



[Home](#) / [Student Affairs](#) / [Policies](#) /

[student affairs policies](#)

Community Standards of Conduct, Sections I and II

I. Preamble

The judicial system of the College is designed to promote individual student development and to uphold the standards of conduct established by this distinctive academic and professional community. Community standards of conduct are necessary to meet the fundamental requirements of an academic/ professional learning environment. Such standards create an atmosphere in which all members of the College community – students, faculty, administrators, staff and other citizens – may feel secure in the Constitutional and civil rights granted to them in the society at large, and assured of the special conditions necessary for free inquiry and expression.

A student at Purchase College neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with all town, state and federal laws. Decisions pertaining to violations of law on the campus are made at the time of arrest by the University Police Department and evaluated by the Office of the District Attorney for possible prosecution. The circumstances surrounding an incident, nature of available evidence, intent of the complainants, seriousness of the alleged violation and other relevant factors influence the decision to refer an incident for legal action.

As members of the Purchase College community, students are also expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Community Standards of Conduct. Violations of any of these standards may result in disciplinary action through the judicial system outlined below; prosecution in the criminal and civil courts may also result from the same violation. Disciplinary action by the College is independent of any criminal or civil proceedings. For action to be taken and sanctions to be imposed on campus, the College's interests as an academic and professional community must be distinct and clearly involved. As such, incidents which occur off campus where there is a relationship between the College's interests and the activity may be adjudicated on campus.

The judicial structure and the procedures used in it are designed to be educational, rather than punitive. Their effectiveness is dependent on the overall attitude of the College community itself. There must be a widely shared commitment to the principle of self-governance, such that misconduct will be reported, charges will be brought, witnesses will testify if called, findings of innocence or wrong doing will be made when the evidence warrants it, and sanctions will be imposed, if appropriate.

The Campus Life Committee will periodically review a set of guidelines to be used by the Judicial hearing officer/body in assigning sanctions and/or the members of the College community.

[Back To Top](#)

II. Student Rights

This section is taken from a Student Bill of Rights, as prepared and presented

[Code of Conduct](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

[Section I
Preamble](#)

[Section II
Student Rights](#)

[Section III
Community Standards of
Conduct](#)

[Section IV
Structure of the Judicial
System](#)

[Section V
Judicial Process](#)

[Section VI
Other Administrative Action](#)

by the Purchase Student Government Association. The College intends to provide students with those rights enumerated here which have a basis in the United States Constitution and state and/or federal legislation.

A. Self Determination

The College does not stand in loco parentis for its students. Students have the right to self-determination in their own affairs, including:

1. the ability to organize the structure of student government as they see fit;
2. the election to, and maintenance in office of student representatives selected by the student body at large, as defined by the student government constitution;
3. the complete control of the distribution of the Student Activity Fee monies, in accordance with SUNY Board of Trustees policy;
4. appropriate voting student representation on all committees and councils of the larger governance bodies of the College, including all ad-hoc College-wide committees, task forces and advisory groups. This assures the right to share in the formulation of all academic and non-academic policy; and
5. freedom to organize and join associations to promote their common interests. Such associations will be required to submit a statement of purpose, a statement of compliance with all anti-discrimination policies of the College, and a list of current officers.

B. Freedom of Speech, Press and Inquiry

Neither the student government nor any faculty or administrative person or board shall make a rule or regulation or take any action which abridges students' freedom of speech, press or inquiry, as guaranteed Constitutional rights as citizens of the United States. Students of the campus are guaranteed:

1. the right to examine and discuss all questions of interest to them, and to express opinion privately and publicly;
2. the right to learn in the spirit of free inquiry;
3. the right to be informed of the purposes of all research in which they are expected or encouraged to participate either as subject or researcher;
4. the right to freedom from censorship in campus newspapers and other media;
5. that the right to freedom of speech, press and inquiry shall not be interpreted as an authorization for a student, who sits on a committee, to disseminate or divulge any information that was given on a basis of confidentiality within a committee; and
6. the right to hold public meetings and to engage in peaceful, orderly demonstrations.

C. Due Process, Privacy and Protection

1. 1. Students have a right to fair and equitable procedures which shall determine the validity of charges of violation of campus regulations. A detailed statement of Rights of Persons Subject to Disciplinary Hearings is found in Section V-C of this document.
2. This document guarantees all students:
 - a. the right of privacy in any personal or assigned space, except as specified in the College's License Agreement, in an emergency involving danger to life or property, when a condition exists which threatens the rights of other individuals of the College Community
 - b. confidentiality of student records maintained by the College in accordance with state and federal law. Records shall contain only information which is reasonably related to the educational purposes of the College or safety of the College community.
3. Students of this campus have the right to a safe and secure environment in which to work and live.
4. Students have a right to provision of services promised or agreed upon in writing, and orderly redress for unfulfilled commitments, as authorized by SUNY Board of Trustees policy.

[Back To Top](#)