

## B. Student Conduct Code

### 10. General Disciplinary Principles

Students are expected to make themselves aware of and abide by the University community's standards of behavior as articulated in the Student Conduct Code, [Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#), and in related policy statements. Students accept the rights and responsibilities of membership in the USC community when they are admitted to the university. In the university, as elsewhere, ignorance is not typically an acceptable justification for violating community standards. Similarly, lack of intent or awareness of university standards normally will not be accepted as excuses for violations.

Because the functions of a university depend on honesty and integrity among its members, the university expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid disciplinary action. Likewise, while many of the university's standards of conduct parallel the laws of society in general, USC's standards may exceed those found elsewhere in society.

Where there is a delay between the conduct and the reporting of the potential violation, the applicable provisions regarding behavior violating university standards and appropriate outcomes (as described in Section B.11) shall be those that were in effect at the time the behavior occurred. Allegations of student misconduct will be addressed and resolved according to the most recent or current procedures described in the most current version of this part as of the date of the notification letter to the respondent.

Any reference to "days" in this part refers to calendar days, unless otherwise noted.

#### 10.05 Disciplinary Authority

The powers of the university are exercised, its property controlled and its affairs conducted by the Board of Trustees. Responsibility for the administration of these affairs is delegated by the board to various officers of the university, as stipulated in the corporate bylaws; the enforcement of all rules and regulations is the specific duty of the university president. The President, in turn, delegates the authority to the Vice President for Student Affairs to establish and hold student conduct review proceedings that will ensure the proper administration of the university's rules and regulations. The Vice President for Student Affairs has delegated this responsibility to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards, who may, in its sole discretion, delegate all or a portion of its responsibilities to another investigative office on campus, including the Office of Professionalism and Ethics (OPE), or any office which receives oversight from OPE, or any external entity or individual. The delegation of responsibilities is different for matters involving sexual, interpersonal, and protected class misconduct, which are delegated to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX and are governed by the [Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#).

In certain circumstances, the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee may, in their sole discretion, modify procedures outlined under the Non-academic Conduct Review System (see Section B.12).

Student procedural rights and review procedures are articulated in later sections of the Student Conduct Code.

## 10.10 Basic Principles

### I. The Relationship of Discipline to the Purpose of the University.

The University of Southern California is primarily an academic community. As such, the university seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. To achieve this objective, the university exercises certain disciplinary and discretionary powers. It protects its educational environment by establishing and maintaining standards of conduct for its students as individuals and as groups. These standards reflect the very nature of an academic community and the need to preserve an effective educational environment.

Activities of students may result in violation of law, and students who violate the law may incur penalties prescribed by civil authorities. However, the university reserves the right to review such incidents independent of action by civil or criminal authorities, recognizing that the university's authority and its disciplinary process serve its educational mission and interest, a function separate from action by civil or criminal authorities.

The university's function with reference to student conduct differs from the community's function in method as well as scope. Recognizing its role in developing a sense of responsibility in students, the university uses informal and formal processes to address student misconduct, focusing on educational outcomes. Although every USC student is presumed to have sufficient maturity, intelligence, and concern for the rights of others to help maintain the standards of the academic community, when a student's behavior demonstrates otherwise, the university will consider disciplinary action as appropriate.

### II. Scope of the Disciplinary Process

#### a. Definition of a Student:

For the purpose of university rules and regulations, a student is defined as one whose enrollment has begun (typically, enrollment begins on the first scheduled day of classes of a student's program), and who:

- i. is currently participating in one of the university's degree or non-degree programs,
- ii. has completed the immediately preceding semester and/or has registered for the next scheduled semester,
- iii. is officially representing the university during a period between regular academic semesters, or
- iv. is not officially registered for a particular semester, but who has a continuing relationship with the university.

An individual may be reviewed under this Code if an allegation of academic integrity violation is made after the student has left the university and a degree has been granted.

#### b. Definition of a Student Organization:

A student organization is defined as one which has satisfied the administrative procedures for recognition as prescribed in this guidebook (see Section G.1. Recognition of Student Organizations) or which is functioning within the university community in the capacity of a student organization.

c. Timeliness:

Generally, a matter will be reviewed only when a report has been filed with the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards within one year of discovery of the alleged violation. There is no time limit for cases involving sexual, interpersonal, and protected class misconduct, and those matters will be reviewed whenever they are reported; such matters should be filed with the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX), as explained in the [Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#).

d. Jurisdiction:

University jurisdiction and discipline shall not be limited to conduct which occurs on university premises or within the university community, is associated with university sponsored or related activities, or which adversely affects the university community and/or the pursuit of its objectives, including student-to-student sexual misconduct, or conduct that violates federal or state law. The University has the authority to enforce its Conduct Code regardless of where the conduct occurred.

e. Standard of Proof:

The standard of proof to find a violation of the Student Conduct Code is a preponderance of the evidence. Preponderance of the evidence means that based on the totality of evidence and reasonable inferences drawn therefrom, it is more likely than not that the student committed the prohibited conduct charged. Put another way, the preponderance of the evidence means such evidence that when weighed against that opposed to it, has the more convincing force and the greater probability of truth.

f. Status of Students and Student Organizations Pending the Student Conduct Process.

The status of a student or student organization, in most cases, will not be altered and disciplinary outcomes will not be implemented until completion of an initial review.

In some cases, Interim Protective Measures may be imposed when there is information that, if true, indicates the student and/or student organization poses a substantial threat: (i) to the safety or well-being of anyone in the university community; (ii) to the property within the university community; or (iii) of disruption or interference with normal

university life or functions. Some factors considered in determining whether to authorize interim protective measures include:

- The nature and scope of the alleged conduct, including whether the reported behavior involved the use of a weapon or force;
- The risk posed to any individual or to the campus community including the risk of additional violence or significant disruption of university life or function;
- Whether there have been other reports of other prohibited conduct or other misconduct by the student and/or student organization;
- Whether the report reveals a pattern of misconduct related to prohibited conduct at a given location or by a particular group;
- The university's obligation to provide a safe and non-discriminatory environment;
- The timing of the investigation in the academic calendar; and
- The ability of an interim measure to reduce or mitigate the threat.

Interim Protective Measures are actions taken by the university after a report of prohibited conduct but prior to a final decision. Such measures do not indicate the university has made a decision about the report of prohibited conduct. These measures may be modified at any time and may be kept in place pending a final decision.

Interim Protective Measures may include exclusion from all or part of university housing; exclusion from specified activities or areas of campus; prohibition from representing the university in any capacity such as playing on an official team, serving in student government, and performing in an official band, ensemble, or production; temporary loss of recognized student organization status; restriction on hosting or organizing parties or other events as a student organization; or interim suspension (exclusion from all classes, seminars and programs; prohibition of participation in university-sponsored activities; and exclusion from university premises).

