

The University of Scranton - Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution- Sanctioning Guidelines (2026-2027)

Mission Statement

The Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution seeks to educate students regarding their behavioral responsibilities as members of the University community and to ensure the process used to adjudicate matters of misconduct is consistent and fair-minded. Recognizing the uniqueness of each student, the conduct process is grounded in the Ignatian ideal of promoting the development of the whole person. The discipline process is educational and developmental in nature.

Sanctioning Philosophy

Students who accept responsibility or are found responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct are generally assigned an administrative sanction and one or more developmental sanctions. Sanctions are designed to educate, foster development, encourage thoughtful decision making, and protect the University community. In determining appropriate sanctions, the University considers the nature of the violation including the impact on the community and its members, the institutional sanctioning guidelines, the student's prior disciplinary history, and the individual student's needs. This method of determining appropriate sanctions balances consistency with the Ignatian ideal of cura personalis, or care of the whole person as a unique individual.

How to Use the Sanctioning Guidelines

The Sanctioning Guidelines exist to ensure a level of consistency with sanctioning. The University reserves the right to deviate from the guidelines if the circumstances warrant. Administrative sanctions are usually paired with one or more developmental sanctions to achieve the educational and developmental outcomes that the discipline process is designed to achieve. **The guidelines provide a range of sanctions assuming a student has no prior disciplinary history.** If a student has a prior disciplinary history, the nature of the prior violation(s) and the prior sanction(s) must be considered by the Conduct Officer in determining appropriate sanctions for the most recent violation. The Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution is always available to consult with Conduct Officers and Conduct Bodies to ensure the application of appropriate sanction(s).

Multiple Charges

Conduct Officers should choose the most appropriate charge(s) to respond to the incident keeping in mind the educational and developmental objectives of the conduct process.

Escalation of Sanctions

These guidelines provide a range of sanctions for each offense assuming that a student has no prior disciplinary history. In instances where mandatory minimum sanctions exist, they are noted within the guidelines. If a student has a prior disciplinary history, the nature of that history must be examined by the Conduct Officer or Conduct Body. If the nature of the offense(s) that comprise a student's prior disciplinary history is/are similar to the nature of the current offense (i.e, both involve alcohol/drugs, both involve violence, both involve disorderly behavior), the administrative sanction *will* generally escalate from one incident to the next. For example, a student who received a Disciplinary Censure for an incident involving alcohol will generally receive a minimum of Disciplinary Probation for a second incident involving alcohol.

	STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATION	Minimum Admin. Sanction	Maximum Admin. Sanction	Common Dev. Sanctions Assigned for Violation
1	Academic cheating/plagiarism- Academic cheating, plagiarism and other violations of the University Academic Code of Honesty. (Such misconduct is reviewed using the procedures listed in the Academic Code of Honesty);	Academic misconduct will be reviewed within the procedures listed in the Academic Code of Honesty in the Student Handbook.		
2	Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct- Sexual harassment and sexual misconduct including, but not limited to, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and other forms of sexual harassment as set forth in the University's Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy. (Such misconduct is reviewed in accordance with the Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy);			
	Sexual Assault as defined in the Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy <i>*It is the preference of the University that a student who is found responsible for engaging in sexual assault is expelled. Such a student, at a minimum, shall be suspended from the University.</i>	Suspension*	Expulsion	Evaluation /Counseling No Contact Directive Educational Activity(s)
	Sexual Exploitation as defined in the Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy	Disciplinary Probation	Expulsion	Evaluation /Counseling No Contact Directive Educational Activity(s)
	Domestic and Dating Violence as defined in the Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy <i>*Students who engage in acts of physical violence will, at a minimum, be suspended from the University.</i>	Deferred Suspension	Expulsion	Evaluation /Counseling No Contact Directive Educational Activity(s)
	Stalking as defined in the Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy	Deferred Suspension	Expulsion	Evaluation /Counseling No Contact Directive Educational Activity(s)
	Retaliation as defined in the Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy	Deferred Suspension	Expulsion	Evaluation /Counseling No Contact Directive Educational Activity(s)
3	Physical Violence- Physical violence or threats of physical violence, including, but not limited to, assaulting, striking, shoving, slapping, kicking, fighting (regardless of who started the fight) or in any way threatening or causing physical harm to another (See Anti-Violence Policy); <i>*Students who engage in acts of physical violence will, at a minimum, be suspended from the University.</i>	Suspension*	Expulsion	Outside Assessment/ Counseling Referral Educational Activity(s) No Contact Directive Restitution
4a	Discrimination/Discriminatory Harassment- Discrimination or discriminatory harassment based on characteristics protected by applicable law and set forth in the University's Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy. Such characteristics include, but are not limited to, race, color, religion, gender, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, national origin, ethnicity, and veteran status.(Such misconduct is reviewed in accordance with the Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy);	Disciplinary Probation	Expulsion	Educational Activity(s) No Contact Directive
4b	Harassment- Harassment by any means of communication verbal and/or non-verbal including, but not limited to, in person and via text message, e-mail or any form of social media including any actions, threats, gestures, and/or words directed toward another person that incite a breach of the peace, create a hostile environment, or cause emotional distress because of the humiliating, degrading, intimidating, insulting, and/or alarming nature of the conduct. It often involves a pattern of conduct	Disciplinary Probation	Expulsion	Educational Activity(s) No Contact Directive
5	Weapons- On-campus or illegal possession of weapons (or replicas), implements used as weapons, or other dangerous items including, but not limited to, firearms, ammunition, explosives, fireworks, martial arts paraphernalia, knives (except for kitchen knives possessed and used in their intended manner), pistols, rifles, shotguns, handguns, air guns, pellet or BB guns, paint guns, stun guns/tasers, potato guns, slingshots, balloon launchers, or dangerous chemicals (See Firearms & Weapons Policy)	Disciplinary Probation	Expulsion	Monetary Fine Outside Assessment/ Counseling Referral Educational Activity(s)

