

Campus Policies and Procedures

In any community setting, the actions of one person or group may directly affect the lives of others. Grace, consideration and sensitivity to the rights and needs of others are, therefore, necessary ingredients for a supportive and successful community. Self-discipline and an acceptance of one's responsibility to the community, as well as for one's own actions, not only serve the larger group but also promote maturity and self-respect in each individual. A healthy and supportive community is essential to, and in many ways dependent upon, the development of each community member. This bond between the larger group and the individual is especially vital in a community dedicated to education and scholarly pursuits. To realize each individual's potential and fulfill the mission of the Alma College community, behavioral standards have been set.

The central purposes of a College are the pursuit of truth, the discovery of new knowledge through scholarship, the teaching and general development of students, and the transmission of knowledge and learning to society at large. Free inquiry and free expression within the academic community are indispensable to the achievement of these goals. The freedom to teach and to learn depends upon the creation of appropriate conditions and opportunities on the campus as a whole as well as in classrooms and laboratories. All members of the academic community share the responsibility for securing and sustaining the general conditions conducive to this freedom.

The primary purpose of regulations and discipline in a college are to protect the well-being of the community and to advance its educational mission by defining and establishing certain norms of behavior. At Alma College, disciplinary proceedings have a role that is subordinate to positive guidance, rational admonition and reasonable appeal to members of its community to observe its stated norms. The disciplinary system establishes procedures for a fair hearing — including advising a person fully of the charges against him or her, affording him or her ample opportunity to speak on his or her own behalf, and requiring a clear explanation of his or her rights of appeal. Disciplinary proceedings are instituted only for violations of standards of conduct defined in advance and published or for actions that can be reasonably deduced as violations in light of those specifically defined as such.

Disciplinary or counseling procedures may be the necessary consequence of misconduct occurring on or off campus. This misconduct may include instances wherein a student violates municipal, state or federal laws. Whenever a student's behavior becomes disturbing to other members of the College community or hinders the College in its basic educational functions, College officials may be required to initiate advising and/or disciplinary procedures.