

Code of Student Conduct

POLICY NO.	ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
12.05.06	August 15, 2010	August 18, 2024

1.0 Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy (“the Code”) is to set the standards of Student conduct that help maintain a Campus environment where ideas are freely exchanged, Brown University (“Brown” or “the University”) property and processes are respected, and conflicts are peacefully resolved.

2.0 To Whom the Policy Applies

This policy applies to Students, as defined in Section 4.0.

3.0 Policy Statement

This Code is based on the following primary principles as provided for in the University Code of Conduct (<https://policy.brown.edu/policy/code-conduct>):

- We Respect Academic Freedom and the Freedom of Expression and Inquiry
- We Treat Each Other with Respect and Dignity
- We Act with Integrity
- We Respect the Use of University Resources and Property

All members of the Brown community are expected to foster a safe environment where Students can thrive. The conduct described in Section 3.4 has the potential to jeopardize that safe environment and is prohibited. Students who are in the presence of prohibited conduct are urged to address or report that conduct and remove themselves from the situation. A commitment to this principle is an investment in a healthy and caring community.

3.1 Scope

This Code covers all behaviors, including online, by all Students and all Student Organizations or groups, no matter where the behavior occurs or whether the University is in session. This includes, but is not limited to, behaviors that occur off-Campus but cause potential or actual harm to individuals (whether or not those individuals are affiliated with the University), the University community, or to institutional reputation, or that suggest a Student’s presence on Campus may pose a safety risk. Students are also responsible for the behavior of their guests on Campus. The determination of whether behavior is subject to this Code will be made by the Dean of Students or their designee.

3.2 Student Conduct Procedures

The Code serves as an educational and socially just framework to address allegations of prohibited conduct. Allegations of prohibited conduct against Students will be resolved pursuant to the Student Conduct Procedures. This Code and the Student Conduct Procedures are administered by the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards (“OSCCS”).

3.3 Additional Considerations

3.3.1 Withdrawals/Leaves of Absence

If a Student withdraws or takes a leave of absence from the University with an investigation or resolution process pending, the University may proceed with the investigation and resolution to the fullest extent possible and may make an entry on the Student’s academic transcript indicating that the Student withdrew or is on a leave of absence with a non-academic disciplinary matter pending. The University may place a hold on the Student’s official and unofficial academic transcripts for up to three (3) years until the matter is resolved. Students may petition the Dean of Students to have this hold removed before three (3) years have passed.

3.3.2 Sex Discrimination

Allegations of sex discrimination (as that term is defined in the Title IX Policy) will generally be subject to the Title IX Policy (<https://policy.brown.edu/policy/title-ix>) and the Title IX Grievance Procedure (<https://campus-life.brown.edu/equity-compliance-reporting/title-ix/grievance-procedure>) administered by the Title IX and Gender Equity Office. In cases for which there are alleged violations of the Title IX Policy and the Code of Student Conduct, OSCCS and the Title IX and Gender Equity Office will discuss and assign the cases on a case-by-case basis. Allegations of sex discrimination that are not subject to the Title IX Policy and/or Title IX Grievance Procedure but may constitute violations of the Code will be subject to the Code and Student Conduct Procedures.

3.3.3 Discrimination and Harassment

Allegations of discrimination or harassment based upon a person's race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin – including actual or perceived shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics or citizenship or residency in a country with a dominant religion or distinct religious identity – disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other characteristic protected under applicable law will generally be subject to the Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy (<https://policy.brown.edu/policy/discrimination-and-harassment>) and the Discrimination and Harassment Standard Operating Procedure for Addressing and Responding to Reports and Complaints (<https://campus-life.brown.edu/equity-compliance-reporting/title-ix/discrimination-and-harassment-complaint-resolution-procedure>) administered by the Office of Equity Compliance and Reporting (“OECR”). In cases for which there are alleged violations of the Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy and the Code, the two offices will discuss and assign the cases on a case-by-case basis. Allegations of discrimination or harassment based on a person's membership in a protected category that are not subject to the Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy and/or Discrimination and Harassment Standard Operating Procedure but may constitute violations of the Code will be subject to the Code and Student Conduct Procedures.

