



Policy Name: Student Code of Conduct

Custodian of Policy: Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

Date of Adoption: July 2000

Date of Next Review: September 2032

POLICY

The Student Code of Conduct is influenced by Minnesota State University, 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.

The mission of the University's conduct process is to hold students accountable for their actions by promoting and enforcing the responsibilities students agree to when they enroll at Minnesota State Mankato. The student conduct process is designed to facilitate education and personal growth, while emphasizing students' understanding of their impact on, and responsibility to, the University community. The goals include helping students find a renewed sense of integrity and civility and maintaining a safe and supportive environment for everyone's education and growth.

The University is committed to the following community standards:

- Academic and personal integrity
- Safe environment and personal safety of self and others
- Civility and respect for self and others
- Responsible use of University facilities and property

Students are dual members of the Minnesota State Mankato community and the greater society. Upstanding behavior is expected of all students regardless of location. Violations of these expectations must be addressed to support the welfare of all students.

In addition to the Code of Conduct, students may be expected to uphold other policies based on membership in other groups (Residential Life, student organizations, athletics, student employee, etc.) Students also maintain a responsibility to adhere to all applicable University and Minnesota State system policies, such as Minnesota Board Policy 1B.1 Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination in Employment and Education and Board Policy 1B.3 Sexual Misconduct.

Students who engage in alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct policy may also face civil or criminal penalties outside of the University. This policy is not intended to replace federal, state, or local legal processes.

The 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 Code of Conduct

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 interactions. Behaviors that restrict enacting this value include, but are not limited to:
 - a. **Academic Dishonesty:** 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. **Dishonesty 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. **Noncompliance 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. **Unauthorized Entry and Irresponsible Facility Use:** Accessing or using University spaces, property, data, or services without authorization—including entering a secured location through alarmed or propped doors—disrupts safety and respect for shared spaces.
 - e. **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 to broaden perspectives, encourage collaboration and promote unity. Behaviors that restrict enacting this value include, but are not limited to:
- a. **Harassment:**
 - i. Unfair treatment or harassment based on personal characteristics violates University values and is prohibited by [Board Policy 1B.1](#). Other forms of harassment include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. severe or persistent unwanted verbal, written, electronic communications, or graphic expression toward other students and University employees; and
 - 2. 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 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;
 - 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.
- c. **Endangering Others:** 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.
- d. **Retaliation:** Taking adverse action against someone for reporting a concern or participating in a University process discourages accountability and threatens fairness and transparency.
- e. **Theft:** Taking, using, or possessing property or services without permission diminishes trust and violates community standards.
- f. **Threatening Behavior:** Verbal or written threats, or non-verbal communications 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, threatening behavior using social media, email, and other electronic or cyber mediums.
- g. **Sexual Misconduct:** All forms of sexual misconduct—including sexual assault, harassment, stalking, and coercion—are prohibited and are defined in [Board Policy 1B.3](#).

3. Responsibility: Minnesota State Mankato students continue to learn, cultivate self-awareness, and personal and civic identity to be ethical and productive

difference-makers in a global society. Behaviors 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.
- b. **Other Drugs and 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](#).
- 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. **Complicity in Misconduct (Shared Violations):** Knowingly acting as an accessory or being present while any violation of University policy is occurring, or allowing or assisting others in violating policies.
- e. **Interfering with Accountability Processes:** Interference with accountability processes includes any action that obstructs, undermines, compromises, or improperly influences institutional procedures for addressing conduct, complaints, or grievances. Such behavior may involve dishonesty, disruption, coercion, retaliation, or failure to comply with established requirements. Actions that deter participation, attempt to influence outcomes, misuse reporting mechanisms, or encourage violations of policy may also constitute interference.

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. **Misuse of 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 are not limited to:

- i. Other unauthorized activities (e.g., indoor sports, grilling, gambling), and exceptions as defined in [Residential Life](#) and other [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. **Disruptive Behavior:** 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. **Disregard for Environmental Well-being:** Students are expected to be respectful of shared spaces, and to maintain clean, healthy, and respectful University living and community spaces. Unreasonably strong odors (e.g., smoke, vapors, perfume, dirty laundry, trash) or significantly persistent odors may be disruptive to others and may restrict others from participating in activities. See the [University Tobacco and Smoke-Free Campus Policy](#) for exceptions.
- e. **Noncompliance with Policies:** Students are expected to know and follow all University and Minnesota State policies, rules, and regulations. Noncompliance can interfere with individual and community success and safety.
- f. **Unlawful Conduct:** 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.

Rationale:

Minnesota State Mankato encourages scholarship and is committed to the acquisition of knowledge. A student’s first responsibility is to their academic pursuits. The University identifies responsibilities expected of students as members of this learning community to allow individuals to successfully pursue their educational, professional and personal objectives. Established by students, faculty, and staff, the Student Code of Conduct policy clarifies behavioral expectations of students as a condition of membership in the

University community. Related policies, such as the Alcohol and Other Drug policy and the Academic Integrity 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.

History of Revisions:

Effective Date of Last Review: August 1, 2026

Date of Last Review: September 2025

Revisions Made:

2025: Name changed from Statement of Student Responsibilities to Student Code of Conduct

2025: 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.

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