

The student conduct process outlines the steps involved in examining and adjudicating reports of Student Code of Conduct violations. The topics covered in this section are listed below. Detailed descriptions of them follow.

Introduction and Philosophy

Methodist University views its role in the administration of institutional policy as one of both ensuring fairness and providing an educational opportunity for the student. This approach protects the campus community by providing a system of sanctions that are educational and hold students accountable for violating university policies. Sanctions are assigned to encourage the growth and development of students and support the practice of responsible behavior in a community. This educational approach requires a need for understanding and self-discipline on the part of the student as well as a respect for the rights and privileges of others.

The basic philosophy and principles that guide the Student Code of Conduct at Methodist University are:

- The student conduct process is necessary and effective when it furthers the learning experience of a student and/or provides protections for the community of which s/he is a member.
- When action responding to potential Student Code of Conduct violations becomes necessary, that action should be handled expeditiously and thoroughly.
- Consideration will be given to all information relevant to the case. This is to ensure that a fair process and appropriate consideration are extended to all students.

The Methodist University student conduct system is designed to provide fairness and appropriate consideration for those students charged with violating the policies of the university and/or the wider society. Hearing officers will adhere to the following to ensure fairness:

- Hearings are restricted to those directly involved with the incident and those requested to be present by the institution.
- The student charged with a code of conduct violation that may result in suspension and/or expulsion may bring an advisor from the Methodist University community (currently enrolled student, faculty or staff member) to the hearing. Advisors may only counsel the student and may not actively participate in the hearings.
- Family members, attorneys or other legal counsel may not attend or serve as advisors in campus student conduct proceedings.
- In cases alleging personal violence, sexual harassment, or sexual misconduct, the person bringing a complaint forward (or reporting party) may bring an advisor from the Methodist community (currently enrolled student, faculty or staff member) to the hearing. Advisors may only counsel the student and may not actively participate in the hearings.