



BOSTON COLLEGE  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

**2024-2025**



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is not limited to, students on a personal, medical, or academic leave of absence, and students suspended from the University.

The Student Code of Conduct applies to Boston College students while they are on campus, off campus, online, or abroad. Students residing in Boston College residential facilities are also bound by the policies and procedures of the Conditions for Residency which include life safety and security policies. The Conditions for Residency and other residential policies can be viewed on the Office of Residential Life [Community Expectations](#) webpage.

### 1.5 Standard of Proof

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In the case of interim action imposed as a result of criminal charges, the action may remain in effect until the matter is resolved both on and off campus.

Examples of behavior that may lead to summary suspension from the University include, but are not limited to, physical violence, sexual misconduct, disruption of the educational or civil living environment of the University, significant damage to property, and possession and distribution of controlled substances.

## 2.4 Temporary No Contact Order

In instances where it has been determined by a University administrator that contact between a student and one or more individuals is likely to negatively affect the safety or wellbeing of the community or individuals involved, a Temporary No Contact Order may be issued. The order, specific to a person and/or location, prohibits the student(s) subject to the order from having any further direct or indirect contact, including, but not limited to, contact via email, mail, text messages, social media, telephone, as well as third-party contact for the duration of one week (seven days).

A Temporary No Contact Order may be issued by the Administrator of the Office of the Dean of Students (AOC), Senior Administrator of the Office of the Dean of Students (SAOC), or a staff member in the Office of the Dean of Students. During the seven-day period, the Office of the Dean of Students will determine whether the issuance of a long-term Stay Away Order is warranted. The Temporary No Contact Order is issued as an initial response to a complaint and does not necessarily indicate that a violation of the Student Code of Conduct has occurred.

## 2.5 University Stay Away Order

The Office of the Dean of Students may issue a University Stay Away Order to a student when interaction between that student and one or more individuals is likely to negatively affect the safety or wellbeing of the community or individuals involved.

The Order, specific to a person and/or location, prohibits the student from having any further direct or indirect contact with the other individuals, including, but not limited to contact via email, mail, text messages, social media, telephone, as well as third-party contact. If two students are involved, the Stay Away Order is generally made at the discretion of the Office of the Dean of Students, a Stay Away Order may result in mandated changes to a student's academic schedule, on-campus employment, co-curricular or other activities, and/or residential assignments. A University Stay Away Order does not necessarily indicate that a violation of the Student Code of Conduct has occurred.

## 2.6 Disability Accommodations

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An otherwise qualified student who requires accommodations in connection with the student conduct process must be registered with Disability Services and must contact Disability Services in a timely manner to seek accommodations specifically for the conduct process. Disability Services will review the matter, consulting with other administrators as appropriate, and communicate with the student to determine whether accommodations are required to permit the student to participate in the conduct process on a nondiscriminatory basis. Any approved accommodations for the conduct process will be communicated to the Office of the Dean of Students and the hearing chair.



### 3.0 Student Conduct System

The student conduct system exists to protect the rights of the Boston College community and provide a fair process for resolving student conduct complaints.

#### 3.1 The Complaint or Report of an Incident

A student will become involved with the conduct system as a result of the University becoming aware of alleged violations of the Boston College Student Code of Conduct. Alleged violations are usually identified in a complaint or report submitted by a Residential Life staff member, Boston College police officer, campus community liaison, neighbor, fellow student, University official, or local police department. Anyone who has grounds to submit a complaint regarding any Boston College student may do so by submitting the Office of the Dean of Students **Report of Alleged Violation Form**

The Office of the Dean of Students reserves the right to not proceed with complaints not submitted within a reasonable time frame.

