

UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES & POLICIES

Judicial Code

I. Introduction

Academic institutions exist for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of the whole student, and the betterment of society. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. As members of the academic community, students should be encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. The University strives to maintain an educational community which fosters the development of students who are ethically sensitive and responsible persons. Thus, the primary goal for the administration of discipline under the Code is to develop ethically responsible students, as well as to protect the campus community. Those persons responsible for the administration of this Code shall make reasonable efforts to foster the personal and social growth of students held accountable for violations of this Code. The purpose of this document is to set forth the specific authority and responsibility of the University in maintaining social discipline, the educational process in determining student accountability for violating the regulations, and the proper procedures to be followed in the process which protects the accused student from unfair impositions of penalties and sanctions.

II. Basic Premise

The University has the power and responsibility to take proper disciplinary action against students whose behavior threatens or disrupts the mission of the University. This is the general principle governing the jurisdiction of the disciplinary authorities of the University. It means that the disciplinary powers of the University extend to behavior that disrupts the educational process and other activities that are recognized as the lawful mission of the University. It also means that it extends to behavior that violates the peace and order of the University in such a manner that members of the University cannot go about their proper business secure in their persons and property. Behaviors that violate the General Student Conduct Code may also violate criminal or civil law, and as such may be additionally subject to proceedings under the external justice system. The Student Judicial System in no way precludes a person who incurs damage or injury from seeking redress in the civil or criminal courts. Students are adults, and, as such, have responsibility for knowing and abiding by the policies of the University.

III. Authority and Responsibility

Daily responsibility for good conduct rests with the students as individuals. All members of the University community are expected to use reasonable judgment in their daily campus life and to show due concern for the welfare and rights of others.

The ultimate responsibility and authority to enforce the Code resides with the President of Framingham State. The President may, and has, delegated responsibility for the administration of the discipline system to the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students, in turn, delegates the authority to authorized and responsible staff for the operation of the Judicial System.