STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT PROCESS

The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct process at Quinnipiac University is to review potential violations of Quinnipiac community standards. It must be emphasized that the legal responsibilities and liabilities of Quinnipiac reside with the board of trustees. The board of trustees vests in the president or his designee the authority to hear and resolve final appeals in any matter. Further, the code of conduct represents the concept that a disciplinary process should be an educational experience that fosters responsibility for individual actions and how those actions impact the community.

Primary supervision of the Student Code of Conduct process rests with the vice president and dean of students. The associate dean of student affairs is responsible for advising the vice president and dean of students on administration of the Student Code of Conduct process.

The vice president and dean of students or designee has the authority to determine those very serious violations of the university's Student Code of Conduct that require immediate attention.

All other conduct cases are reviewed by a conduct officer under the direction of the director of student conduct and community standards. Individuals may request an appeal provided they attended their original conduct meeting, have grounds for an appeal as stated in this handbook, and complete appropriate paperwork. The appeal decision is final.

The day-to-day safety and health operations and business practices of Quinnipiac do not fall under the purview of the code of conduct process. Furthermore, an officer of Quinnipiac or a duly authorized individual acting on behalf of Quinnipiac may take immediate action toward a person(s), if that person(s) is perceived to be a threat to his/her life, health or safety and/or that of others.

Basic Policies and Principles

Every community has standards and traditions governing the behavior of its members to ensure the basic rights of individuals, as well as to reflect the practical necessities of the community. The Quinnipiac community is no exception and, perhaps more than others, depends upon the maturity and sense of responsibility of its members. These basic policies and principles and accompanying conduct procedures are designed to ensure that the rights of community members are protected, and that the educational process may proceed without impairment.

Advisers

Excessive legalism can be a disservice to Quinnipiac and its community of students, faculty and staff. Legal counsel/attorneys, parents and/or family members are not permitted to participate in any conduct meeting. A member of the Quinnipiac faculty, staff (excluding any relative employed by the university) or student body may attend the meeting in the role of an adviser. Advisers serve as a moral and emotional support for students during conduct meetings, and can assist them with their meeting preparation. Advisers are not permitted to advocate for a student or speak on their behalf during a conduct meeting. Students who are witnesses to an incident or are involved in the same student conduct matter cannot serve as advisers.

Amendments

Quinnipiac reserves the right to amend the Student Code of Conduct or related processes at any time.

Bias-Related Incidents

Quinnipiac University fosters respect for each individual by honoring the differences inherent among people. As a community of learners and scholars, we recognize and appreciate our common humanity. As such, bias-related violations of the Student Code of Conduct directed toward a person or group because of factors such as race, religion, ethnicity, ability, national origin, age, gender identity, gender expression, sex, sexual orientation or veteran status may be assessed enhanced sanctions.

Fines and Restitution for Damages

Students responsible for damage and vandalism to Quinnipiac property may be required to pay restitution. In cases where damage or vandalism is done to common areas, and the student(s) who are responsible cannot be determined, students sharing that common area share in the cost of the restitution. Residents are responsible for reporting individual damages to their residence hall director, the Office of Facilities and/or the off-campus property management company, as soon as they occur. Residents are not permitted to make their own repairs.

While intentionally damaging the property of another person or entity is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, the university will not assign, oversee, manage or assure restitution when the university is not a party.

The Dean of Students Office reserves the right to assign monetary fines for violations of the Student Code of Conduct as appropriate.

Identification

All Quinnipiac students must carry their university QCard and provide it to university personnel (i.e., residence hall director, public safety officer, resident assistant, etc.) upon request. Visitors must carry their university visitor pass and state-issued photo identification at all times.

Jurisdiction

The Student Code of Conduct shall apply to conduct that occurs on university-owned or leased property and at university-sponsored events. In addition, Quinnipiac reserves the right to address, through the Student Code of Conduct process, incidents that occur off campus that may endanger the health, safety and welfare of self or others and/or adversely affect the university and/or the pursuit of its objectives.