#### 3.2 Pursuit of Alleged Violations

The Office of the Dean of Students reserves the right to investigate and pursue all alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct that come to the Office's attention, including cases in which the students or other community members affe

### 3.4 Advisors

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Students may be accompanied by an advisor of their choice to any conduct hearing or meeting related to an alleged violation. Hearings will not be scheduled or postponed based upon the availability of a student advisor. If a student plans to have an advisor present at a hearing or meeting, the student must notify the hearing officer, in writing, at least two business days before the hearing meeting. If a hearing or meeting is scheduled with less than two business days' notice, the student is responsible for requesting additional time to obtain an advisor if needed.

The role of the advisor at meetings and hearings is limited. An advisor may not ask questions, interject, coach, advocate for, or otherwise speak on a student's behalf. The student and advisor can confer at any point, but the advisor may not formulate specific questions, responses, or statements for the student. Violations by the advisor may result in a warning being issued to the advisor by the hearing officer. Repeated violations may result in the advisor being asked to leave the meeting or hearing.

The University reserves the right to have legal counsel present at any meeting or hearing to serve as an advisor to the hearing board or hearing officer. The chairperson or hearing officer and legal counsel may consult anytime during the meeting or hearing.

Boston College officials involved in the Student Conduct System will address only general procedural matters with attorneys serving as advisors. Other matters will be referred to the Office of the General Counsel. The students involved in a conduct matter are expected to communicate directly with the University on their own behalf and in their own words with respect to any substantive questions, concerns, or other matters.

### 3.5

disclosure by participants to persons not involved in the matter. Direct participants, advisors, or responsible administrators may be dealt with as a subsequent conduct matter being pursued or as grounds for dismissal from the hearing. As a general rule, hearings are closed to individuals not directly involved.

### 3.7

exercise of reasonable discretion, defer imposed sanctions while an appeal is being considered.

The Appeals Officer will review the appeal to determine if it meets the requirements. In so doing, the Appeals Officer may consult with the hearing officer, board participants, investigator(s), and/or other University administrators involved in the conduct process and may review evidence.

The Appeals Officer will endeavor to make a decision on the appeal within ten (10) business days; however, the Officer may require additional time, in which case the student will be notified. Ifhrdeavorill -4 (-4 (t))2 ( l)1 (f) iea73 Tc 0.0gc56-0.005ebpden0 (ec)srevid

## 4.0 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES

Boston College employs several types of student conduct processes. The Dean of Students or designee determines which process will be used, with consideration given to the nature of the matter and particular circumstances, including its complexity and severity and the

## 4.2 Hearing Boards

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Hearing boards determine responsibility and recommend sanctions, which are either approved or amended by the Dean of Students or designee.

Boston College has two distinct hearing boards: The Student Conduct Board and the Administrative Hearing Board. The Student Conduct Board is comprised of students, while the Administrative Hearing Board typically comprised of faculty and staff.

#### 4.2.2 Administrative Hearing Board

The Administrative Hearing Board (AHB) is typically composed of University administrators, faculty, and staff. Board members are trained by the Office of the Dean of Students. Chairpersons for the Administrative Hearing Board are designated by the Office of the Dean of Students and receive additional training.

A panel of a minimum of three voting members of the Administrative Hearing Board will hear individual matters. Decisions that can be reached by the Administrative Hearing Board are “responsible” or “not responsible.” A simple majority vote of the panel is required to render a decision. If the decision is “responsible,” the Board may recommend sanctions up to and including suspension or dismissal from the University. In addition, the Board, when appropriate, may recommend other administrative measures or remedies.

Board members must disclose any real or perceived conflict of interest between themselves and any party and may not serve on the board for a conduct matter if they are not able to be impartial at its hearing.

#### 4.3 Title IX and Sexual Misconduct Procedures

The University’s **Title IX Harassment Policy** and the **Student Sexual Misconduct Policy** describe how allegations of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct are addressed and the scope of conduct addressed under each policy. The policies also provide information regarding the University’s response efforts related to sexual harassment and sexual misconduct by students, including descriptions of prohibited conduct, reporting options, supportive measures, the complaint process, the informal resolution process, possible remedies and sanctions, and other information.

