the failure to identify oneself when requested to do so; failure to comply with conduct hearing bodies.

- **Firearms and Other Weapons**

No person shall be permitted to use, possess or carry firearms or other weapons, concealed or not concealed, with or without a concealed weapon permit, while on properties owned or controlled by the College or while at programs or activities authorized or sponsored by the College.

Related Policies:

- [Firearms Policy](#)

- **Hazing**

Smith is dedicated to creating a safe and respectful environment for its community members and visitors. The College will not tolerate hazing activities committed by individuals, groups, teams or organizations, and has a [Hazing Policy](#) in place to address such behaviors, which may also violate Massachusetts Hazing Laws.



- **Theft or Abuse of Property**

The theft of, attempted theft of, and/or damage to the property of the college, the property of a member of the college community, and/or of other personal or public property.

- **Unauthorized Entry or Use**

Unauthorized entry to or use of college premises, and failure to report lost or stolen keys or access cards.

- **Violation of College Policies**

Violation of published college policies, rules or regulations other than those cited above.

Related Policies:

- [Academic Policies](#) (All cases are heard by the Academic Integrity Board)
- [Guest Policy](#)
- [Residential Life Policies](#)
- [Smith College Technology Policies](#)
- [Smoking Policy](#)
- [Student Handbook Policies](#)

## Information Related to Procedures

At Smith College, we are committed to maintaining a community in which our diverse student body can live and work in an atmosphere of civility and mutual respect for the rights and sensibilities of each individual, regardless of economic status, race, ethnicity, political views, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or other personal characteristics and beliefs. The College Community Standards Board serves to uphold these standards by responding promptly and equitably to complaints of alleged behavioral misconduct.



...ing in academic activities. The [Academic Integrity Board](#) is responsible for students and faculty responsible for upholding the [Academic Integrity Statement](#) and hearing cases of alleged infractions of academic rules and regulations.

## College Community Standards Board

The [College Community Standards Board](#) ensures that students uphold the standards adopted for the student community. The Board hears cases of alleged infractions of non-academic rules and makes decisions about the outcomes of these cases. The Board carefully considers the nature of the complaint and the board's responsibility to the reporting party, responding party, and the greater college community. The Board has the authority to enforce decisions and to impose [corrective actions or sanctions](#). The primary goals of such sanctions are restorative, focusing on education and rehabilitation.

The administration plays an important role in ensuring that the standards specified in the Code of Student Conduct, and this handbook, are maintained. Hearing officers guide and provide continuity from year to year for the College Community Standards Board. The administration generally refers cases of alleged infractions of the code to the Community Standards Board, taking administrative action only when circumstances make that the best option (examples include (but are not limited to): when classes are not in session or private medical information may need to be disclosed) in accordance with their [procedures](#). The board may also refer cases to the dean of students for action.

The College Community Standards Board Procedures can be found [here](#).

A summary of College Community Standards Board sanctions is available through the [Dean of Students](#).

## Interim Suspension



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- To ensure the physical and/or mental health and safety of an individual student;
- To protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of the Smith community;
- To avoid disruption or interference with the operations of the college; and/or
- To generally protect the educational and work experience of students, employees, or the broader Smith community.

An interim suspension may include temporary or permanent removal from college housing or relocation to another room or house; restrictions of access to all or part of the campus (including the classroom), changes to work or academic schedules; limitations on academic and/or co-curricular activities, removal from clubs, activities, or athletic teams; and limitations on any other college activities or privileges to which the student would otherwise be eligible. This list is non-exhaustive.

A decision about whether an interim suspension is appropriate, given the circumstances, will be made by the Dean of Students, the College, or their designee. In making such a decision, the Dean (or their designee) may consult with anyone at the College who has relevant information. Students will generally have 7 days from the date of the letter to appeal an interim suspension. Appeals will be heard by the Dean of the College or their designee. A student must abide by the interim suspension expectations during the appeal period or will be at risk for immediate dismissal from the college.

While a decision to institute an Interim Suspension typically accompanies a matter before the Community Standards Board, there need not be a matter before the Community Standards Board for a student to receive an Interim Suspension.

## Informal Resolution and Restorative Practices



by \_\_\_\_\_ among the individuals involved, sometimes with the help of a mediator or other facilitator. To that end, students are encouraged to use the deans, academic department chairs, supervisors, and the staff members listed on this site to discuss concerns and seek resolution to differences.

The college recognizes that some situations are better resolved through formal complaint processes or with the assistance of law enforcement. If informal strategies do not result in a resolution or are not appropriate, students may pursue a formal complaint and/or contact the applicable law enforcement authority.

## Parental Notification

Because student health and safety is our highest priority, the college reserves the right to contact parents/guardians in the event of significant health or safety concerns, including but not limited to [alcohol or drug abuse](#), use, possession or use of weapons, violent behavior, self-harm or hospitalization. The college may also contact parents/guardians should this conduct result in a change to a student's status at the college.





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