Interim Protective Measures are imposed by the Interim Action Committee, when information indicates that the student and/or student organization presents a substantial threat. At least three Interim Action Committee members must vote to authorize the Interim Protective Measure(s). The Interim Action Committee is comprised of the following individuals (or their designees):

- Senior Associate Vice Provost, Student Affairs
- Associate Vice Provost, Threat Assessment and Management
- Associate Vice Provost, Campus Support and Intervention
- Associate Vice Provost, Campus Wellbeing and Education
- Department of Public Safety representative
- Chief Health Officer, USC Student Health

(Note: Avoidance of Contact Directives are not considered Interim Protective Measures subject to this process.)

A student or student organization subject to Interim Protective Measures is given prompt written notice of the basis for the interim measure. The Interim Action Committee's decision may be appealed by the student or student organization by submitting a written request to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs within 7 calendar days of the notice. Any Interim Protective Measures imposed by the Interim Action Committee will not be stayed pending the interim action appeal. The sole basis for an interim action appeal is that less protective measures could adequately reduce or mitigate the threat. Decision on the interim action appeal will be made by the Vice President for Student Affairs or their designee.

Failure to comply with Interim Protective Measures or an Avoidance of Contact Directive is a separate and independent violation. A student or student organization may be found in violation for failure to comply with an Interim Protective Measure or an Avoidance of Contact without being found responsible for the underlying report of prohibited conduct.

The imposition of Interim Protective Measures does not relieve a student from financial obligations to the university.

- g. Administrative holds affecting registration transactions, posting of degree, or a student's ability to acquire copies of their official transcript, may be placed under certain circumstances. Such circumstances may include failure to respond to a written notice to meet with a designated university official, including Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards, the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX, the Office of Campus Support & Intervention, the Office of Campus Threat Assessment & Management, and the Office of Professionalism & Ethics, or failure to complete disciplinary sanctions/outcomes by an established deadline. This restriction normally will remain in effect until disciplinary obligations are met or adjudication of the matter is complete.
- h. Status of Students Pending External Review.

When a student is under investigation by an outside law enforcement agency, the status of the student may be altered prior to the initiation of the student conduct process by the university in accordance with the process for imposing Interim Protective Measures as set forth in Section 10.10 (II)(f). Changes in status may include exclusion from all or part of university housing, exclusion from specified activities or areas of campus, interim suspension, or prohibition from representing the university in any capacity such as playing on an official team, serving in student government, or performing in an official band, ensemble, or production.

Some factors considered in determining whether to alter the status prior to the initiation of the student conduct process include:

- The nature of the alleged crime, including whether the crime involved the use of a weapon or force, significant loss of property, or a vulnerable victim;
- The degree of the crime;
- The risk posed to any individual or to the campus community including the risk of additional violence or significant disruption of university life or function;
- Whether there have been other reports of misconduct by the student;
- The university's obligation to provide a safe environment.

### III. Expectations for Students' Conduct

The general principles set forth here and behavioral standards, which are described in Section B.11., are intended to provide clear guidelines for students as to what is expected of them as members of the university community, and to inform students of types of conduct that may result in university disciplinary action.

#### 10.20 Summary of Process to Resolve Alleged Student Misconduct

Generally, student misconduct cases will be divided into four categories:

- non-academic violations (see Section B.12)
- academic integrity violations (see Section B.13)
- admissions violations (see Section B.14)
- sexual, interpersonal, and protected class misconduct cases (see the [Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#)).

The Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards is responsible for formally processing allegations of student misconduct, except for reviews of sexual, interpersonal, and protected class misconduct. There are also separate review processes in certain schools (see Section B.12.14).

At times, the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards may choose to utilize an informal resolution process to address an allegation of student misconduct that does not result in any disciplinary action.

#### 10.30 Student Procedural Protections

The university is committed to the timely and fair resolution of disciplinary problems in an adjudicatory process. Although the Student Conduct Code affords significant procedural protections in the adjudicatory process, this does not include the right to confront accusers or be represented by counsel.

With the exception of cases addressed under Sections B.12.13 or 12.14, students accused of violating the Student Conduct Code are granted the following procedural protections:

- I. Written notice via email of the incident report that specifies the nature of the alleged violation and the basis for the charge including the date or period of time and location regarding the alleged incident.
- II. Written notice of the website location of the Student Code and the disciplinary process, which includes an outline of rights, disciplinary procedures and avenue of appeal.
- III. Written invitation for the student to meet with staff in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards. The university reserves the right to conduct an administrative review\ in absentia when a student fails to respond after proper notice has been given or after the university has exercised reasonable effort to notify the student of the allegations.
- IV. A fair and impartial review of the incident. If the student identifies concerns about potential actual bias or conflict of interest in the process, they should notify the Office of Professionalism & Ethics at ope@usc.edu and cc Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards at sjacs@usc.edu, within 10 days of written notice of the incident report. Actual bias is an articulated prejudice in favor of or against one party or position; it is not a generalized concern about the personal or professional backgrounds, positions, beliefs, or interests of the decision makers in the process. Where actual bias or conflict of interest is established, the process will be managed by individuals identified by the university that eliminates the identified bias or conflict.
- V. The opportunity to be present at the administrative review; to inspect relevant documents and relevant information gathered; and to provide names of relevant witnesses and relevant information. This opportunity does not entitle the student to a copy of documents and information.
- VI. If the student declines to present information on their own behalf, this will not be construed as an admission of responsibility.
- VII. A written decision that details the judicial officer's decision and outcome(s), as applicable.

Student conduct records are maintained under the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). For an explanation of university policy concerning student records, see Section C.5 Student Education Records.

- VIII. The opportunity to appeal the judicial officer's decision within ten business days of the date of the written decision. Both the student and the reporting party may be notified in writing of the outcome of any appeal. Notice will be emailed to the student's email address of record in the Student Directory. A timely initial review conducted as soon as possible after the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards has received all pertinent documents of the case. Due to the nature of the university's academic calendar, the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards may not be able to conduct a review at any specified date or time.

- IX. The right to have an adviser present at any meeting with a judicial officer. The adviser may not be a witness or have any conflicting role in the process or with a party.

The role of the adviser is to provide support and assistance in understanding and navigating this process. To protect the privacy of those involved, all advisers are required to sign a confidentiality agreement prior to attending an interview or otherwise participating in the university's process.

The university's focus is on the student, not the adviser. All communication is made directly with the student. The process will not be unreasonably delayed to accommodate the schedule of the adviser. An adviser must be familiar with university policy and may be required to meet with the judicial officer in advance of participation in university proceedings. The adviser may not testify in or obstruct an interview, author written submissions, create a recording or transcription of the meeting, bring electronic devices into the meeting, or disrupt the process. The judicial officer has the right to determine what constitutes appropriate behavior of an adviser and take reasonable steps to ensure compliance with this policy.