3.3.4 Legal Issues

The University may pursue matters through the Student Conduct Procedures that may also be addressed in law enforcement investigations and the civil or criminal legal system. Proceedings under the Code may be carried out prior to, simultaneously with or following civil or criminal proceedings. Decisions about the timing of University proceedings will be at the sole discretion of the Director of Student Conduct & Community Standards or their designee.

3.4 Prohibited Conduct

3.4.1 Alcohol

Violation of the Student Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy. (<https://policy.brown.edu/policy/student-alcohol-other-drugs>) The following charges may apply under this Code:

3.4.1.1 Illegal or Unauthorized Possession or Use of Alcohol

3.4.1.2 Manufacture of Alcohol

3.4.1.3 Illegal Provision of Alcohol

3.4.1.4 Possession of Mass Alcohol Consumption Paraphernalia on Campus

The use of any drug, including alcohol, related to any prohibited conduct will be considered an aggravating circumstance independently of whether the drug was used legally or illegally by the offending party. This factor in a case may result in a more severe status outcome and/or the imposition of terms requiring evaluation or treatment.

3.4.2 Bribery

Offering or causing to be offered any bribe or favor to any member of the University community in an attempt to influence a decision or action. This includes attempting to unduly influence a University proceeding, including a disciplinary proceeding outcome or appeal process.

3.4.3 Collusion

Knowingly or recklessly aiding, abetting, assisting, or attempting to aid or assist another individual to commit a violation of any University policy.

3.4.4 Discrimination

Discrimination as defined in the Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy. (<https://policy.brown.edu/policy/discrimination-and-harassment>) Refer to section 3.3.3 for information about jurisdiction.

3.4.5 Disruption of Community

Actions that are unreasonably disruptive to the University community and/or its neighborhoods. Examples include, but are not limited to, off-campus disturbances or nuisances in residential and commercial areas surrounding Campus, any disturbances that interfere with the quiet use and enjoyment of Campus or nearby properties, and behaviors that require the deployment of significant Campus resources.

3.4.6 Disruption of Safety

3.4.6.1 Disruption of Fire Safety

Examples include, but are not limited to, tampering with or improper activation of a fire alarm, covering or otherwise compromising the proper functioning of a smoke detector or fire sprinkler, deliberately or recklessly igniting or attempting to ignite an unauthorized fire on Campus, and failure to evacuate during a fire alarm or fire drill.

3.4.6.2 Disruption of General Safety

Behavior that creates fear of or actual hazardous conditions that threaten the safety and well-being of members of the Campus community. Higher-level examples of this conduct include, but are not limited to, false reporting of an emergency or terroristic threat in any form and using or threatening to use a bomb or a chemical or biological agent. Lower-level examples include, but are not limited to, the propping of doors of Campus buildings, creating slip-and-fall hazards, tampering with the lights or electricity of Campus buildings, and food fights. The University has the discretion, based upon surrounding circumstances, to determine whether disruptive behavior is properly classified as a higher-level offense or a lower-level offense.

3.4.7 Disruption of University Activities

Behavior that prevents, disrupts or materially interferes with the educational functions of the University. Examples include, but are not limited to, halting a lecture, debate, or any public forum, obstructing the passage of others, or creating an imminent threat of such disruption or obstruction.

3.4.8 Drugs

Violation of the Student Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy (<https://policy.brown.edu/policy/student-alcohol-other-drugs>) . The following charges may apply under this policy:

3.4.8.1 Illegal or Unauthorized Possession or Use of Drugs

3.4.8.2 Manufacture of Drugs

3.4.8.3 Illegal Provision of Drugs or Drug Paraphernalia

3.4.8.4 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia on Campus

The use of any drug, including alcohol, related to any prohibited conduct will be considered an aggravating circumstance independently of whether the drug was used legally or illegally by the offending party. This factor in a case may result in a more severe status outcome and/or the imposition of terms requiring evaluation or treatment.