## 5.0 **A**

Sanctions will be designed to deter students from similar future behavior, prevent further misconduct, address the misconduct's effect on the community, safety and provide education. Sanctions are commensurate with the severity of the violation at the sole discretion of the University

Certain behaviors



- **Probationary Statuses** remain active for a specified period of time and serve as a formal notification that the conduct in question is unacceptable. During this time, the student is given the opportunity to modify unacceptable behavior, to complete specific assignments, and to demonstrate a positive contribution to the University community. Additionally, if continued or other inappropriate behavior follows, higher level sanctions may be issued. Probationary statuses remain part of a student's conduct record even after the term of the probation.

The hearing officer may, at their discretion, limit or exclude certain privileges available to a student on probation. Depending on the seriousness of the violation and/or the prevalence of the behavior, the following probationary statuses may be issued:

**Disciplinary Probation** is the lowest level probationary status, which indicates that similar or more severe violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in University probation and/or loss of privileges.

**University Probation** is the highest level of probationary status, which indicates that similar or more severe violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in deferred suspension, suspension, deferred dismissal, or dismissal from the University and/or loss of privileges. A student on University Probation is not considered in good conduct standing. - 0 (ef)3 6fyd in goodduu and/or-1 ( )-10 (in)-2 (d)-8d

- **University Suspension** requires that the student no longer be present on any Boston College owned or leased property for a specified period of time. While on suspension, a student may not take courses to advance his or her Boston College degree. Students cannot be readmitted until after the date their suspension ends, nor may they register or pre-register for the following semester courses or housing.

In addition, students who have been suspended from the University may lose certain privileges upon their return at the discretion of the hearing officer. Students returning from University Suspension will generally have a sanction of University Probation for a minimum of one semester upon their return to campus. A notation will be indicated on the student's transcript. A student on University Suspension is not considered in good conduct standing during the University Suspension period.

- **University Dismissal** requires that the student completely and permanently sever



### 5.3 Formative Sanctions

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Formative sanctions are used alone or in conjunction with status sanctions to hold students accountable for their behavior as well as to provide a venue for education, follow-up conversations, reflections, and meaningful contributions to the greater community.

- **Conversation Project** The Conversation Project is a collaborative effort to organize and systematize how students meet with faculty and professional staff to have informal, meaningful conversations. The Conversation Project aims to provide a resource for students and to give them an opportunity to share in a safe environment, reflect upon their experience and identify pathways to foster future success.
- **Educational Project/Paper** A student is required to engage in a specific educational project, such as writing a reflective paper, conducting research or a project, or creating a bulletin board in an area relevant to the offense.
- **Friday Night Heights** Friday Night Heights in a biveo give them





## 7.7 Off-Campus Expectations

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Students living off-campus are responsible for the conduct and activities occurring at their residences at all times, including the conduct and activities of guests, whether or not the students are active hosts or direct participants in the conduct or activities. Students must comply with the requests and directives of University officials, law enforcement, and other public officials. Students must also submit their local (off

## 8.0 B - $A_{\text{in}}$ > $A_{\text{out}}$



## 8.2 Drug Policy

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The University prohibits the possession and manufacturing, use, consumption, being in the presence of providing, sale or distribution of drugs as well as the possession, manufacturing, use or sale of drug paraphernalia, including vaporizers. Additionally, the intent to purchase, facilitate a purchase, sell, deliver, or manufacture is prohibited. Driving while under the influence of drugs is also prohibited.

Students are also responsible for misconduct if they passively allow drug use to occur

**Marijuana** Although Massachusetts law permits the recreational use of marijuana by adults over the age of 21, Boston College does not. The possession, use, consumption, manufacturing, sale, or distribution of drugs, including marijuana, by students or employees is prohibited. Federal law prohibits the possession, use, purchase, or sale of marijuana or THC, including edibles. This policy complies with the requirements of the federal **Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act**. Under this federal law, as a condition of receiving federal funds, an institution of higher education such as Boston College must certify that it has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on campus and as part of its activities and programs. Under federal law, this includes any amount of marijuana.

