

General Guidelines

Preponderance of Evidence

Methodist University hearings, unlike proceedings of a court of law, do not require conclusive proof. Due to the nature of the student conduct system and the need to balance the rights and privileges of all members of the university community, hearing decisions must be based on preponderance of evidence. A preponderance of evidence exists when a reasonable person, after evaluating all information available at the time of the hearing, would conclude that it is more likely than not a violation has occurred. The student has the right to appeal a hearing decision based on the grounds and procedures outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Reasonable Cause

Reasonable Cause means that there is sufficient evidence to allege that a student has violated the Code of Conduct. Evidence is sufficient if a reasonable person would believe that further inquiry into whether a violation occurred is no longer warranted.

Jurisdiction

This Code applies to student conduct which occurs on campus or off campus while the student is enrolled at the University. The Code of Conduct applies to all students during interim periods between semesters and during breaks. The University reserves the right to administratively sanction or dismiss students, without applying the official protocol of the Code of Conduct, before their first official day of class if their behavior does not align with University expectations, principles and/or policies while attending University special programs to include orientation programs, summer camps and sport camps, etc. In cases where the physical and/or emotional safety are at risk or have been compromised, the University reserves the right to sanction, suspend and/or remove student organizations without applying the official protocol of the Code of Conduct. The University reserves the right to deny admission or readmission to any person because of previous misconduct which may substantially affect the interest of the University, or to admit or readmit such persons in an appropriate disciplinary status. The University reserves the right to change these behavioral standards and disciplinary procedures at any time upon general notice to the University community.

Authority for the administration of this Code

The Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students is responsible to the President for the administration of this Code. The primary assistant to the Dean of Students for matters of student conduct is the Sr. Associate Dean of Students, to whom the administration of this Code and the disciplinary system is normally delegated. Yet, the Dean of Students retains authority over the administering of the Student Code of Conduct. Any question of interpretation regarding the Student Code of Conduct shall be referred to the Dean of Students or designee for final determination.

The Authority of the Dean of Students

It is impossible for a single Student Conduct Code to cover every situation. With this in mind, the President, and the Board of Trustees of Methodist University have authorized the Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students to enforce, by sanction or policy, situations that may not specifically be addressed in this handbook including matters that are governed by local, state, and/or federal laws.

Involuntary Withdrawal Policy

In unusual and extraordinary circumstances where the emotional and/or physical welfare of the student and/or elements of the University community are in jeopardy, it may become necessary to take steps temporarily separating a student or students from the University community. Under such circumstances, and with medical and/or psychological consultation, the University, through the Dean of Students or his/her designee, reserves the rights to exercise its responsibility to involuntarily withdraw a student from the University. Further, the University reserves the right to interview a student who has been withdrawn, when and if that student contemplates readmission.

Advisors

Advisors must come from within the Methodist University community (currently enrolled student, faculty or staff member). Their role is to counsel the student and may not actively participate in the process. In cases alleging assault by one student against another (including sexual offenses), the alleged victim may also bring an advisor from the Methodist community to the hearing. In cases alleging sexual harassment or sexual misconduct, the individual bringing charges will be notified of the outcome of campus student conduct hearings as permitted by the Student-Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act. Advisors may only be present in cases that may result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

Email Notification

All students are responsible for checking their Methodist University e-mail daily for messages from the University. All Official University information (e.g., grades, academic notices, code of conduct notices, campus calendars, attendance policy updates, registration and financial information, etc.) will be sent electronically only. No University information will be sent to any other e-mail address.

Responsible for One's Action(s)

Students are responsible for their actions. Being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs is no excuse for improper action and, in fact, makes the violation more serious. Students are also responsible for their actions during off-campus trips. Those students whose behavior puts themselves or others at risk or who unreasonably disrupt the University environment will be expelled from the University.

Student Identification Cards

Students must carry their University Identification Card at all times. All students must present their University Identification Card to any faculty or staff member upon request, failure to present their card will be considered a violation of the University's Failure to Comply with the Direction of a University Official policy. Students will be subject to the code of conduct sanctions outlined under this policy. Also students are not authorized to carry and/or use another student's identification card. If students are found in possession and/or using another student's identification card, this violation will be considered a violation of the theft policy, and students will be subject to the code of conduct sanctions outlined under this policy.