## 11. Behavior Violating University Standards and Appropriate Outcomes

General principles of academic integrity include and incorporate the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Faculty members may include additional classroom and assignment policies, as articulated on their syllabus.

The Student Conduct Code articulates violations that are most common and readily identifiable. Conduct violating university community standards that is not specifically mentioned may still be subject to disciplinary action.

Where conduct under any provision of this Code involves student sexual, interpersonal, or protected class misconduct, the [Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#) applies.

The following are examples of violations of these and other university standards.

### 11.11

- A. The submission of material authored by another person but represented as the student's own work, whether that material is paraphrased or copied in verbatim or near-verbatim form.
- B. The submission of material subjected to editorial revision by another person that results in substantive changes in content or major alteration of writing style.
- C. Improper acknowledgment of sources in essays or papers.

Note: Culpability is not diminished when plagiarism occurs in drafts which are not the final version. Also, if any material is prepared or submitted by another



person on the student's behalf, the student is expected to proofread the results and is responsible for all particulars of the final draft.

#### 11.12

- A. Acquisition of academic work, such as term papers, solutions, or other assignments, from any source and the subsequent presentation of those materials as the student's own work, or providing academic work, such as term papers, solutions, or assignments that another student submits as their own work.
- B. Distribution or use of notes, recordings, exams, or other intellectual property, based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study. This includes, but is not limited to, providing materials for distribution by services publishing course materials. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the Internet or via any other media. (See Section C.1 Class Notes Policy).
- C. Recording a university class without the express permission of the instructor and announcement to the class. Recording can inhibit future free discussion and thus infringe on the academic freedom of other students as well as the instructor.

#### 11.13

- A. Any use or attempted use of external assistance in the completion of an academic assignment and/or during an examination, or any behavior that defeats the intent of an examination or other classwork or assignment, shall be considered academically dishonest unless expressly permitted by the instructor. The following are examples of unacceptable behaviors: communicating with fellow students during an exam period, soliciting or providing information about an exam during an exam period, copying or attempting to copy material from another student's exam; allowing another student to copy from an exam or assignment; possession or use of unauthorized notes, calculator, cell phone or other devices, or other materials during exams and/or unauthorized removal or sharing of exam materials.
- B. Submission of work altered after grading shall be considered academically dishonest, including but not limited to changing answers after an exam or assignment has been returned or submitting another's exam as one's own to gain credit.
- C. Failure to comply with testing protocols, policies, procedures, or instructions.

#### 11.14

- A. Obtaining for oneself or distributing any academic work, such as solutions to homework, a project or other assignment, or a copy of an exam or exam key, without the knowledge and expressed consent of the instructor.
- B. Unauthorized collaboration on any academic work, such as an exam, a project, homework or other assignment. Collaboration will be considered unauthorized

unless expressly part of the assignment in question or expressly permitted by the instructor.

11.15

- A. Attempting to benefit from the work of another.
- B. Any attempt to hinder the work of another student or any wrongful act which may jeopardize another student's academic standing.

11.16

Using any portion of an essay, term paper, project or other assignment more than once, without permission of the instructor(s).

11.17

Falsification, alteration or misrepresentation of official or unofficial records or documents including but not limited to academic transcripts, academic documentation, letters of recommendation, and admissions applications or related documents.

11.18

Taking a course, any coursework or exam for another student or allowing another individual to take a course, coursework, a portion of a course or exam in one's stead.

11.19

- A. Accessing, altering and/or using unauthorized information.
- B. Unauthorized use of university computing systems or network, or unauthorized access to those systems or network as articulated by the university's Computing Policies (including improper downloading of material, see Section F.1. Computing)

11.20

Fabrication: Submitting material for lab assignments, class projects or other assignments which is wholly or partially falsified, invented or otherwise does not represent work accomplished or undertaken by the student.

11.21

Any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage may be considered an act of academic dishonesty.

11.31

- A. Dishonesty by a student (or someone acting on their behalf) such as furnishing false information to any university official, faculty member or office. This includes, but is not limited to, furnishing false information in academic petitions

or requests, financial aid documents, student employment documents, applications, financial statements or other documents, or intentionally evading university officials and/or obligations to the university. Students are responsible for verifying the accuracy of any information submitted to the university by any third party on their behalf.

- B. Failing to participate fully and truthfully in university investigations as lawfully requested by university administrators.

11.32

- A. [intentionally omitted]
- B. Conducting oneself in a manner that endangers the health or safety of others.

11.33

- A. Unauthorized entry, presence in or use of university premises, facilities or property.
- B. Unauthorized entry into, or presence in, the dwelling or property of another.

11.34

- A. Forgery, unauthorized alteration or unauthorized use of any university document, records, keys or instruments of identification, or of documents or records related to functions of the university.
- B. Unauthorized presentation of oneself as a representative of the university.
- C. Possession, manufacture or distribution of false or altered instruments of identification.

11.35

Theft (or attempted theft) of property or of services within the university community; possession of stolen property regardless of origin; or misappropriation of university resources.

11.36

- A. Causing physical harm to any person s.
- B. Causing reasonable apprehension of harm to any person.

Note: Self-defense is that which reasonably appears necessary, in view of all the circumstances of the case, to prevent injury and remove oneself from the situation.

11.37

Destroying, damaging or defacing the property of others.

11.38

Behavior which disrupts or interferes with normal university or university-sponsored activities, including, but not limited to, study, teaching, research, officially invited speakers, university administration, public safety, or fire, police or emergency services or other authorized activity. (Also see Part D. Free Expression and Dissent.)

11.39

Failure to comply with directions of university officials acting in the performance of their duties, or resisting or obstructing such university officials in the performance of their duties, including failure to carry and/or provide upon request appropriate USC student identification.

11.40

Unauthorized use, possession or dissemination of alcohol or tobacco products. (Also see Section F.5. Alcohol and Other Drugs.)

11.41

Use, possession or dissemination of unauthorized or illegal drugs, or drug-related paraphernalia. (Also see Section F.5. Alcohol and Other Drugs.)

11.42

Behavior which disrupts or interferes with the freedom of expression of others in the university community or at university-sponsored activities. (Also see Part D. Free Expression and Dissent.)

11.43

Participation in or promotion of a disturbance of the peace or unlawful assembly in the university community or at university-sponsored activities, which may include violating published USC guidelines regarding amplification equipment and noise. (Also see Part D. Free Expression and Dissent.)

11.44

- A. Engaging in disruptive or disorderly conduct.
- B. Engaging in or encouraging lewd, indecent or obscene behavior.
- C. Encouraging or permitting others to engage in misconduct prohibited within the university community, failing to confront and prevent the misconduct, notify an appropriate university official of the misconduct, or remove oneself from the situation.