6	Property Theft or Destruction- Attempted or actual theft, mutilation, destruction, defacement and/or damage to property	Disciplinary Probation	Suspension	Educational Activity(s) Restitution
7	Alcohol Policy Violations- Violation of the University's Alcohol Policy as more fully described in the Policy(see Policy for full details) including, but not limited to, underage possession or consumption of alcohol; alcohol impairment; social hosting; being in the presence of or furnishing alcohol to underage persons			
7a	Student Alcohol Policies- The University of Scranton prohibits students and guests from engaging in the following:			
7a.1	Underage- Use, possession or consumption of alcohol by individuals who are under twentyone (21) years of age.	Disciplinary Censure	Disciplinary Probation	Alcohol Ed Program Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)
7a.2	Excessive Consumption- Excessive consumption of alcohol, intoxication, alcohol impairment, or alcohol abuse as evidenced by factors including, but not limited to, public drunkenness, disorderly or erratic behavior, slurring of speech, physical coordination difficulties, vomiting, or a preliminary breath test reading/blood alcohol content of .08% or greater. Excessive consumption of alcohol is not an excuse for behavior that violates the Student Code of Conduct	Disciplinary Probation	Deferred Suspension	Alcohol Ed Program or Individual Counseling Referral Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s) Meeting with Staff Member
7a.3	Social Hosting- Social hosting, which is the act of providing the site for a gathering where underage alcohol possession or use is documentedSocial hosting, which is defined as providing the site for a gathering where underage alcohol possession or use is documented	Disciplinary Probation	Suspension	Alcohol Ed Program Meeting with Staff Member Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)
7a.4	Providing to under 21yoa- Providing or serving alcohol to individuals who are under the age of twenty-one (21). Please note that under Pennsylvania state law, charging admission, selling mugs, glasses, chits, tickets, etc. constitute furnishing alcoholic without a legal license and are illegal	Disciplinary Probation	Suspension	Alcohol Ed Program Meeting with Staff Member Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)
7a.5	Open Container- Possessing an open container containing alcohol in a public location (i.e., street, Commons)	Disciplinary Censure	Disciplinary Probation	Alcohol Ed Program Monetary Fine Educational Activity
7a.6	In the Presence of- Being in the presence of any other person on-campus who is engaging in a violation of the University Alcohol Policy.	Disciplinary Censure	Disciplinary Probation	Alcohol Ed Program Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)
7a.7	OMV under the influence- Operating a motor vehicle in an illegal or unsafe manner while under the influence of alcohol.	Disciplinary Probation	Expulsion	Outside Assessment/ Counseling Referral Monetary Fine Meeting with Staff Member Educational Activity(s)
7a.8	Alcohol at Athletic Events- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages at University-sponsored athletic events.	Disciplinary Probation	Suspension	Alcohol Ed Program Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)
7a.9	Common Container of Alcohol- On-campus possession or use of kegs (quarter or half), beer balls, or other common containers of alcoholic beverage larger than one gallon without the written approval of the appropriate Vice President (or designee). Please note that the registration form for events where alcohol will be served is available in the Center for Student Engagement.	Disciplinary Probation	Expulsion	Outside Assessment/ Counseling Referral Educational Activity(s) Monetary Fine Meeting with Staff Member
7a.10	Grain Alcohol- On-campus possession of "grain" alcohol except in a supervised laboratory setting	Disciplinary Probation	Suspension	Alcohol Ed Program Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)
7a.11	Law/Ordinance- Violating laws or ordinances pertaining to the possession or consumption of alcohol.	Disciplinary Censure	Expulsion	Outside Assessment/ Counseling Referral Monetary Fine Meeting with Staff Member Educational Activity(s)
7b	Alcohol Policies Applicable in On-Campus Housing- In addition, The University of Scranton prohibits students and guests from engaging in the following in University on-campus housing:			
7b.1	21+ Consumption Exemption- Possessing or consuming alcohol while twenty-one (21) years of age or older in the presence of individuals who are under the age of twenty-one (21) (except for one's roommate).	Disciplinary Censure	Disciplinary Probation	Alcohol Ed Program Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)
7b.2	Alcohol in Public Areas- Possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages in public areas in University residences. Public areas include, but are not limited to, kitchens, lounges, closets, hallways, bathrooms and balconies. Note that students and guests who are at least twenty-one (21) years of age may consume alcohol in the privacy of student rooms in a manner otherwise consistent with the University Alcohol Policy	Disciplinary Censure	Disciplinary Probation	Alcohol Ed Program Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)
7b.3	Display of Alcohol Containers- Displaying empty alcohol containers (cans or bottles) on shelves, desks, etc.	Disciplinary Censure	Disciplinary Probation	Alcohol Ed Program Monetary Fine Educational Activity
7b.4	Alcohol Paraphernalia- Possessing beer funnels, beer pong tables or other paraphernalia that can be used for fast, abusive consumption of alcohol	Disciplinary Censure	Disciplinary Probation	Alcohol Ed Program Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)

