



Student Conduct

General Definitions:

Student

- Any individual enrolled in or registered with any academic program of UC Merced, including recess periods between academic terms.

Jurisdiction

- The University may extend authority to off-campus events if conduct is determined to:
 - Adversely affect the health, safety or security of any members of the University community
 - Involves academic work or any records of the University
 - May compromise "Good Neighbor" relations

Informal Disposition Meeting

- Resolution without a formal fact-finding hearing, usually by agreement between the student and Student Conduct (most cases are resolved in this manner).

Formal Hearing

- Process involving students, faculty and/or staff who meet to make determinations of fact, based on witnesses and/ or written evidence.

Burden of Proof

- Amount of evidence required to find someone responsible for a violation ("more likely than not").

Appeals Process: (for formal hearings)

For Undergraduate Students: All appeals must be filed in writing within 10 days with the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and the Director of Student Life and Conduct.

For Graduate Students: All appeals must be filled in writing within 10 days with the designated Dean (or Assistant/ Associate Dean) of the school.

Appeals must meet one of the following criteria:

- The decision lacks substantial basis in fact to support the findings
- There is incongruity between the proposed sanction and the findings
- There has been unfairness in the hearing proceedings
- There is newly discovered important evidence that was not known at the time of the hearing or decision

Results of Appeals:

- Appeals may be denied, granted in whole or part, or other options as appropriate
- For newly discovered evidence, the decision may be referred back to the hearing panel for reconsideration based on the new evidence
- Appeals for sanctions may be denied, sanctions may be increased, or other options (as appropriate) may be utilized

Potential Sanctions:

Dismissal:

- Termination of student status for an indefinite period (may not re-enroll in classes without approval from the Chancellor).

Suspension:

- Termination of student status for a specified period of time (allowed to re-enroll at the end of that period).

Interim Suspension:

- Exclusion of a student from classes, or other specified activities or areas of campus, before final determination of an alleged violation.

Deferred Separation

- A status imposed for a specific period of time during which a student must demonstrate conduct that conforms to University standards of conduct (may include restrictions on privileges or eligibility for activities).

Loss of Privileges:

- Exclusion of a student from participation in designated privileges and activities for a specified period of time.

Censure, Warnings, or Name on File:

- A written warning that a student has violated a specified University policy and that further violations may result in further disciplinary action.

Restitution:

- Reimbursement for expenses incurred by the University or other parties resulting from a violation of University policies (may be monetary or appropriate service to repair or compensate for damages).

Special Assignment

- An assignment of costs, labor, duties, educational projects or other responsibilities that are appropriate based on the violation and/ or student's role on campus
- Examples include: educational projects, research papers / personal essays, workshop/ training, or community service.