11.45

Initiating or causing to be initiated any false report, warning or threat, such as that of fire, explosion or other emergency in the university community or at university-sponsored activities.

11.46

- A. Misusing or damaging fire safety equipment or other emergency equipment in the university community or at university-sponsored activities.
- B. Failure to evacuate during a fire alarm, whether the alarm is activated falsely, as a drill, or in a genuine emergency, in the university community or at university-sponsored activities.
- C. Inappropriate use of flammable substances or equipment, or use of such items without proper authorization, in the university community or at university-sponsored activities.

11.47

- A. Unauthorized use or possession of firearms or replicas, ammunition, explosives, knives, flammable substances or other weapons, or parts thereof, in the university community or at university-sponsored events.
- B. Unauthorized use or possession of fireworks in the university community or at university-sponsored events.

11.48

Violating rules and regulations pertaining to the operation of wheeled devices, such as bicycles, mopeds, roller skates, rollerblades, scooters and skateboards in the university community property. (Also see Sections F.10. Bicycles; F.11. Motorscooters/Motorcycles; F.12 Coasting Devices)

11.49

Knowingly violating the terms of any disciplinary outcome imposed in accordance with the Student Conduct Code. This includes further violations during a period of disciplinary probation.

11.50

- A. Violating regulations or policies governing residence in university owned or administered property (e.g., rules outlined in the USC Housing Contract and Residential Education policies).
- B. Violating standards or policies established for social greek letter organizations, including but not limited to the Trojan Greek Standards & Accreditation.
- C. Violating any policies, rules, directives or regulations of the university including but not limited to administrative rules of campus offices.

- D. Violating Section G.2. Group Responsibility for Student Organizations (including social greek letter organizations). This policy can also be found in the Office for Fraternity and Sorority Leadership Development and in the Office of Campus Activities.

11.51

Engaging in harassing behavior.

11.52

Any act chargeable as a violation of local, state or federal law may be cited as a violation of the Student Conduct Code, whether or not charges are brought by civil authorities, when such act(s) occur on university premises, or at university sponsored activities or events, or when such conduct adversely affects the university community and/or the pursuit of its objectives.

11.54

Engaging in behavior prohibited by the policy against Hazing. (See Section G.8. Hazing.)

Where conduct under section 11.54 involves student sexual, interpersonal, or protected class misconduct, the conduct will be subject to review under the [Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#).

11.55

Threatening, attempting, or committing retaliation against anyone who, in good faith, brings a complaint under any university policy or applicable law; or participates in investigation of such a complaint; or protests in good faith alleged discrimination, harassment or retaliation against another. Such retaliation may include, but is not limited to:

- Coercion, intimidation, interference, harassment or vexatious behavior;
- Excluding or blocking someone from a team, activity, organization, or course participation due to that person's having filed a complaint or been a witness as part of an investigation;
- Spreading negative information about the individual.

11.80

Outcomes for violations of the University Student Conduct Code are assessed appropriately for the cited violation.

Outcomes will be considered in light of a student's comprehensive conduct record at the university. Outcomes will be designed to hold students accountable for their actions; to promote their physical, intellectual, social and emotional

well-being; to protect the integrity of the educational environment of the university; and to ensure the safety of every member of its community.

Failure to comply with the terms of any imposed outcomes may be considered an additional violation.

When a student's enrollment is cancelled as a result of an Interim Protective Measure or disciplinary action resulting in marks of "W" on the student's academic transcript, the university's policy is not to refund tuition or fees for the canceled enrollment.

One or more of the following outcomes may be imposed for violations of university regulations.

#### 11.81

Expulsion from the university: Permanent termination of student status. A permanent notation will appear on the student's transcript. The student will be excluded from all classes, seminars and programs; will not be allowed to participate in any university-sponsored activity; may not receive a USC degree; and is barred from university premises. If the expulsion becomes effective during a semester for which the student currently is enrolled, the student's enrollment will be canceled by the university resulting in marks of "W" for the enrolled courses on the student's academic transcript.

#### 11.82

Suspension from the university: Termination of student status for a specified but limited period of time. During the period of suspension, the student will be excluded from all classes, seminars and programs; will not be allowed to participate in any university-sponsored activities; is barred from university premises; and may not complete academic work elsewhere that may be counted toward the completion of a USC degree. A restriction will be placed prohibiting the student from performing any registration transactions during the period of suspension. The restriction will not be removed, and the student will not be allowed to perform registration transactions, until the stated period of suspension has expired and all disciplinary obligations have been met. A notation will appear on the student's academic transcript indicating the dates of suspension. Upon earning a degree from the university, the suspension notation will be removed from the student's transcript.

Violation of the conditions of suspension, university policies or regulations during the period of suspension may be cause for further disciplinary action, usually in the form of expulsion from the university. Normally after the suspension, the student will be on disciplinary probation for a specified period of time. If the suspension becomes effective during a semester for which the student currently is enrolled, the student's enrollment will be canceled by the university resulting in marks of "W" for the enrolled courses on the student's transcript.

Students placed on deferred suspension may continue to participate in university activities unless specific outcomes or other campus and organizational rules or regulations restrict such participation.

11.83

Interim Protective Measures: See Section B. 10.10 above.

11.84

Revocation of Admission: The student loses admitted status to the university. The student may not continue enrollment or enroll for future semesters and may not receive a USC degree. Normally, revocation of admission precludes the student from the opportunity to apply to or be admitted to any program at the university in the future. A permanent notation will be made on the student's transcript indicating that admission was revoked and the date of the action. If the revocation of admission becomes effective during a semester for which the student currently is enrolled, the student's enrollment will be canceled by the university resulting in marks of "W" for the enrolled courses on the student's academic transcript.

11.85

Revocation of Degree: The student loses the right to claim the degree as earned. Posting of the degree will be removed from the student's transcript, and a permanent notation will be made on the transcript indicating the revocation, the degree involved and the date of the action.

11.86

Dismissal from an Academic Unit: Permanent termination of the student's right to enroll or participate in the classes, seminars and/or programs of a specific academic unit, school or department.

- I. Undergraduate Students: Dismissal from a specific undergraduate academic unit shall not prevent undergraduate students from enrolling in other university academic units. Normally after dismissal from an academic unit, the student will be on disciplinary probation for a specified period of time.
- II. Graduate Students: Students who have been dismissed from a specific graduate academic unit may not enroll in other graduate programs unless they have gained formal admission to such programs.

11.87

Removal from an individual course or section of a course. Removal precludes the student from participation in and attendance of the course or section, or any of its sessions. In multiple section courses, the student will not necessarily be allowed to transfer to another section.