**Illicit Drugs** Cocaine, heroin, ecstasy (MDMA), amphetamines, methamphetamines, hallucinogens (i.e. LSD, psilocybin mushrooms), and similar substances are considered to be illicit drugs due to the severe negative health and safety outcomes associated with their use.

**Misuse of Prescription Drugs** Misuse of prescription drugs, including opiates/pain killers (i.e. morphine, oxycodone), stimulants (i.e. Ritalin), sedative/hypnotics (i.e. barbiturates, anxiolytics), and other psychoactive drugs, is prohibited. This includes taking a medication that is not prescribed to you, taking more than the prescribed dose of a medication, sharing or distributing medication with individuals who are not prescribed such medication, or taking a prescription medication for a reason other than the intended ( p)-1 (e)-8 (n)3Tc 0.003 Tw ive



## 9.0 Community

To foster the sense of community that is vital for an educational institution to function as a marketplace of ideas, to foster student development, and to encourage cognitive growth, all members of the campus community must respect the rights and contributions of other members of the community. Students are expected to be open to learning, meaningfully engage with difference, and care for others. Boston College expects its members to honor the inherent dignity of other members of our community by being considerate, sensitive, understanding, and caring for the welfare of others.

### 9.1 Bias Motivated Conduct

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Bias motivated conduct is prohibited. The term "bias motivated" refers to behavior and/or language that demonstrates bias against persons or groups because of those persons' or groups' actual or perceived race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, gender, ethnicity, or status as a member of any other protected class.

Under this Student Code of Conduct, bias motivated conduct is any conduct, whether verbal, written, or physical, that constitutes a violation of the Code of Conduct and is in whole or in part motivated by bias, or is coupled with evidence of bias motivation. Examples may include defacement of posters or signs, threatening or intimidating comments or messages, vandalism to personal or University property, or similar acts.

If bias is found to be present, bias motivated conduct will generally be deemed to be an aggravating circumstance to the underlying violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Consequently, a finding of bias motivated conduct may result in a more severe sanction than would be given for the conduct without evidence of bias motivation. In some cases, bias motivated conduct may constitute discriminatory harassment or sexual misconduct and may give rise to other conduct allegations accordingly.

### 9.2 Discriminatory Harassment

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Discriminatory harassment is prohibited. See the [Discriminatory Harassment Policy](#).

#### 9.4 Physical Violence

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Physical violence includes, but is not limited to, any physical contact that results in harm or was intended to cause harm, and any fighting/brawling, slapping, spitting, shoving, and restraining. Students are expected to avoid physical conflicts at all times. Under no circumstance is physical violence an acceptable means to resolve problems, disputes, or interpersonal relations.

#### 9.5 Retaliation

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Boston College prohibits retaliation of any kind against any individual filing a complaint or participating in an investigation or conduct process involving a Boston College student. Behavior that may be considered retaliatory includes, but is not limited to:

- discouraging an individual from reporting an incident
- discouraging witness participation
- threatening, harassing or intimidating a participant in a conduct process
- intentionally causing negative consequences for a participant in a conduct process or for a participant's personal relationships or social circles

#### 9.6 Threats

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Threats are any actions that stigmatize, intimidate, or compromise another individual's emotional or mental well-being or cause another to reasonably fear for their safety. Threatening actions may include, but are not limited to, verbal communication, physical gestures, written or electronic communications, imagery, and property damage.

#### 9.7 Title IX and Sexual Misconduct

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All forms of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct including, without limitation, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, are prohibited by Boston College. The University maintains a **Title IX Harassment Policy** which addresses conduct constituting sexual harassment under Title IX as well as the **Student Sexual Misconduct Policy** which addresses non-Title IX sexual harassment and misconduct. Each policy includes explanations and definitions for the conduct covered under the policy, as well as the adjudication process for conduct covered under the policy.