Each student shall be subject to the Student Code of Conduct from the time of application for admission through the awarding of a degree at Commencement, as well as during periods between terms of actual enrollment, study abroad and leaves of absence or suspension. Complaints against people who have already withdrawn or graduated from Quinnipiac will not be subject to the Student Code of Conduct Process.

Facilities Access and Other Contraband Searches

The university reserves the right at any time with or without notice to search all university-owned or leased property and all vehicles, packages, containers, briefcases, backpacks, purses, lockers, desks, enclosures and persons entering or leaving its property for the purpose of determining whether any weapons or other contraband has been brought onto its property, for the purpose of inspection or repair, to preserve the health
and safety of the university community, or for suspected violations of university policy. Any person who refuses to promptly permit a search under this policy may be denied immediate and future access to university property and/or subjected to the Student Code of Conduct process. Public Safety staff members will use their discretion to contact local law enforcement if weapons or other contraband are located during a search that constitutes a violation of Connecticut law.

**Standard of Information**

A conduct officer will find a student responsible for a conduct code violation if the violation is shown by a preponderance of the information presented; that is, based on information that the conduct officer finds credible and convincing, it is more likely than not that the student is responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct.

**Student Conduct Holds**

Students who fail to complete student conduct sanctions by the assigned deadline will have a hold placed on their student account. Conduct holds may impact a student’s ability to see his or her grades online, obtain a copy of his or her university transcript or register for housing or for classes.

**Refunds**

Students who are suspended, dismissed or expelled from the university for disciplinary reasons will only be entitled to a refund based upon the applicable refund percentage in effect at the time of the student’s separation from the university (within the first five weeks of the semester). A student who is suspended, dismissed or expelled will be charged all administrative fees as prescribed.

Students who are suspended from university housing for disciplinary reasons are not entitled to a refund unless the suspension occurs within the first two weeks of the academic year, per the Refund Policy for Termination of Residency in University Housing. Students suspended from university housing forfeit all housing deposits paid to the university.

Students placed on an interim suspension from the university or university housing who are later reinstated to the university or university housing are not entitled to a refund for the period of their separation.

**Title IX Grievance Procedures**

Any incident that involves behaviors included under the Student Code of Conduct #6 (http://catalog.qu.edu/handbooks/graduate/student-code-conduct-process/student-code-conduct) and/or involves gender-related harassment or discrimination will fall under the investigation and grievance procedures established by the Title IX Policy Against Gender-Based Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct (http://catalog.qu.edu/handbooks/graduate/university-policies/title-ix-policy-against-gender-based-discrimination-sexual-misconduct).

**Victim Information**

Community members who are victims of a reported crime against their person or property may be entitled to information, upon written request, about university disciplinary proceedings related to that crime pursuant to the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, section 493. Students who are alleged victims of a sexual offense or one of the following crimes of violence, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education, may be entitled to information:

- arson
- assault offenses
- burglary
- criminal homicide
- destruction, damage and vandalism of property
- kidnapping/abduction
- robbery

Students who have requests or questions should contact the director of student conduct and community standards. All information provided by the director of student conduct and community standards will be given verbally and directly to the victim. Information will not be provided to another person, even at the victim’s direction or request.

**Electronic Communications**

Quinnipiac University encourages its students to become involved and connected to the community in as many ways as possible. The Internet has provided additional ways for communication to occur. However, with these additional means of networking and communicating, community members must exercise extra care and diligence. Students must be aware of the added responsibility associated with these opportunities for networking and communicating.

Communications on sites such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat, Twitter and personal blogs, though logins are often required, represent public and open communication. Communications on such sites are not specifically monitored by Quinnipiac officials, but may be brought to the attention of officials when seen as possible violations of the Student Code of Conduct. As with other public arenas, information found on Internet sites is acceptable as information in conduct meetings and other proceedings. Information that is acceptable may include but is not limited to: wall postings, journal entries, blog postings, pictures, media, online comments, “tweets” and other openly accessible communications.

Messages between individuals—instant messages, text messages, email, Facebook messages, or other electronic forms of communication—may also be used in the conduct process.

Students should be aware that the Internet is considered a public forum and information posted there can be viewed by anyone. Students are encouraged to use caution with information made available to others online and through social media.