11.88



**Grade Penalties:** Any disciplinary grade reduction including, but not limited to, grades of “F” for a course, a reduced grade for a course, grades of “F” or zero credit for assignments, or reduced credit for assignments. In cases where a student has registered for a course on a Pass/No Pass basis and the student is found responsible for an academic violation, a letter grade may be assigned. See Appendix A for university recommendations.

11.89

**Disciplinary Probation:** Indicates that the student has engaged in unacceptable behavior and may be required to report to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards or designee and meet specific conditions related to the violation during the probationary period. Additionally, the student is given written notice that any further violations of university policies may result in more severe outcomes such as removal from university housing, suspension, dismissal from an academic unit or expulsion from the university. Students placed on disciplinary probation may continue to participate in university activities unless specific outcomes or other campus and organizational rules or regulations restrict such participation.

11.90

**Warning:** Written notice to the student that continued or repeated violations may be cause for further disciplinary action, normally in the form of disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion.

11.91

**Restitution:** Reimbursement for damage to university property or for misappropriation of university property or services may be imposed in combination with other disciplinary action where appropriate. Such reimbursement may take the form of monetary payment or appropriate service to repair or otherwise compensate for damages. Restitution may be assigned for minor damage to the property of individuals or groups within the university community, but adjudication of student discipline usually will defer determination of significant restitution to other appropriate processes.

11.92

**Restriction or Loss of Computing Privileges:** Consequences for violation of the University Computing Policies or violations involving use of university computing services may include:

- I. Restrictions placed on the use of university computing resources that may include prohibition of access to particular facilities or resources (e.g., Resnet), or limits placed on the use of university computing resources (e.g., restriction to use for specified academic work only).
- II. Loss of privilege of using university computing resources for any purpose, including academic work. Loss of privilege may be temporary or permanent.

11.93

**Organizational Outcomes:** All organizations, clubs and similar organized groups are responsible for compliance with university rules and regulations. Upon a determination that the group has engaged in violations, encouraged violations, or did not take reasonable steps as a group to prevent violations of university rules and regulations, the group may be subjected to permanent or temporary removal of recognition/registration, social probation, denial of the use of university facilities or other appropriate outcomes (see Section G.2. Group Responsibility for Student Organizations).

11.94

**Other Outcomes:** Other outcomes may be imposed instead of or in addition to those specified in the above list. Examples include but are not limited to: university housing reassignment or removal, restrictions upon or denial of driving privileges on campus, prohibition of student leadership opportunities, counseling, community service work, research projects, seminars, classes or other educational experiences deemed appropriate. Certain outcomes also may be assigned as “deferred” (not implemented unless there is a subsequent violation of university policy) under appropriate circumstances (e.g., deferred removal from housing, deferred suspension from the university, deferred loss of organizational recognition).

11.95 Medical Amnesty/Good Samaritan Policy

Because USC places a high priority on student health and safety, the purpose of this policy is to encourage students to take immediate action in the case of an emergency. Some students may be hesitant to seek medical assistance because they fear possible disciplinary consequences for consumption of drugs or alcohol. The university aims to remove this fear by clarifying the policy to encourage students and organizations to seek assistance for themselves and others who are experiencing distress while under the influence.

Those who seek medical assistance for themselves or another, by contacting a Resident Assistant, calling a Department of Public Safety officer, or calling 911, will not be held responsible for violations of the Student Conduct Code for their consumption of alcohol and/or other substances. However, students may be required to complete educational interventions, and failure to complete such interventions may result in administrative holds or disciplinary action by the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards.

The policy does not apply if a Department of Public Safety officer or a Resident Assistant confronts the student first. The policy also does not preclude disciplinary outcomes due to any other violations of the Student Code of Conduct beyond alcohol or substance consumption.

Details regarding amnesty to students who report sexual, interpersonal, or protected class misconduct are available in the [Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#).

12. Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards Disciplinary Process

Note: This Section 12 does not apply to student sexual, interpersonal, or protected class misconduct, which is subject to the [Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#).

#### 12.01 Incident Report

Faculty or staff may initiate an incident report against a student or student organization for an alleged violation of the Student Conduct Code by submitting a written incident report to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards. See Section 13 for details regarding the academic integrity process specifically.

#### 12.02 Intentionally omitted.

#### 12.03 Contents of an Incident Report

A report of an alleged violation should consist of a clear, concise written statement that contains the following information:

- I. A list of any and all parties against whom the incident report is being filed.
- II. A description of the alleged misconduct, the date or period of time during which it occurred and the location where the incident(s) allegedly occurred.
- III. The name, address and phone number of the person making the report.
- IV. All incident reports are considered to have been made in good faith.

#### 12.04 Timing of Incident Reports

Reports may be submitted up to one year after the date of discovery of the alleged incident. This timeframe may be extended under special circumstances.

Cases involving academic, or sexual, interpersonal or protected class misconduct, may be reported at any time.

#### 12.05 Processing of Incident Reports

Upon receiving a report that a student has allegedly violated university standards, staff in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards will review the report to determine whether there is good cause to proceed with the student conduct process. Staff may follow up with appropriate parties to obtain additional information as they see fit in order to determine whether a particular incident report has merit.. Staff may choose to drop the matter or proceed with an informal or formal resolution process.

## 12.06 Overview of Student Conduct Process

If the matter is not dismissed, the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards will send written notification of the incident report to the student via USC email, initiating either an informal or formal resolution process.

## 12.07 Informal Resolution

In an informal resolution, the student is invited to meet with a staff member to discuss the report. Assuming that the student responds to the meeting request and subsequently actively engages in a conversation about the report, the matter will be closed without disciplinary action and the student will have no disciplinary history that is reported externally as a result of the report. Recommendations for resources or suggested follow-up may be shared with the student. If the student elects not to participate in this process, Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards staff may proceed with the formal resolution process.

## 12.08 Formal Resolution

In a formal resolution, the student is invited to meet with a staff member to conduct an administrative review of the report. The student has an opportunity to submit a written account of their perspective to staff in advance of the meeting. At the meeting, the student has the opportunity to present any information regarding the incident. The student is not permitted to create a recording or transcription of the meeting. Staff will decide if the student is responsible for any violation(s) of university policy based on a “preponderance of the information” (more likely than not) standard. If so, staff will determine (an) appropriate outcome(s).

## 12.13 Residential Education Review

In specified cases involving violations of behavioral standards outlined in the Student Conduct Code or the University Housing & Hospitality Services Contract & Living Agreement by student residents in university housing, a Residential Education Review may be conducted by a Residential Education staff member. A Residential Education Review is a process which utilizes procedures in lieu of the procedures contained in this Student Handbook (documentation on the Residential Education review process is available at [resed.usc.edu/resources/residential-review-process-policies/](https://resed.usc.edu/resources/residential-review-process-policies/)).

