Student Judicial Services

Student Judicial Services (SJS) promotes academic integrity and appropriate standards of conduct for the University Community. SJS is responsible for investigating alleged violations of institutional rules and for implementing the discipline process. The SJS area is located in suite 4.400 of the Student Services Building (SSB). John Dalton, Assistant Dean of Students.

SJS MAILING ADDRESS

Student Judicial Services
100-B West Dean Keeton St.
Dean of Students Office
SSb 4.104
Campus Mail code (A5800)
Austin, Texas 78712
(512) 471-2841

Standards of Conduct
Academic Integrity
Student Harassment Policy
Discipline Procedures
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Life as a Learned Longhorn:

Membership in a Community of Scholars

The university expects all students to obey the law, to show respect for other members of the university community, to perform contractual obligations, to maintain absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work, and to observe standards of conduct appropriate for a community of scholars. Section 11-801 of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities.

Students at The University of Texas at Austin are part of a proud tradition of excellence at one of the premier institutions of higher learning in the world. The University of Texas traces its genesis to the State Constitution of 1876, which called for the establishment of "a university of the first class." A first class academic community relies on members who embrace and incorporate its values in their day-to-day lives.

Students at The University are considered adults who are accountable for their actions. No one controls your behavior but you, and no number of rules can make you conduct yourself in any particular way. You make choices everyday about what you are going to do. Are you going to class? Are you going to study? Are you going to drink? As an adult, however, you should be prepared to accept the consequences of your choices, whether they are favorable or unfavorable. The right choices can lead to success in extracurricular activities, success in the classroom, award of a degree from The University of Texas at Austin, and the start of a successful career. Correspondingly, the wrong choices can lead to failure, or perhaps only limited success, in all of those areas. You must decide what goals are most important to you and then design a strategy that allows you to reach them.

Students can become sidetracked from their goals by choosing not to abide by the standards of conduct expected at The University. Possible consequences for violating these standards range from a warning to permanent expulsion. The standards expected are not unreasonable or unduly burdensome for members of an academic community. In fact, the vast majority of students never face any type of disciplinary action by The University. Specific violations can be found in the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities, and it is your responsibility to become familiar with those, but most of the basic expectations of students fall within two broad categories--honesty and respect.

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Honesty

The University of Texas at Austin expects its students to be truthful and worthy of trust. Simply stated, one should not lie, cheat, or steal. As educated people in a community of scholars, we are expected to act accordingly. If someone has difficulty abiding by this basic expectation, The University is not a community in which he or she belongs.

While that expectation is clear and straightforward, you should think of it broadly. Scholastic dishonesty, for example, is defined as any act or attempted act designed to give unfair advantage to the student. That includes numerous behaviors, even submitting the same paper for two different classes without permission or providing misleading information to an instructor in order to obtain an extension or postponement on an assignment. You should also pay attention to your own doubts. If an action prompts you to question whether it is acceptable, it probably is not. Always keep in mind that the academic integrity of The University is simply too valuable for scholastic dishonesty to be tolerated.

It is also unacceptable to be dishonest with University staff members who are acting within the scope of their responsibilities. That includes police officers, guards, resident assistants, instructors, clerical staff, and other employees. A community as large and diverse as this one requires a high level of cooperation to work effectively.

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Respect

Our diverse student enrollment enriches the learning environment for everyone. There are many opportunities to learn about other perspectives and cultures without ever leaving campus. A crucial part of one's life education involves learning to respect the views of others and work with people who are different--culturally, ethnically, religiously, intellectually, etc. Our campus of over 48,000 students allows all of us an exceptional opportunity to expand our knowledge of other peoples and improve our skills in working with others.

Everyone wants respect. Like honesty, respect is a broad notion. It involves respecting others as people, respecting property, and respecting the laws and regulations necessary for a community to function. Ideally, a respectful environment is free from harassment, violence, and verbal abuse. We may not achieve the ideal, but we are expected to strive toward it. This is a large University with more than 20,000 employees and over 48,000 students. Chances are, all of us will feel at times that we are not being treated respectfully. But acting disrespectfully, even when we feel justified in doing so, does not improve any situation and only escalates a bad situation. Furthermore, you are responsible for your own actions regardless of how objectionable you may find someone else's behavior. If you believe a staff person is interacting with you in an inappropriate manner, remain calm, gather your thoughts, and address the matter through proper channels.

You should also be aware that a University of Texas police officer is fully recognized by the State of Texas as a law enforcement officer with all attendant authority, including the power to arrest. If you are detained or questioned by any police officer, you have an obligation to conduct yourself appropriately. Anyone who is detained or arrested has certain legal rights, but police officers as well as other University officials have the right to request proper identification and you have the obligation to produce it. If you object to the manner in which an officer or another employee conducts himself or herself, take it up with that person's supervisor or contact the Office of the Ombudsman at an appropriate time.

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A Closing Thought

Our standards of conduct are not merely rules to follow. They frame what we can and, indeed, should reasonably expect of one another based on shared values such as honesty and respect. Without them, The University cannot function effectively or retain its esteemed status. You, like other members of this community, not only have an obligation but also a stake in the adoption and practice of these values.

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