

Minnesota State University, Mankato University Policy	
Policy Name: Statement of Student Responsibilities <u>Student Code of Conduct</u>	Effective Date of Last Review: July 1, 2019 <u>2026</u>
Custodian of Policy: Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management	Date of Last Review: September 2018 <u>2025</u>
Date of Adoption: July 2000	Date of Next Review: September 2025 <u>2032</u>

POLICY

Students are dual members of the Minnesota State University, Mankato community and society. Good citizenship is expected of all students regardless of location. Students who engage in alleged violations of the ~~Student Code of Conduct~~ "~~Statement of Student Responsibilities~~" policy may also face civil or criminal penalties ~~outside of the University~~. ~~Violations of these expectations need to~~must be addressed in order to ~~support the welfare~~maintain the boundaries of all students. This ~~Statement-policy~~ is not intended to replace federal, state, or local legal processes.

Students maintain a responsibility to adhere to all applicable University and Minnesota State system policies such as Minnesota State system's 1B.1 Equal Opportunity Nondiscrimination and 1B.3 Sexual Violence policies.

The ~~Statement of Student Responsibilities~~Student Code of Conduct was established by students, faculty, and staff to clarify behavioral expectations of students. The following responsibilities promote a sense of community where maturity, personal accountability, and positive regard for the well-being of others frame choices and decision-making:

~~Student Responsibilities~~Student Code of Conduct

- ~~1. **Excellence:** Minnesota State University, Mankato students are expected to engage in behaviors that enhance the well-being of self, others, and the environment. Behaviors that restrict enacting this value include, but are not limited to:~~
 - ~~a. **Respect for Property:** Engaging in unauthorized use of, or causing damage to, University property or the property of others interfere with a safe and functional community. Examples include vandalism, graffiti, damaging furniture or equipment, or interfering with facilities and technology systems. Other examples include, but may not be limited to:~~

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 12 pt

1. Integrity: Minnesota State University, Mankato students are expected to exercise informed and responsible action to address ethical challenges and recognize the ethical implications of their communication. Behaviors that restrict enacting this value include, but are not limited to:

- a. **Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to complete academic work truthfully and independently. Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, collusion, or scientific misconduct are violations of the Academic Integrity Policy and hinder personal academic development.
- b. **Truthfulness and Falsification:** Providing false, misleading, or incomplete information to University officials, altering documents, misusing University-issued IDs, or falsely representing the University or its members compromises trust and accountability.
- c. **Cooperation with University Officials:** Students are expected to identify themselves accurately and respond to reasonable directions from University officials, law enforcement, or emergency personnel when acting in their professional capacity.
- d. **Responsible Facility Use (Unauthorized Entry):** Accessing or using University spaces, property, data, or services without authorization—including entering through alarmed or propped doors—disrupts safety and respect for shared spaces.
- e. **Secure Access (Unauthorized Access):** Possessing, using, copying/cloning or sharing University keys, ID cards, passwords, or access codes without permission compromises campus safety and violates privacy expectations.

2. Access and Diversity: Minnesota State Mankato students recognize and value diverse perspectives and the interdependence among communities in order to broaden perspectives, encourage collaboration and promote unity. Behaviors that restrict enacting this value include, but are not limited to:

- a. **Discrimination and Harassment:** Unfair treatment or harassment based on personal characteristics violates University values and is prohibited by Minnesota State Board Policy 1B.1. Other forms of harassment include, but may not be limited to:
 - i. severe or persistent unwanted verbal, written, electronic communications, or graphic expression;
 - ii. demanding inordinate amounts of time and attention from faculty or staff.
- b. **Hazing:** any intentional, knowing or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or

persons to participate, that (1) is committed in the course of initiation into, affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization (e.g., a club, athletic team, fraternity, or sorority); and (2) causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization, of physical or psychological injury including, but are not limited to:

- i. whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;
- ii. causing, coercing or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
- iii. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
- iv. causing, coercing or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
- v. any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
- vi. any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law;
- i.vii. any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.

b.c. Endangering Others (Harm to Persons): Actions that intentionally or recklessly threatens the physical health, mental health, or safety of any individual, including oneself, are contrary to the supportive environment the University seeks to foster.

c.d. Retaliation: Taking adverse action against someone for reporting a concern or participating in a University process discourages accountability and threatens fairness and transparency.

d.e. Respect for Property (Theft): Taking, using, or possessing property or services without permission diminishes trust and violates community standards.

e.f. Threatening Behavior: Verbal or written threats that cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others, or that imply potential damage to property, are serious violations of community expectations. This includes, but is not limited to, social media, email, and other electronic or cyber mediums.

f.g. **Sexual Misconduct:** All forms of sexual violence—including sexual assault, harassment, stalking, and coercion—are prohibited and are defined in [Minnesota State Board Policy 1B.3](#).