3.4.9 Failure to Comply

Failure to comply with the proper directive(s) of a University official. Examples include, but are not limited to, refusing to identify oneself or refusing to present University identification to a University staff member, failing to submit immunization records to University Health Services, and failing to attend mandatory meetings or trainings.

3.4.10 Harassment

Harassment as defined in the Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy. (<https://policy.brown.edu/policy/discrimination-and-harassment>) Refer to section 3.3.3 for information about jurisdiction.

3.4.11 Harm to Person(s)

3.4.11.1 Physical Harm

Actions that result in or can be reasonably expected to result in physical harm to a person or persons. Examples include, but are not limited to, throwing, hurling, or firing of projectiles without regard for the safety of others and physical assault. Assault is defined as any unwelcome physical contact that is intentional or reckless including, but not limited to, striking, slapping, hitting, biting, punching, shoving, or kicking another person.

3.4.11.2 Emotional/Psychological Harm

Behavior that is intended to or can reasonably be expected to result in significant emotional or psychological harm. Examples include, but are not limited to, subjecting another person or group to abusive, threatening, bullying, intimidating, harassing, or humiliating actions.

3.4.12 Hazing

Hazing as defined in the Hazing Policy (<https://policy.brown.edu/policy/hazing>) . Examples include, but are not limited to, compulsory alcohol or drug consumption, physical brutality, psychological cruelty, public humiliation, morally degrading activities, forced confinement, creation of excessive fatigue, required removal or destruction of public or private property, or any other activity that endangers the physical, mental, or academic well-being and/or safety of an individual.

3.4.13 Invasion of Privacy

Intrusion into the personal life of another, in ways that are reasonably likely to cause injury or distress, in places where one would have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Amnesty may be granted to individuals who use recording devices to document abuse against themselves or others, provided those recordings are not distributed. A determination of someone's reasonable expectation of privacy will be at the discretion of the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. Examples include, but are not limited to, making, viewing, listening to, or distributing secret recordings or installing the equipment for such recordings, secretly monitoring others in their living quarters or bathrooms either in person (e.g., window peeping) or digitally (e.g., drones, pen cameras), intrusion on a person's property or communications, and the appropriation or use of someone's likeness, identifying personal data, or documents.

3.4.14 Misrepresentation

Lying or materially misrepresenting information to an official University body or officer, including a member of the Department of Public Safety. Examples include, but are not limited to, providing false identification of oneself or others, lying in the course of a student conduct investigation or hearing, filing a knowingly false report, or submitting altered, manipulated, or otherwise falsified information to any University official. This also includes the possession of a fake ID, even if it is not used, and the creation or distribution of fake IDs.

3.4.15 Noncompliance with Terms

Noncompliance with the terms or outcome of any student conduct proceeding. Examples include, but are not limited to, failing to complete assigned educational or restorative terms assigned as outcomes to a disciplinary proceeding.

3.4.16 Participation in Derecognized Student Groups

Knowingly affiliating with groups, teams, or organizations that have had their University recognition suspended or permanently revoked by the University for disciplinary reasons. Affiliation includes joining, rushing, pledging, promoting, or being involved in any activity that would normally be associated with being a member of such an organization. This applies to organizations that were created by members of a derecognized organization in an attempt to continue its presence in the University community and/or its neighborhoods.

This prohibited conduct does not apply to unrecognized Student groups who have never had University recognition or who are currently not recognized by the University because of non-disciplinary disbandment. However, known members of unrecognized Student groups may be held accountable for any prohibited conduct by these groups.

Please see the Student Activities Office website (<https://www.brown.edu/campus-life/events/student-activities/student-groups#derecognized>) for a list of derecognized Student groups.

3.4.17 Property Damage

Actions that result in or can be reasonably expected to result in damage to property. This includes, but is not limited to, property owned by the University, property owned by individuals affiliated with the University, and property owned by individuals or entities not affiliated with the University.