## 12.14 Other Review Systems

The Vice President for Student Affairs has granted to Keck School of Medicine, Ostrow School of Dentistry, and the Leventhal School of Accounting, the authority to conduct independent reviews, render decisions and recommend appropriate sanctions/outcomes in cases of alleged academic integrity or

professional standards violations. Granting this authority does not preclude the university from adjudicating matters concerning the behavior of students from these schools. These graduate/professional school panels must meet standards of procedural fairness.

Sexual, interpersonal, and protected class misconduct cases involving students from these schools are still reviewed by the EEO-TIX Office, but the determinations of a completed sexual, interpersonal, and protected class case may lead to additional sanctions/outcomes imposed by those schools as appropriate to the professional discipline.

#### 12.15 Public Health Measures

Students and student organizations are required to comply with behavioral expectations set forth by the University in light of public health needs, including but not limited to COVID-19 or any other disease, health and safety, natural disaster, or other emergency response. Given the community health risks posed by the failure to adhere to these expectations, the University will hold students and student organizations accountable for their non-compliance. If the University receives notice that a student or student organization is repeatedly failing to comply:

- Students may lose their access to University premises, which may consequently delay their ability to complete their coursework. Tuition refunds will not be granted to students who lose their ability to access University premises under these circumstances.
- Students and student organizations may also be found responsible for violations of the Conduct Code (Section B.11), and subject to a review by the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards.

#### 12.40 Adjudicatory Procedures

All of the student procedural protections listed in Section 10.30 will be observed. The following procedural guidelines apply to all reviews of Student Conduct Code violations adjudicated by the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards:

##### I. Multiple Accused Students

In reviews of incidents involving more than one student, staff in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards will determine whether the reviews concerning each student be conducted separately.

##### II. Pending Criminal Charges

For cases in which criminal investigations and/or proceedings are concurrent or pending against the accused student directly, the university normally may proceed independently of such investigations or proceedings. The student or the reporting party may request that the university delay its proceeding. Such requests should be submitted in writing to staff in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards, stating the requested action and the supporting rationale for the request. Staff may grant the request but is not

obligated to do so. The mere fact that criminal investigation or proceedings exist will not ordinarily be considered grounds for delay.

However, staff in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards may coordinate with law enforcement to ensure the university process does not interfere with the integrity or timing of the criminal investigation. At the request of law enforcement, the university may temporarily defer its process.

Neither a decision by law enforcement not to proceed with arrest or prosecution, nor the outcome of a criminal proceeding in favor of the accused, are themselves determinative in the university's proceeding or the determination that a Conduct Code violation has occurred. However, conviction of a criminal offense may be dispositive in a Conduct Code review.

### III. Relevant Information

It is the responsibility of the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards staff to render determinations concerning relevance of information to be considered as part of their review of the incident. Rules of evidence and discovery used by federal and state judicial proceedings shall not be applicable to reviews described in this Code. Staff in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards will consider information that is timely and relevant to the alleged conduct under review.

Staff in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards may exclude information that is not relevant or is not considered credible or reliable in the review of an incident. For instance, polygraph tests will not be considered in determining whether a fact exists.

Character witnesses, statements, or letters are also not considered (examples of character evidence include statements, resumes, transcripts, and letters from friends, family, or faculty). Opinions by those who did not see, hear, or otherwise experience an incident may not be considered relevant.

### IV. Standard of Proof

The standard of proof for a finding of responsibility for a violation of university policy shall be preponderance of the information, meaning more likely than not.

### V. Decision

For cases in which a student is found not responsible for violating the Student Conduct Code, or in cases resolved informally, no outcomes will be issued. For cases in which a student is found responsible for violating the Student Conduct Code, the student's previous conduct record at the university will be considered in determining appropriate outcomes. Except for cases in which the student's disciplinary history is a basis for the alleged violation(s) under review (e.g., reference to Section 11.49 or to a continuing pattern of behavior), consideration of that history will occur subsequent to the determination of responsibility.

Cases involving suspension, expulsion, revocation of degree and revocation of admission are subject to review and possible modification by the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee.

Included with the decision letter will be a statement outlining the proper course of appeal for the particular case.

### 13. Academic Integrity Review

Academic integrity violations at the graduate level are managed by the respective School (Section B.13.10 below), and violations at the undergraduate level are managed by Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards (Sections B.13.20 and B.15, below).

13.10 Academic Integrity Violations by Graduate Students. This section contains the complete process for academic misconduct committed by graduate students. (Sections B.10, 12, 14, and 15 do not apply.)

- I. Applicable Students. This process is applicable to the following graduate students, regardless of whether the student is enrolled online or in-person: masters, professional doctorate, Ph.D., dual-degree, progressive degree students (who have completed the undergraduate component), certificate, and visiting.

This academic integrity process does not apply to students enrolled in: Ostrow School of Dentistry; the M.D. program at Keck School of Medicine; the Leventhal School of Accounting, and in a Leventhal course.

- II. Submission of a Report.

- a. Only faculty are permitted to report a violation. If a student/other has reason to believe an academic integrity violation has been committed, they should communicate with the faculty/designee of the course.
- b. Reports may be submitted up to one year after the date of the alleged incident. This timeframe may be extended under special circumstances (for example, the report, if true, would warrant the revocation of a degree).
- c. Reports will be directed to the Academic Integrity Coordinator (“AIC”) of the School to which the graduate student belongs.
- d. Because the student may contest the allegation, they must be allowed to attend all classes and complete all assignments until the report is resolved.
- e. The instructor should assign a mark of “MG” until notification is received from the AIC that a final decision has been made.

- III. Notice to Student

- a. The AIC will provide notice to the student of the exact allegations and subsequent process.

- b. The student may not withdraw from a course in which they have been accused of committing an academic integrity violation.
- c. Unless otherwise permitted, the student will have five calendar days from the receipt of the notice to respond to the AIC to set up an initial meeting. Unless otherwise permitted, the initial meeting shall take place within five calendar days of the student's response.
- d. If a student does not respond, they will be notified that the decision-making process will proceed without the benefit of their input. A student's failure to respond will not be assumed as an acknowledgment of responsibility.
- e. At the initial meeting, the AIC shall provide the student with: an opportunity to review the report and supporting documents; information about the review process; an opportunity to discuss mitigating factors; and a timeline for submitting supporting documents.
- f. If the student is an individual with a disability and needs a reasonable accommodation in order to fully and effectively participate in any stage of this process, the student should notify the AIC and Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS), in writing, at the earliest possible opportunity, to ensure reasonable accommodations are provided.