- 2.3. **Responsibility:** Minnesota State Mankato students continue to learn, cultivate self-awareness, and personal and civic identity in order to be ethical and productive difference-makers in a global society. Behavior(s) that restrict enacting this value include, but are not limited to:
- a. **Alcohol Use:** Students are expected to comply with University policy and all applicable alcohol laws. Underage consumption, providing alcohol to minors, or violations of the [University's Alcohol and Other Drug Policy](#) impact both individual well-being and community safety.
 - i. Residential Life residents are additionally subject to [Residential Life policies and procedures](#).
 - b. **Drugs and Other Controlled Substances:** Unauthorized possession or use of illegal or prescription drugs, or drug paraphernalia, is prohibited. Cannabis use—including for medical reasons—is not permitted on campus or at University-sponsored events under federal law and [University policy](#).
 - i. Residential Life residents are additionally subject to [Residential Life policies and procedures](#).
 - c. **Weapons and Dangerous Items:** Bringing unauthorized weapons, explosives, or hazardous materials to campus creates safety risks and is a violation of the [University Weapons and Firearms Policy](#).
 - d. **Community Accountability (Shared Violations):** Allowing or assisting others in violating policies, or failing to address misconduct, undermines individual and shared responsibility.
 - e. **Interfering with Accountability Processes:** Behaviors that interfere with the Student Conduct or Grievance Processes include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Providing false or misleading information during investigations
 - ii. Disrupting or interfering with resolution procedures
 - iii. Filing complaints without cause
 - iv. Discouraging others from participating in processes
 - v. Attempting to influence or intimidate a [conduct officer](#)
 - vi. Harassing or retaliating against [conduct officers](#)
 - vii. Failing to follow through on required outcomes
 - viii. Encouraging others to violate policies
 - ix. Attempting to influence or intimidate a reporting party

4. Excellence: Minnesota State University, Mankato students are expected to engage in behaviors that enhance the well-being of self, others, and the environment. Behaviors that restrict enacting this value include, but are not limited to:

- a. **Respect for Property:** Engaging in unauthorized use of, or causing damage to, University property or the property of others interferes with a safe and functional community. Examples include vandalism, graffiti, damaging furniture or equipment, or interfering with facilities and technology systems. Other examples include, but may not be limited to:
 - i. Unauthorized appliances or receiving devices in the Residence Communities as defined by the Residential Life Policies and Procedures.
 - ii. Unauthorized animals, except for Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals as defined by Residential Life and University Guidelines.
 - iii. Other unauthorized activities (e.g., indoor sports, grilling, gambling), exceptions defined in Residential Life and University policies.
- b. **Academic Disruption:** Behaviors that significantly interrupt or repeatedly interfere with teaching, learning, or other academic activities—such as advising, research, or administration—impact everyone's opportunity to succeed.
- c. **Community Conduct:** Students are expected to act responsibly in ways that support a peaceful and respectful campus environment. Disorderly, lewd, or indecent behavior, or encouraging others to engage in such actions, may disrupt community life and violates expectations outlined in the Campus Demonstrations Policy. This includes actions from guests as outlined in Residential Life policies.
- d. **Environmental Consideration (Noxious Odors):** Strong odors (e.g., smoke, perfume, dirty laundry, trash) that are noticeable to others can create health issues. Students are expected to maintain clean, healthy, and respectful University living and community spaces. See the University Tobacco and Smoke-Free Campus Policy for exemptions.
- e. **Compliance with Policies:** Students are expected to know and follow all University and Minnesota State policies, rules, and regulations. Violations can interfere with individual and community success.
- f. **Compliance with Laws:** Engaging in conduct that violates local, state, or federal laws—including those related to alcohol, drugs, gambling, sexual misconduct, or fire safety—can have serious personal and legal consequences and does not align with community standards.

PROCEDURE

The student conduct system promotes and enforces the [Student Code of Conduct](#) policy following a philosophy of educational discipline. Through involvement in the adjudication process, students have an opportunity to learn new ways of resolving difficulties and relating to others while

1. Initiation of Complaint

Any member of the University community may submit a complaint by going to the University's referral and reporting landing page.

2. Notification of the Student

A student alleged to have violated the Student Code of Conduct will be notified in writing of the alleged violation(s), the nature of the evidence, and the possible sanctions. The official means of University communication with students is their University email account, MavMAIL. Students are responsible for regularly checking their MavMAIL for important University messages to avoid missing meetings and deadlines.