3.4.18 Retaliation

Retaliation is defined as any adverse action or threat taken or made against an individual, including through third parties, for making a report of a policy violation or participating in any investigation or proceeding related to any policy. Examples include, but are not limited to, threatening, intimidating, harassing, or any other conduct that would discourage a reasonable person from seeking services, receiving protective measures and accommodations, and/or reporting policy violations. Retaliation also includes maliciously and purposefully interfering with, threatening, or damaging the academic, professional, or living environment of another individual before, during, or after the investigation and resolution of a report of a policy violation in response to and/or on account of the report of the policy violation.

3.4.19 Sex Discrimination

Sex discrimination as defined in the Title IX Policy. (<https://policy.brown.edu/policy/title-ix>) Sex discrimination under the Title IX Policy includes sex-based harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Refer to section 3.3.2 for information about jurisdiction.

3.4.20 Stalking

Engaging in a course of conduct toward another person under circumstances that would cause a person to fear bodily injury or experience substantial emotional distress. Course of conduct means two or more instances including, but not limited to, unwelcome acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property. Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish. Stalking includes cyber-stalking, a particular form of stalking in which electronic media such as the internet, social networks, blogs, cell phones, texts, or other similar devices or forms of contact are used. Stalking as a form of sex-based harassment will generally be addressed under the Title IX Policy (<https://policy.brown.edu/policy/title-ix>). Refer to section 3.3.2 for information about jurisdiction.

3.4.21 Theft

Theft or attempted theft of property and/or possession of stolen property. Examples include, but are not limited to, attempted or actual unauthorized use of a credit card, debit card, Student identification card, cell phone, personal identification number, University account, or personal check.

3.4.22 Unauthorized Entry or Use of Space

Examples include, but are not limited to, the unauthorized entry into or occupation of any University room, building, or area of the Campus, including such entry or occupation at any unauthorized time; any unauthorized or improper use of any University property, equipment, or facilities; refusal to leave a space at the request of a University official; assisting another individual to enter a restricted area without authorization; and the unauthorized possession, use, or duplication of University keys, cards, codes, or other methods of access.

A Student's residence hall room is considered a restricted area where permission to enter must be obtained on every occasion, even if the resident's door is not closed.

3.4.23 Violations of Law

Violation of any federal, state, or local law, as determined by a court of law.

3.4.24 Violation of Operational Rules

Violation of operational rules governing various offices, departments, and facilities of the University (e.g., Residential Life, Student Activities Office, Dining Services, Office of Information Technology, the Libraries). This applies to any policy, rule, or standard operating procedure published in hard copy or available electronically on the University website. Examples include, but are not limited to, illegally downloading copyrighted material on the University's network, possessing prohibited items in residence hall rooms, and failing to register a group event with the Student Activities Office.

3.4.25 Weapons

Possession, use, or distribution of firearms, ammunition, explosives, or other weapons on Campus or while participating in University-sponsored activities or travel. This extends even to individuals licensed to carry such weapons. This includes any object or implement designed or used for inflicting bodily harm or physical damage, including those that have been made inoperable and those used for display or decorative purposes; all fireworks; chemicals used or intended to cause harm to others; and knives, except those that are designed and used for food preparation and multi-tools with knife blades shorter than 3 inches. A firearm is defined as any projectile-firing device including, but not limited to, conventional firearms (devices using gunpowder); all types of air rifles; any slingshot device; or any device firing BBs, pellets, darts, bolts, arrows or other hard or sharp objects.

Facsimile firearms are also prohibited. This refers to any device or object made of plastic, wood, metal or any other material that is a replica, facsimile or toy version of, or is otherwise recognizable as, a pistol, revolver, shotgun, sawed off shotgun, rifle, machine gun, rocket launcher or any other firearm. Examples of facsimile firearms include, but are not limited to, toy guns (including Nerf guns), movie props, hobby models (either in kit form or fully assembled), starter pistols, air guns, inoperative firearms or any other device which might reasonably be perceived to be a real firearm.

No use of prop weapons or staged combat of any kind is allowed for theater productions, in rehearsal or performance, without the advance, express, written permission of the supervising office or department.

