

Student Code of Conduct

Participation as a member of the Southern Oregon University community requires respect for oneself and all other members of the campus community. Upon enrolling at SOU, all students enter into an agreement with the University to respect and view other students, faculty, and staff as colleagues committed to the pursuit of knowledge and self-understanding. To misuse or abuse that mutual respect is to threaten the entire academic enterprise.

There is no place for behaviors that are self-destructive or that impede others' abilities to engage in their lives and work at the University. The student code of conduct—which can be found in its entirety at www.sou.edu/studentaffairs/sapoliciesconduct, and in hard copy at the Office of Student Affairs (Stevenson Union 322)—and all of the University's policies (also found in their entirety in these locations) are designed to guide students by providing clear descriptions of problematic behaviors and the responses that can be expected should they occur.

Civility is the hallmark of our community. Hostility in any form has no place in open and honest learning. The agreement mentioned above requires a balance between freedom of expression and freedom from threats to safety, both physical and emotional.

Acceptance of admission to Southern Oregon University implies your acceptance of the University's rules and regulations and agreement to abide by them. All University policies have been crafted to balance freedom and responsibility and to provide standards for the orderly operation of this educational community.

Conduct occurs in the context of a community of scholars dedicated to personal and academic excellence. Joining this community obligates each member to observe the following principles:

- Mutual respect
- Personal and academic integrity
- Civil discourse
- Responsible decision making

Most members of the SOU community act in a mature manner consistent with the benchmarks of mutual respect, civil discourse, appreciation of differences, and responsible choices. However, it is necessary to protect the many from the few who may choose to act in an irresponsible manner. This is one of the main reasons the University has a code of conduct and a comprehensive set of policies and regulations.

Regarding the practical matter of reviewing incidents of student misconduct, this code outlines the procedures to be followed by the University. Any allegations of misconduct must involve violations of listed rules and the University must follow written procedures. These procedures include the following:

- Written notice of what rule(s) have allegedly been violated, in sufficient detail to allow a response.

- An opportunity to address the issue(s) before a designated University staff member or hearing board.
- A timely, written decision based on the greater weight of the information presented.
- An opportunity to appeal based upon alleged violations of the written procedures.

University policies outline the specific behavior that is prohibited within the campus community. These include the following:

- Academic dishonesty
- Arson
- Damage, vandalism, misuse, or theft of property
- Failure to comply with directives of University personnel
- Failure to comply with the outcome(s) of University hearings
- Hazing
- Illegal gambling
- Inciting any conduct that is prohibited
- Littering
- Obstruction or disruptive behavior
- Physical, verbal, or other abuse, violent, or threatening behavior
- Possession of firearms or other weapons/dangerous items
- Providing false information, including forgery
- Self-harm
- Smoking in non-designated areas
- Unauthorized entry into or use of facilities
- Unwanted sexual contact of any kind
- Use, possession, or distribution of alcohol that does not fall within legal limits and specific University rules
- Use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs
- Violation of the housing contract and/or housing-specific policies, including misuse of fire safety equipment, abuse of food service privileges, guest policy, safety regulations, noise policies, solicitation, and others. Housing policies may be obtained at www.sou.edu/studentaffairs/sapoliciesconduct or in hard copy form at the Housing Office, Cox Hall.
- Violation of the responsible use of technology policy

All of these rules and procedures may be found in their entirety at http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARS_500/OAR_573/573_075.html (573-075-0000 through 573-075-0090) and obtained in hard copy from the Office of Student Affairs (Stevenson Union 322). Sections 573-075-0100 and 573-075-0110 of this Oregon Administrative Rule detail procedures for filing discrimination or non-discrimination grievances. Grading grievance procedures are covered in Academic Standards/Grading Grievance, Oregon Administrative Rule 573-095 on the web at http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARS_500/OAR_573/573_095.html. You will find additional information at the links to Discrimination and to Grievance Policy and Procedures at www.sou.edu/studentaffairs/sapoliciesconduct.