3. Informal Conduct Meeting

The accused student will be offered an opportunity to meet with a conduct officer to resolve the violation at an informal meeting. The conduct officer may invite a note taker. During the meeting the conduct officer will review the complaint with the student and allow the student to refute or acknowledge the complaint. Within a reasonable time period following the meeting, the conduct officer shall inform the student in writing of the decision and whether a violation of the Student Code of Conduct was established by a preponderance of evidence. The outcome letter will also identify any applicable sanctions as well as options available for an appeal. If the accused student fails to appear or fails to read the letter, the conduct officer may proceed to review and act upon the complaint and shall notify the student in writing of the decision and sanctions, if applicable. A "hold" may also be placed on the student's future course registration pending resolution of the matter and completion of sanctions.

4. Formal Hearing

A student who is subject to a sanction of expulsion or suspension (except summary suspension) for more than nine days may accept the outcome of the informal meeting or request a formal hearing prior to the imposition of sanctions.

5. Imposition of Sanctions

When a student is found responsible for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, based on a preponderance of evidence, students may be given a disciplinary action or placed on a disciplinary warning or probation that can be found in the Student Code of Conduct. The accused student shall be notified of the date that sanctions go into effect. A student facing disciplinary suspension or

expulsion under Minnesota State System Board policy 3.6 Student Conduct may be permitted to remain on campus pending the outcome of a campus level appeal under specified terms and conditions, e.g., restricted access to certain facilities, limited amount of time on campus, etc. Sanctions and restrictions imposed by the Office of Student Conduct or the Department of Residential Life that are upheld on appeal go into effect regardless of a pending Chapter 14 hearing. When investigations into alleged violations of Minnesota State System Procedure 1B.1 Equal Opportunity/Nondiscrimination and/ or 1B.3 Sexual Violence policies include alleged violations of Minnesota State System Board Policy 3.6 Student Conduct, the process shall follow the respective procedures of 1B.1 and 1B.3, not 3.6. Disciplinary or corrective action taken as the result of the decision, such as a campus restriction or other sanctions, shall be enforced during the pendency of a campus appeal and Chapter 14 hearing.

6. Disciplinary Actions

When a student is found responsible for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, based on preponderance of evidence, one or more of the following actions may be taken:

- a. University disciplinary warning: The issuance of a written warning that indicates the alleged action constitutes inappropriate behavior for a member of the University community.
- b. University disciplinary probation: This is a period of observation during which time the student is expected to demonstrate a willingness and ability to strictly comply with University standards. No longer in good conduct standing with the University. Progressive disciplinary action will result, including suspension or expulsion, if repeat violations occur. Potentially not eligible to apply for certain leadership roles, campus positions, or other opportunities that require good conduct standing.
- c. Required compliance: Activities as carrying out a University mandate as a condition for being admitted, continuing enrollment, or graduating from the University.
- d. Reassignment within the residence communities; termination of a Residential Life contract.
- e. Denial of the privileges of representing the University in co-curricular activities.
- f. Loss of computer access privileges through the University.
- g. Education: Mandatory educational activities such as online assessment, alcohol education workshops and writing assignments that may include program fees. A hold can be placed on course registration to ensure timely completion of sanctions. Educational sanctions include, but are not limited to, D2L alcohol and drug education programs, Under the Influence, Marijuana 101, CHOICES, chemical use interviews, etc. Conduct cases are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and are intended to educate

students on campus policies and deter students from engaging in future misconduct.

- h. University disciplinary suspension: Temporary separation from the University. Students may be suspended at any point in the academic year with suspension retroactive to the first day of the semester in which the incident occurred. Under certain conditions, a suspension may be "stayed." Notation of the suspension is made on the student's academic transcript.
- i. University disciplinary expulsion: Permanent separation from the University. Notation of the expulsion is made on the student's academic transcript.
- j. A degree awarded from the University may be revoked for fraud, misrepresentation, or other violation of University standards, or for other serious violations committed by a student prior to graduation.
- k. The University may withhold awarding a degree otherwise earned until the completion of the disciplinary process, including the completion of all sanctions imposed.
- l. An offer of admission to the University may be rescinded for misconduct occurring prior to enrollment.

7. Grounds for Appeal

An appeal opportunity is afforded to students disciplined for an alleged violation of the Student Code of Conduct. The student must submit an appeal by the deadline noted in the meeting outcome letter. An appeal is not a rehearing of a case. An appeal meeting will be scheduled only if there is sufficient reason to believe that one or more of the grounds articulated in the student's appeal letter may have merit.