The use or brandishing of any real or perceived weapon, even if legally possessed, in a manner that harms, threatens, causes fear to, or otherwise endangers others is prohibited.

4.0 Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the terms below have the following definitions:

Campus: Property owned, leased, used, or controlled by Brown University, as well as the streets, sidewalks, and pathways adjacent to or in their immediate vicinity.

Student: Refers to the following individuals:

- Undergraduate Students begin their Student status when they first engage in official University programs or activities (e.g., taking an online course, arriving to Campus for Orientation or athletic participation, etc.) and end their Student status when they withdraw from the University or their enrollment is terminated with all requirements complete.
- Graduate and Medical Students begin their Student status when they accept an offer of admission and end their Student status when they withdraw from the University or their enrollment is terminated with all requirements complete.
- Students enrolled in executive and professional education programs through the School of Professional Studies are considered to be Students from the time they accept an offer of admission into their programs until they withdraw from the University or their enrollment is terminated with all requirements complete.

- Students enrolled in the IE Executive MBA program will be subject to IE's policies and procedures when the behavior occurs in Madrid but will be subject to this Code if the behavior occurs on Brown's Campus. Administrators on both Campuses will collaborate to determine which institution's policy and procedures will govern incidents that occur elsewhere.
- Students enrolled in Pre-College programs should refer to the Pre-College Code of Conduct (<https://precollege.brown.edu/policies#conduct>) .
- Students who have taken a leave of absence from their studies or who have completed their residency requirement but have not yet fulfilled all degree requirements and have not graduated are considered Students under this definition.

5.0 Responsibilities

All individuals to whom this policy applies are responsible for becoming familiar with and following this policy. University supervisors and employees with student oversight duties are responsible for promoting the understanding of this policy and for taking appropriate steps to help ensure and enforce compliance with it.

Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards: Will ensure the processing and adjudicating of violations of the Code of Student Conduct, provide support and education to Students as they navigate difficult and contentious situations, and invest in their learning and character development in order to prepare and educate them to discharge the offices of life with usefulness and reputation.

6.0 Consequences for Violating this Policy

Failure to comply with this and related policies is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension without pay, or termination of employment or association with the University, in accordance with applicable (e.g., staff, faculty, student) disciplinary procedures.

7.0 Related Information

Brown University is a community in which individuals are encouraged to share concerns with University leadership. Complaints can be submitted via the Campus Incident Complaint Form (https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?BrownUniv&layout_id=2) . Members of the surrounding community can submit reports via the Off-Campus Incident Reporting (https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?BrownUniv&layout_id=102) Form. (https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?BrownUniv&layout_id=102) Additionally, Brown's Anonymous Reporting Hotline (<https://compliance.brown.edu/reporting-concerns>) allows anonymous and confidential reporting on matters of concern online or by phone (877-318-9184).

The following information complements and supplements this document. The information is intended to help explain this policy and is not an all-inclusive list of policies, procedures, laws and requirements.

7.1 Related Policies

- Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources Policy (</policy/acceptable-use-it-resources>)
- Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) Compliance Policy (</policy/dmca-compliance>)
- Drug-Free Workplace Policy (</policy/drug-free-workplace-policy>)
- FERPA Policy (</policy/ferpa-policy>)
- University Green Space Use Policy (</policy/green-space>)
- Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy (</policy/discrimination-and-harassment>)
- Non-Retaliation Policy (</policy/non-retaliation>)
- On-Campus Housing Requirement Policy (</policy/campus-housing>)
- Political Activity Policy (</policy/political-activity>)
- Smoking on University Property (</policy/smoking>)
- Student Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy (</policy/student-alcohol-other-drugs>)
- Title IX Policy (</policy/title-ix>)
- University Code of Conduct (</policy/code-conduct>)
- University Green Space Use Policy (</policy/green-space>)
- University Posting Policy (</policy/poster-and-banner>)
- Academic Code (<https://www.brown.edu/academics/college/degree/policies/academic-code>)
- Academic Code, Graduate Edition (<https://graduateschool.brown.edu/academics-research/rules-regulations/academic-code>)
- Clery Compliance and Crime Reporting (<https://dps.brown.edu/clery-compliance-and-crime-reporting>)
- Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (<https://www.brown.edu/offices/student-conduct/drug-free-schools-and-communities-act>)

