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Owner **Eddie Lovin:**
Vice
President
for Student
Affairs

Area **Student
Affairs**

Applicability **Shared
Documents**

Student Rights

POLICY STATEMENT

At Delta State University, the values of free inquiry and free expression are fundamental to fostering a vibrant academic community. The freedom to learn is supported by creating an environment where appropriate opportunities and conditions exist, whether in the classroom, across campus, or within the broader community. Ensuring and respecting these conditions—essential to the freedom to learn—is a shared responsibility among all members of the Delta State University community. Students are encouraged to cultivate critical thinking skills and pursue an independent search for truth, all while exercising their freedom with maturity and responsibility. As students embrace their responsibilities, Delta State University commits to upholding and respecting their fundamental freedoms.

DEFINITIONS

None

PROCEDURES and RESPONSIBILITIES

Rights of Students

In recognition of the rights and dignity of its students as integral members of the University community, Delta State University is dedicated to upholding the following principles and safeguarding the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, the laws of the United States and the State of Mississippi, local ordinances, and the policies established by the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

1. Students have the right to free inquiry, expression, and association.
2. Students have the right to editorial freedom in student publications and other student media.
3. Students have the right to representation on the appropriate, designated bodies.
4. Students accused of misconduct or of violating Delta State University policy have the right to have a determination of their violation or non-violation in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.
5. Students have the right to protection against improper disclosure of their student records.
6. Students have the right of access to their personal educational records.
7. Students have the right to access all policies, rules, and decisions concerning their continued enrollment, and to the required course materials and facilities necessary to pursue their studies.
8. Students have the right to educational programs that meet the objectives of the master syllabus, to teaching consistent with those objectives, and to a learning environment that encourages the students' engagement with their education.
9. Students have the right to be informed by the faculty near the beginning of each course about course requirements, evaluation procedures, and evaluation criteria to be used, and the right to expect that those criteria be employed. Faculty members have the authority to change a course syllabus after the beginning of the semester and are expected to inform students of these changes in a timely manner
10. Students have the right to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study; they are, however, responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.
11. Students have the right to be evaluated solely on relevant academic criteria and to have protection against arbitrary or capricious academic evaluation as described in the Academic Grievance Policy for Undergraduates and Graduates.
12. Students have the right to request and receive a timely assessment of their academic work by the instructor, committee chairperson, and/or committee members.
13. Students have the right to request and receive a reasonable and timely review of their grades by the instructor.
14. Students have the right to be secure from unreasonable or unauthorized search and seizure.
 - a. The University reserves the right to inspect the living quarters of any student residing in University property at any time that its administrative officials or their agents shall deem such inspection to be in the best interest of the University.
 - b. Except for cases involving use of legal search warrants and for situations relating to fire hazards, mechanical malfunctions, energy consumption, general maintenance of physical facilities, property control, and personal safety of the residents, no person's room will be entered when there are no occupants present.

- c. Courtesies will be observed in any case, with proper respect for the privacy of each resident. With these guidelines in mind, periodic inspections may be made that will be concerned with fire and safety, general cleanliness, property accountability, disorderly conduct, and excessive noise. All students have the right to an environment that is free of harassment or any other unreasonable interference with the student's performance.
 - i. Delta State University provides a mechanism to redress grievances that may arise over sexual harassment or alleged discriminations based upon other Delta State University policies including those concerning students' rights of privacy and access to their educational records.
- 15. Students have the right of complaint about academic matters if they believe their rights have been violated.
 - a. Complaints of this nature must follow the Academic Grievance Policy for the student's specific standing, Undergraduate or Graduate.

Student's Relationship with the University

1. As citizens, students have the same duties and obligations as do other citizens and enjoy the same freedoms of speech, press, religion, peaceful assembly, and petition that other citizens enjoy. In all of its dealings with students, Delta State University will respect the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitutions and laws of the United States, the State of Mississippi, and local ordinances.
2. All registered student organizations are open to all students without respect to race, religion, creed, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or national origin except that certain organizations (e.g., social fraternities and sororities) are restricted as to gender, as allowed under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.
3. Students individually and collectively are free to examine and to discuss all questions of interest to them, including questions relating to university policies, and to express opinions publicly and privately. They are free to support causes by any orderly means that do not disrupt the operation of the University.

Responsibilities of Students and Faculty

Students at Delta State University are expected to diligently strive to fulfill course requirements as outlined and take responsibility for contributing positively to the learning environment fostered by faculty. Student evaluation in a course is based solely on performance in meeting the appropriate standards set and communicated by the instructor. Each course follows a master syllabus, which provides an overview of the course's scope and outlines the goals and objectives of the learning experience.

Faculty members develop a detailed course outline based on the syllabus, offering students a clear understanding of how the course will be conducted to achieve the intended goals and objectives. Evaluation of graduate students in thesis and/or dissertation work, or other research projects, is based on their progress toward objectives set by the course instructor or chair of their committee, in accordance with written departmental guidelines.

Relationships with Law Enforcement

In addition to filing complaints under these regulations, victims are encouraged to report crimes to the appropriate law enforcement authorities. The Delta State University Police Department is the designated agency for addressing crimes committed on campus. As members of the broader community, students are expected to cooperate with all law enforcement agencies.

Confidentiality of Information

All information regarding students' views, beliefs, and political affiliations that Delta State University personnel acquire through their roles as teachers, administrators, advisors, or counselors is considered confidential. The improper disclosure of such information is a serious breach of the responsibilities held by members of the Delta State University community. However, assessments of a student's abilities and character may be shared under appropriate circumstances.

Public information released to anyone upon request includes student's name, address, telephone listing, academic major, dates of attendance, awards received, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and weight and height of athletic team members.

Information may also be released to Delta State University officials with legitimate educational interests, to federal or state agencies as provided by law, and in compliance with lawful subpoenas. In cases of emergencies, information may be released as authorized by the Department of Education and regulations to protect the health and safety of the student or other persons.

Students and their Associations

Students at Delta State University are free to form and join organizations that promote the shared interests of their members. However, these organizations must operate in compliance with university regulations and public law. Failure to adhere to university policies, the organization's bylaws or national regulations, or public law may lead to the loss of the organization's recognized status (if applicable), disbandment of the organization, and/or disciplinary actions against individual members

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [Grievance Policy - Graduate](#)
- [Grievance Policy - Undergraduate](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Student Grievance](#)

Approval Signatures

Step Description

Approver

Date

Human Resources	Kelvin Davis: Comptroller	02/2025
Cabinet Approval	Claire Cole: Coordinator of Executive Services	02/2025
University Leadership Council Approval	Eddie Lovin: Vice President for Student Affairs	02/2025
VP Approval	Eddie Lovin: Vice President for Student Affairs	02/2025
	Eddie Lovin: Vice President for Student Affairs	02/2025

Applicability

Delta State University External, Delta State University Internal

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