- a. The following will be allowed as grounds for appeal:
 - i. New relevant information not reasonably available at the time of the hearing.
 - ii. Evidence of a procedural error in the student disciplinary process that substantially impacted the outcome.
 - iii. Relevant information that the sanction is excessively severe.
- b. Grounds for appeal do not include failure to read conduct letters; the stress, expense and inconvenience of relocation, contract termination or suspension; the cost of educational sanctions; disruption to studies; separation from friends; lack of familiarity with rules; good character; sanctions levied to others in the same case; or a personal commitment to behaving better in the future. Sanctions are intended to have significant impact in order to effectively deter students from engaging in future misconduct. A student who fails to appear for a conduct meeting may appeal but not on the grounds of "new evidence not reasonably available at the time of the meeting."

- c. For cases involving expulsion or suspension of 10 days or longer, an appeal hearing is a student right if an appeal letter identifying permitted grounds is submitted by the deadline noted in the meeting outcome letter.
- d. Appeal letters will be reviewed promptly, and the appeal officer will determine if an appeal will be scheduled based on the reasons cited in the letter and the quality of the materials submitted. Possible appeal outcomes include:
 - i. Upholding or overturning the previous decision.
 - ii. Decreasing or increasing the sanction.
 - iii. Referring the case for a new conduct meeting.

8. Jurisdiction

The Office of Student Conduct and Residential Life will confer on, investigate, and adjudicate all alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct. On-campus jurisdiction is agreed on by the Office of Student Conduct and Residential Life. Residential Life addresses all violations that occur in the Residential Communities and adjacent property (e.g., surrounding sidewalks, grounds, and lots), while the Office of Student Conduct will address all other locations on campus. Off-campus jurisdiction is determined by Minnesota State Board Policy 3.6 Student Conduct and Minnesota State University, Mankato Alcohol and Other Drug Policy.

- a. Complaints of sexual assault, stalking, dating/intimate partner/relationship violence, non-forcible sex acts, discrimination and/or harassment based on membership in a protected class, including sexual harassment are addressed by the Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX.
- b. Interpersonal conflicts between acquaintances or members of a student organization (e.g., Fraternities and Sororities, Recognized Student Organizations, and Sports Clubs) are typically referred to mediation or to applicable student organization review processes as an alternative to discipline. Mediation involves voluntary participation in a structured problem-solving process where a neutral third party assists disputing individuals in resolving their differences. Violation of the mediation agreement permits the case to return to the student conduct system if the dispute constitutes a possible violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Mediation often resolves property/financial disagreements, incivility, and conflicts between members of a student organization.
- c. Complaints about hazing are reviewed by Student Conduct with assistance from EOTIX, Athletics, Student Organizations, and Fraternity and Sorority Life. Investigations into hazing allegations will be conducted by Student Conduct under the purview of the Dean of Students.

RATIONALE

The Student Code of Conduct is influenced by the Minnesota State Mankato's statement of Core Values:

Minnesota State Mankato is an innovative, student-centered learning community that values:

- Integrity and respect in the way we conduct ourselves;
- Diversity in who we are and what we do;
- Access to our programs and services that create opportunities for all to pursue their dreams;
- Responsibility to those we serve by providing an education that inspires solutions to society's challenges; and
- Excellence in our academic and non-academic pursuits.

Minnesota State Mankato encourages scholarship and is committed to the acquisition of knowledge. A student's first responsibility is to study.

The University

identifies responsibilities expected of students as members of this learning community [to allow individuals to pursue successfully their educational, professional and personal objectives](#). The [Student Code of Conduct](#) policy was established by students, faculty and staff to clarify behavioral expectations of students as a condition of membership. Related policies, such as the Alcohol and Other Drug policy and the Academic Honesty policy further define and uphold community standards of behavior. The Office of Student Conduct collaborates with other departments on campus to promote an equitable, inclusive and welcoming learning environment.

References

[Minnesota State Board Policy 1B.1 – Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination in Employment and Education](#)

[Minnesota State Board Policy 1B.3 – Sexual Misconduct](#)

[Minnesota State Board Policy 3.6 – Student Conduct](#)

[Minnesota State University, Mankato Academic Honesty Policy](#)

[Minnesota State University, Mankato Alcohol and Other Drug Policy](#)

[Minnesota State University, Mankato Campus Demonstrations Policy](#)

[Minnesota State University, Mankato Weapons and Firearms Policy](#)

[Stop Campus Hazing Act Public Law 118-173](#)

[Policy History](#)

[Changed the structure to align with University Core Values, provide clear expectations, and eliminate redundancy. Name changed to align with Minnesota State System Board Policy. Added Student Conduct procedure.](#)

[Student Code of Conduct Procedure Review Process](#)

- [Policy Consultation Committee Review \[add date\]](#)
- [Informal Review \[add date\]](#)
- [Formal Review \[add date\]](#)

[Vice President's Recommendation](#)

[Signature and Date](#)

[President's Approval](#)

[Signature and Date](#)