- Graduate Student Handbook (<https://graduateschool.brown.edu/academics-research/rules-regulations/graduate-school-handbook>)
- Hazing Policy (<https://www.brown.edu/offices/student-conduct/hazing-policy>)
- Living Off Campus (<https://reslife.brown.edu/eligibility>)
- Medical Student Handbook ([https://education.med.brown.edu/sites/default/files/0-2023-2024%20AMS%20Student%20Handbook%20\(pub%204.2.24\).pdf](https://education.med.brown.edu/sites/default/files/0-2023-2024%20AMS%20Student%20Handbook%20(pub%204.2.24).pdf))
- Pre-College Code of Conduct (<https://precollege.brown.edu/policies/#conduct>)
- Protest and Demonstration Policy (<https://www.brown.edu/offices/student-conduct/protest-and-demonstration-policy>)
- Residential Life Policies and Rules (<https://reslife.brown.edu/on-campus/rules>)
- Student Event Registration, Planning & Management (<https://studentactivities.brown.edu/student-groups/student-activities-handbook>)
- Student-run Business or Student Enterprise (<https://www.brown.edu/offices/student-conduct/student-run-business-or-student-enterprise>)
- Title IX Policy (<https://policy.brown.edu/policy/title-ix>)

7.2 Related Procedures

- Student Conduct Procedures (<https://www.brown.edu/offices/student-conduct/sites/student-conduct/files/docs/Student%20Conduct%20Procedures%202023%20-%202024.pdf>)
- Student Conduct Procedures for Student Groups (<https://www.brown.edu/offices/student-conduct/sites/student-conduct/files/docs/2023-2024%20Student%20Group%20Procedures.pdf>)
- Petition to Re-Enroll (https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?BrownUniv&layout_id=13)
- Consent for Release of Non-Academic Disciplinary Record Information (https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?BrownUniv&layout_id=11)
- Title IX Grievance Procedure (<https://campus-life.brown.edu/equity-compliance-reporting/title-ix/grievance-procedure>)
- Discrimination and Harassment Standard Operating Procedure for Addressing and Responding to Reports and Complaints (<https://campus-life.brown.edu/equity-compliance-reporting/title-ix/discrimination-and-harassment-complaint-resolution-procedure>)

7.3 Related Forms

- Campus Incident Complaint Form (https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?BrownUniv&layout_id=2) (for general incidents, mostly used by Brown Students and staff)
- Off-Campus Incident Reporting Form (https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?BrownUniv&layout_id=102) (for use by off-Campus neighbors)
- Gender Discrimination and Sexual Violence Incident Reporting Form (https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?BrownUniv&layout_id=68)
- Discrimination and Harassment Incident Reporting Form (https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?BrownUniv&layout_id=64)

7.4 Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs on the Student Conduct and Community Standards Website

7.5 Other Related Information:

- Student Accessibility Services (<https://studentaccessibility.brown.edu/>)

8.0 Policy Owner and Contact(s)

8.1 Policy Owner: Vice President for Campus Life & Student Services

8.2 Policy Approved by: President

8.3 Contact Information:

Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

Email (<mailto:student-conduct@brown.edu>)

401-863-2653

9.0 Policy History

9.1 Policy Issue Date: August 15, 2010

9.2 Policy Effective Date: August 18, 2024

9.3 Policy Update/Review Summary:

Minor edits and clarifications to Prohibited Conduct. Edited to reference other University policies where applicable.

Previous policy version(s) superseded by this policy:

- Code of Student Conduct, Effective Date: August 15, 2019
- Code of Student Conduct, Effective Date: August 15, 2015
- Code of Student Conduct, Effective Date: August 15, 2010

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