7b.5	Refusal Breath Test- Refusing to submit to a preliminary breath test when requested to do so by a University Police officer. A student who refuses such a test will be presumed to have a .08% blood alcohol content	Disciplinary Probation	Deferred Suspension	Alcohol Ed Program Counseling Referral Monetary Fine Meeting with Staff Educational Activity(s)
7c & 7d	Other Alcohol Policy Violation	Disciplinary Censure	Deferred Suspension	Alcohol Ed Program Counseling Referral Monetary Fine Meeting with Staff Educational Activity(s)
8	University Drug Policy- The University of Scranton established this policy in an effort to ensure the most positive learning environment for all students. Violations of this policy are serious and may result in a student's suspension from the University and/or removal from on-campus housing, even for a first offense. University students and their guests are prohibited from engaging in the following:			
8.1	Use/Possession Illegal Drugs- Use or possession of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or other substances that significantly alter one's physical and/or mental state	Disciplinary Censure	Deferred Suspension	Drug Ed Program Outside Assessment/ Counseling Referral Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)
8.2	Prescription/OTC- Use or possession of a controlled substance without a valid prescription; Use of a controlled substance in a manner other than as prescribed; Abuse of prescription or over-the-counter products	Disciplinary Probation	Suspension	Drug Ed Program Outside Assessment/ Counseling Referral Monetary Fine Meeting with Staff Member Educational Activity(s)
8.3	Drug Paraphernalia- Use or possession of drug paraphernalia or items that have been or can be used to smoke or ingest illegal drugs, controlled substances, or other substances that significantly alter one's physical and/or mental state (i.e., pipes, hookahs, bowls, bongs)	Suspension*	Expulsion	Drug Ed Program Outside Assessment/ Counseling Referral Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)
8.4	In the Presence of- Being in the presence of any other person on-campus who is engaging in a violation of the University Drugs Policy.	Disciplinary Censure	Deferred Suspension	Drug Ed Program Outside Assessment/ Counseling Referral Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)
8.5	Manufacture/Sell- Manufacture, transfer, sale, distribution, or intent to distribute any amount of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or other substances that significantly alter one's physical and/or mental state. Students who engage in such conduct will be suspended from the University as a minimum sanction, even for a first offense.	Disciplinary Probation	Expulsion	Outside Assessment/ Counseling Referral Monetary Fine Meeting with Staff Member Educational Activity(s)
9	Hazing Policy Violations -Violation of the University's Hazing Prohibition Policy	Disciplinary Probation	Expulsion	Monetary Fine Meeting with Staff Educational Activity(s) Restriction
10	Dishonesty- Acts of dishonesty, including but not limited to the following: furnishing false or misleading information to a university official or law enforcement officer; forgery, alteration, or misuse of a document, record or form of identification; tampering with the election of officers of any University student organization; or possessing false identification	Disciplinary Censure	Suspension	Monetary Fine Meeting with Staff Member Educational Activity(s)
11	Failure to Comply- Failure to comply with the directives of University employees, conduct bodies/officers, or law enforcement officials who are acting in performance of their duties and/or failure to identify oneself to or report to these persons when requested to do so	Disciplinary Censure	Suspension	Monetary Fine Meeting with Staff Member Educational Activity(s) Restriction
12	Disruptive Behavior- Participation as an individual or a member of a group in behavior that disrupts or obstructs the normal operations of the University (e.g. teaching, research, housing, administration, public service functions) and/or infringes on the rights of other members of the University community; leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled and/or normal activities within any campus building or area; intentional obstruction that unreasonably interferes with freedom of movement, either pedestrian or vehicular, on campus or at sponsored or supervised functions of the University; taking over buildings	Disciplinary Probation	Expulsion	Monetary Fine Outside Assessment/ Counseling Referral Educational Activity(s) Restriction
13	Disorderly Conduct- Conduct that is disorderly or indecent; reckless behavior that places oneself or others at risk; breach of the peace; or aiding, abetting or procuring another person to breach the peace	Disciplinary Censure	Suspension	Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)
14	Unauthorized Entry- Unauthorized possession, duplication, or use of keys to any premises of the University; unauthorized entry to or use of a premises	Disciplinary Probation	Suspension	Meeting with Staff Member Restriction Educational Activity(s)