#### IV. Review Options

- a. Individual Review. The student will meet with the AIC and faculty member to discuss the incident and potentially come to an agreement as to responsibility and outcome (if any). This may take place over the course of multiple meetings. No other parties are permitted during the process. The student has the right at any time prior to an Individual Review decision to opt out of the Individual Review and pursue a Panel Review.
- b. Panel Review. A Panel Review is required: (i) at the request of a student; (ii) when the initial report recommends an outcome of program dismissal, suspension, expulsion, or revocation of degree; (iii) to determine the outcome, if the student has been found responsible for past academic integrity violation(s); or (iv) if an agreement cannot be reached at the conclusion of an individual review. The AIC will convene the School's Academic Integrity Panel to review the incident report and documentation, and meet separately with the student and faculty should the Panel find it necessary. The Panel shall be composed of 3-5 members, which may include faculty, staff, and students, as designated by the Dean. The Panel shall make a determination as to whether the student is responsible, and also recommend outcomes (if applicable).
- c. The student or reporting faculty are permitted to appeal the Individual or Panel Review decision. If neither appeals per the process detailed below, the decision of the Individual or Panel Review will be final and binding.

#### V. Appeals



- a. The student or reporting faculty may appeal the Individual or Panel Review decision within ten calendar days of receiving notice, unless otherwise permitted. Appeals shall be submitted to the AIC.
- b. In most cases, the status of a student will not be altered and disciplinary outcomes will not be implemented until completion of the appeal.
- c. Appeals are permitted only on the following grounds:
  - i. New evidence has become available which is sufficient to alter the decision, and which the appealing party was not aware of or could not have reasonably obtained at the time of the initial review.
  - ii. The outcome imposed is grossly disproportionate in light of the Conduct Code violation(s) found.
  - iii. The AIC or Panel deviated from the process detailed in this Section, and such deviation had a material impact on the outcome of the case.
- d. The other party will have five calendar days to review and respond to the Appeal, if they so choose.
- e. The AIC will provide the Individual or Panel decision, the Appeal, and the Response to the Appeal (if any), to the Dean or designee. The Dean or designee will have five calendar days to provide a written final decision to the AIC. This decision is final and binding and will be provided to the student and faculty member.

## VI. Outcomes

- a. If a student is found responsible for an academic integrity violation, the student may receive any of the outcomes provided above in Part B, Section 11.
- b. Guidelines for determining outcomes are provided in Appendix A. Outcomes for second offenses will be more severe and generally will include suspension or expulsion.

### 13.20 Academic Integrity Violations by Undergraduate Students

#### I. Initiating a Report

If the instructor, academic unit or appropriate university official has reason to believe, based on observation or other information, that a student has violated the university's academic integrity standards, they are encouraged to make reasonable attempts to meet with the student and discuss the alleged violation and the evidence which supports the charge. When necessary, such discussions may be conducted virtually. In this meeting every effort should be made to preserve the basic teacher/student relationship. The student should be given the opportunity to respond to the allegation.

The instructor should assign a mark of "MG" until notification is received from the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards that a final decision has been made.

Also, because the student may contest the allegation, they must be allowed to attend all classes and complete all assignments until the incident report is resolved.

## II. Outcomes

The instructor, academic unit or appropriate university official may recommend an appropriate outcome for the violation.

Outcomes include but are not limited to: grade penalties(e.g., “F” in course) and dismissal from the academic department. In addition, outcomes of suspension or expulsion from the university may be assessed when indicated by university standards (such as the seriousness of the misconduct or the existence of previous academic violations by the student). Refer to Appendix A: Academic Dishonesty Guidelines for Determining Outcomes, when deciding which outcomes are most appropriate for the violation.

Students may not withdraw from a course in which they have committed or have been accused of committing an academic integrity violation. Students found to have withdrawn from a course in which an academic integrity violation is alleged or determined will be re-enrolled in the course.

Students found responsible for an act of academic dishonesty in a course in which they have participated but have not enrolled (auditing), may be retroactively enrolled and assigned an appropriate outcome.

Outcomes for second offenses will be more severe and generally will include suspension or expulsion.

## III. Reporting Violations of Academic Integrity

As soon as possible, the instructor, academic unit or appropriate university official will provide the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards with a completed Academic Integrity Violation Form and supporting documents.

Students having specific information regarding academic violation(s) of a classmate and wishing to report this academic misconduct are encouraged to contact the faculty member of the course.

## IV. Response to Report

Once a report of an Academic Integrity Violation has been submitted, the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards will evaluate the report, confirm whether or not the student has a previous disciplinary record at the university, and notify the student of the allegation in writing. A copy of the notification will be sent to the individual submitting the report and to their academic dean, if appropriate.

If the student is an individual with a disability and needs a reasonable accommodation in order to fully and effectively participate in any stage of the academic integrity review process, the student should notify the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards, in writing, at the earliest possible opportunity. The Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards will work with the student and Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) to ensure reasonable accommodations are provided. While such requests may be made at any point during the academic integrity review process, the student is strongly encouraged to make any request known at the earliest possible opportunity and, if possible, at least five business days in advance of an anticipated activity where the accommodation is needed.

The student will be given the opportunity to meet with staff from the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards. During that meeting, the student has the opportunity to provide their perspective and present any information regarding the incident. If the student fails to respond to the written notice and meeting request a decision may be reached in absentia(see Section 12.05).

#### 14. Special Admissions Review

The University may, at its sole discretion, initiate a special admissions review after an offer of admission has been made but before a prospective student's enrollment has begun (typically, enrollment begins on the first scheduled day of classes of a student's program), when the university becomes aware of:

- false and/or inaccurate information that is believed to have been submitted by, or on behalf of, a prospective student;
- new information that would have been considered in the review of the prospective student's application had it been known by Admissions at the time;
- academic or behavioral concerns; or
- a failure to provide all requested information/documents.

In the case of prospective undergraduate students, the special admissions review will be conducted by the Director of Undergraduate Admission or their designee. In the case of prospective graduate students, the special admissions review will be conducted by the school official responsible for overseeing admission to the graduate program to which the student has been offered admission, or their designee.

A special admissions review may result in action(s) including a delay of enrollment or revocation of admission from the university. All pertinent documents will be reviewed and the prospective student may be asked to provide additional information regarding their application to the university.

A decision will be reached by the review officer and communicated in writing to the prospective student. There is no appeal of a special admissions review.

Formal hearing procedures and protections cited in the Student Conduct Code do not apply to the special admissions review process.

#### 15. Appeals of the Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards Process

Following an initial review, a student found responsible for a violation of the Student Conduct Code may file a written appeal within ten business days from receipt of the written decision. Receipt is deemed accomplished by personal delivery or three days after the date of mailing.

In most cases, the status of a student will not be altered and disciplinary outcomes will not be implemented until completion of the appeal. Written appeals should be submitted to the Student Affairs Appeals Coordinator, or designee, at [sjacsappeal@usc.edu](mailto:sjacsappeal@usc.edu).