In addition, the misuse, disabling, covering, or tampering with fire protection devices such as extinguishers, smoke detectors, and alarms is prohibited. Setting off a false alarm and tampering with fire/safety equipment may result in University suspension. Failure to evacuate during a fire alarm is also prohibited.

The Office of the Dean of Students in conjunction with the Office of Residential Life, assigns certain **minimum sanctions** for violations of the fire safety policies that occur in residence halls. A complete and current list of safety and fire policies for the residence halls, is available on the Office of Residential Life **Community Expectations** webpage.

### 11.5 Gambling

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All forms of illegal gambling are prohibited under Massachusetts (MA) law, no one under the age of 21 is permitted to engage in any form of gambling or wagering. MA law also prohibits individuals of any age from participating in many gambling activities, including, without limitation, betting on college teams, bookmaking or pool setting for profit, promoting or setting up a lottery for money or property, or winning or losing money or other valuables by play or hazard at any unsanctioned game.

Further, the NCAA prohibits student athletes and anyone else who has any responsibilities for or within the Athletics Department from participating in any form of sports wagering, including with respect to any college, amateur, and professional sports. The University also prohibits the sharing or use of any public information about any student athlete, team, or University athletics competition in connection with





Requests for permission to conduct student commercial activities covered by this policy must be submitted to the Vice President for Student Affairs or a designee, who may consult with other University officials, as appropriate. Decisions regarding such requests and activities are at the sole discretion of the University. Permission, when granted, may be subject to change, limitations, and restrictions. In all cases, permitted activities remain subject to and must comply with applicable law and other University policies and procedures. Students who are uncertain about the applicability of this policy to an activity may consult with the Office of the Dean of Students.

The insignia of Boston College, including all names, logos, seals, mascots, and other marks associated with the University, are trademarks of the University and protected by trademark law, as well as University policy. University permission is required for the use of Boston College trademarks.

Violation of this policy may result in referral to the student conduct process, termination of the Residency Agreement under the Conditions for Residency (where the prohibited conduct takes place in University housing); and/or legal action.

#### 11.11 Student Demonstrations

Students organizing or participating in a demonstration are required to abide by the Student Demonstration Policy, which requires registration and approval.

Boston College has a longstanding commitment to protecting the right to free expression, including the right to protest. Discourse is central to the life of the University, and students engage in dialogue in a spirit of mutual respect, civility, and care. At the same time, the University prioritizes the safety and well-being of students who take part in demonstrations and rallies and of other members of our campus community who are affected by these events. Additionally, Boston College must seek to carefully balance the sometimes competing interests of the University and its community to engage in learning, teaching, research, and other University-sponsored activities, and to promote the distinctive mission of Boston College without undue disruption or interference.

To ensure that public demonstrations do not violate directly or indirectly the rights of others by preventing or disrupting the ordinary operation of the University, all activities in the nature of a public speech, rally, demonstration, march, protest, or other coordinated event ("demonstrations") must be registered and approved in advance by the Associate Vice President for Student Engagement & Formation or designee.

Boston College reserves the right to condition the time, place, and manner of proposed demonstrations, and to withhold approval of proposed demonstrations which reasonably appear to be organized by or on behalf of persons or organizations that are not affiliated with Boston College, or which are intended or deemed likely to disrupt or



Unauthorized entry to a University facility or grounds and/or failure to leave a University facility or grounds when requested to do so by a representative of the University.  
Obstruction of the entrance or exit to a University facility or a campus roadway.

Organizing or participating in a demonstration without prior authorization may result in conduct action.

### 11.12 Unauthorized Entry

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Students may not intrude on or enter into another person's property without permission. This includes unauthorized entry into restricted University buildings or areas, including athletic facilities, construction sites, and student rooms or offices, even if unlocked, as well as any restrictions that the University imposes for specific events (e.g., during tailgating, Marathon Monday, and Senior Week events). Tampering with