15	Littering- Dispersing litter in any form onto the grounds or facilities of the campus	Disciplinary Censure	Disciplinary Probation	Bulletin Board Supervised Work/Service Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)
16	Bomb Threat- Falsely reporting the presence of an unlawful explosive or incendiary device in a way that misleads, deceives, or disrupts the operation of the University or a scheduled event sponsored by the University	Disciplinary Probation	Expulsion	Outside Assessment/ Counseling Referral Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s) Meeting with Staff Member
17	Failure to Evacuate- Failure to evacuate University facilities when ordered to do so, disregarding any emergency or fire alarm signal, inappropriate use of emergency exit doors	Disciplinary Censure	Suspension	Meeting with Staff Member Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)
18	Fire Safety- Any act of igniting a fire purposefully or recklessly that results in damage, falsely reporting a fire or other emergency, falsely setting off a fire alarm, tampering with or removing from their proper location fire extinguishers, hoses, or any other fire emergency equipment except when done with real need for such equipment	Disciplinary Probation	Suspension	Bulletin Board Educational Activity(s) Monetary Fine Meeting with Staff Member
19	Gambling- All forms of gambling and games of chance are prohibited unless specifically authorized by Pennsylvania law. Prohibited gambling may include but is not limited to certain forms of raffles, lotteries, poker tournaments, contests of chance, bookmaking, and selling pools on athletic events including University sporting events, promoting or advancing gambling; gambling using University computing/network facilities; possession of gambling devices or gambling records on one's person or premises (e.g. room, residence hall, University property), or other device for registering bets	Disciplinary Probation	Expulsion	Educational Activity(s) Monetary Fine Meeting with Staff Member
20	Computer Misuse- Unauthorized use or misuse of the University's computing facilities including, but not limited to, logging on an account without the knowledge and permission of the owner; changing, deleting or adding to the programs, files and/or data without authorization of the owner; theft of program data or machine resources; attempts to thwart security of the computer system; attempts to disrupt the normal operations of the computer system, including hardware and software (see Acceptable Use Policy)	Disciplinary Probation	Suspension	Meeting with Staff Member Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s)
21	Conduct Against the Discipline Process- Conduct against the student discipline process, including, but not limited to, misrepresentation of information before a conduct officer/body; disruption of or interference with a conduct hearing; initiation of a conduct proceeding knowingly without cause; discouraging another person's participation in, or use of, the conduct process; attempting to influence the impartiality of a conduct body; harassment and/or intimidation of a conduct body; influencing or attempting to influence another person to commit an abuse of the conduct system; willful non-participation in the conduct process or a related investigation; impeding an official University investigation; retaliation against a person due to his/her good faith submission of a complaint and/or participation in an investigation	Disciplinary Probation	Expulsion	Educational Activity(s) Meeting with Staff Member Monetary Fine Outside Assessment/ Counseling Referral
22	Shared Responsibility- Shared responsibility for a community standards violation, includes but is not limited to the following: presence during another person's violation of the Student Code of Conduct; one's choice not to intervene or notify University staff/law enforcement, or one's choice to not remove oneself from reasonable proximity of the violation as appropriate	Disciplinary Censure	Expulsion	Monetary Fine Meeting with Staff Member Educational Activity(s)
23	University Policies - Violation of written policies and regulations as stipulated in the Student Handbook (including but not limited to Off-Campus Behavior Policy, Parking Policy , Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy) or as promulgated and announced by authorized University employees	Disciplinary Censure	Suspension	Monetary Fine Meeting with Staff Member Educational Activity(s)
24	Residence Life and Housing Regulations- Violation of Residence Life and Housing Regulations (included but not limited to Prohibited Items, Noise, Guest & Visitation Policy) as stipulated in the Housing Contract, the Student Handbook, or as promulgated and announced by authorized University employees	Disciplinary Censure	Suspension	Monetary Fine Educational Activity(s) Meeting with Staff Member
25	Violation of Law- Violations of federal, state or local laws regardless of where they occur	Disciplinary Censure	Expulsion	Appropriate provisions depend on the nature of the violation of law