Should a party intending to appeal believe they have been given inadequate time to prepare their written documents, a written request for extension of time may be submitted to the Student Affairs Appeals Coordinator. The request must be submitted in writing within the ten business-day appeal period and should include the rationale for requesting the extension along with a proposed date by which all appeal documents will be submitted.

Requests for extension of time will be considered on their merits and will not be granted automatically.

#### 15.01

The written appeal must include the Appeal Request Cover Sheet indicating the specific grounds for the appeal, supporting arguments and documentation, and any other relevant information the student wishes to include. Appellants should refer to Guidelines for Writing Appeals, a document available from the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards.

The appellant should be aware that all appeals are documentary reviews in which no oral testimony is taken. Appeals are determined solely on the merits of the documents submitted and do not proceed to oral hearing. Appellate documents therefore should be as complete as possible.

#### 15.02

Appeals must state one or more of the following criteria as the reason for the appeal:

- I. That new evidence has become available which was not reasonably available during the original review, regarding the responsibility or dismissal of the original report, that could affect the outcome. The appeal must specify the new evidence that was not reasonably available at the time of the determination, why the evidence was unknown or unavailable, and how the new evidence could affect the outcome of the Administrative Review.
- II. That the outcome imposed is excessive, insufficient, or inappropriate.
- III. That staff in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards deviated from university rules or regulations, in a way which materially deprived the student of any procedural protections detailed in Section B.10.30 above. Procedural or technical irregularities will not be sufficient to sustain an appeal unless found to have affected the outcome.
- IV. The finding of responsibility is not supported by a “preponderance of the information” standard.

#### 15.03

After receiving all appellate documents, the appropriate appeal panel will convene and review the submitted appellate documents, the written decision from the initial review and supporting documents relevant to the initial review decision. In addition, the appeal panel may request additional statements from staff in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards.

#### 15.04

In its review of the appellate documents, appeal panel members may not substitute their judgment for that of the review officer merely because they disagree with the findings or conclusion, nor will they make new findings of fact. Moreover, the appeal panel may not substitute its opinion on credibility for the judgment of the review officer who saw and heard the witnesses and parties. The role of the appeal panel is not to decide whether it would have reached the same factual conclusions as the review officer, but rather to decide whether a reasonable fact-finder could have come to the same conclusion based on the facts in the record. If there is a conflict in the evidence and a reasonable fact-finder could have resolved the conflict either way, the appeal panel may not reverse the decision of staff in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards

In adjudicating an appeal on the grounds that the outcome imposed is excessive, insufficient, or inappropriate, the appeal panel will not substitute their judgment for that of staff in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards, merely because they disagree with the outcome. The role of the appeal panel is not to decide whether it would have issued the same outcomes imposed by Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards, but rather, whether the outcomes assigned were excessive, insufficient, or inappropriate in light of the guidance provided in Part B. 11.80 above.

The appeal panel may uphold the initial decision in its entirety, decrease outcomes of the initial decision, send the case back to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, or dismiss the case. The appeal panel applies a preponderance of the information standard.

The panel's recommendation is submitted to the Vice President for Student Affairs, or designee, for their consideration. The Vice President for Student Affairs, or designee, may adopt or modify the Panel's recommendation, at their discretion. The decision of the Vice President for Student Affairs, or designee, is final and binding upon all parties. There is no further appeal in any of these cases. The decision will be issued to the student and the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards via email.

#### 15.05

Upon written request to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards, the university will provide an alleged victim of a crime of violence the final results of the disciplinary proceeding. Final results are available only after the appeal process has been exhausted and the university has made a final determination in the matter. Final results are limited to information related to the outcomes imposed by the university that affect the victim.

#### 15.10 Appropriate Appeal Panel

##### I. Peer Review Appeal Panel

The Peer Review Appeal Panel reviews all non-academic appeals except those resulting in outcomes of expulsion, suspension, revocation of degree or

revocation of admission, and except for matters of sexual, interpersonal, or protected class misconduct.

The panel consists of three to five members, including at least one student member, appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs. The Student Affairs Appeal Coordinator or another designee of the Vice President for Student Affairs shall serve as a non-voting advisory member of every appeal panel. The recommendations of the Peer Review Appeal Panel may be reviewed and modified by the Vice President for Student Affairs, or designee, at their sole discretion and, once approved, are final and binding upon all parties.

## II. Student Behavior Appeal Panel

The Student Behavior Appeal Panel reviews all appeals where academic outcomes and/or outcomes of expulsion, suspension, revocation of degree and revocation of admission are imposed.

The panel consists of three to five members including at least one faculty member and one student, appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs. The Student Affairs Appeal Coordinator, or another designee of the Vice President for Student Affairs, shall serve as a non-voting advisory member of every appeal panel.

The recommendations of the Student Behavior Appeals Panel are reviewed and modified by the Vice President for Student Affairs, or designee, at their sole discretion and, once approved, are final and binding upon all parties. No student has the right to make a direct appeal to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

## 16. Student Conduct Records

- I. Student conduct records are maintained separate and apart from all other student records. Student conduct actions become part of a student's academic records only in those cases in which a notation on the student's transcript is made for suspension, expulsion and/or revocation of admission or degree.
- II. Records of student conduct actions are maintained in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for up to seven years after the most recent student conduct incident, except for records made as part of the student's academic records (i.e., notations on a transcript of suspension, expulsion, and/or revocation of admission or degree).
- III. All records are maintained confidentially as provided in the university's policy concerning student education records (see Section C.6 Student Education Records).
- IV. Student conduct records maintained by the university may be shared internally and externally in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and under the following parameters established by the university:
  - a. Internal offices at USC may ask for and be given student conduct history as part of evaluating student eligibility for study abroad,

leadership opportunities, awards, etc. A student's conduct history for purposes of internal sharing includes all incidents in which a student was found responsible for a violation of policy, and includes cases resolved through the Medical Amnesty/Good Samaritan policy and Informal Resolution process. Conduct history is kept on file for seven years from the date of a student's matriculation, except for outcomes of suspension, expulsion, dismissal from a program, and revocation of admission/degree, which are kept on file indefinitely.

- b. External parties (graduate/professional schools, background checks for federal/state employment, private employers, etc.) may be given student conduct history, typically with a signed release by a student. A student's conduct history for purposes of external sharing includes only actions taken against students that result in suspension (temporary separation from USC), expulsion (permanent separation from USC), revocation of degree or revocation of admission, or dismissal from a program.
  - c. External reporting for student athletes falls under additional NCAA requirements and may differ from that described above.
- V. The Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX maintains records of sexual, interpersonal, and protected class misconduct.

[Appendix A: Guidelines for Determining Academic Dishonesty Outcomes \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix B: Report of Academic Integrity Violation \(PDF\)](#)