

University Policies

Jacksonville State University is primarily a community of individuals who have come together for the purpose of education. As with any community, the University must establish guidelines for academic honesty and behavior which will produce the type of environment and atmosphere necessary to best achieve its stated purposes and protect its academic integrity.

The following pages contain a listing of a number of areas which have required definitive regulation in the past. In cases which are not specifically covered here, students will be expected nonetheless to govern their behavior so as to safeguard the educational process, protect individual and institutional rights and property, and ensure the safety of all members of the University community.

I. JURISDICTION OF THE UNIVERSITY

Jurisdiction of the University is generally considered to include student conduct which occurs on University property and/or student conduct which has an adverse effect on the University, the members of the University community, or the fulfillment of the University's mission.

A) Violation of Federal, State, or Local Law

1. If a student is charge with an on or off-campus violation of federal, state, or local law, or is charged with and is subsequently found guilty or has pleaded “no contest’ to a violation of federal, state, or local law, disciplinary action may be taken against the student for misconduct that demonstrates disregard for the University, members of the University community, or the mission of the University.
2. If a student is involved in misconduct which is a violation of the Code of Conduct, as well as a violation of federal, state, and local law, University disciplinary proceedings may proceed without regard or consideration to the pendency of civil litigation in any court or criminal arrest and prosecution. Proceedings resulting from violations of the Code of Conduct may be instituted prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil or criminal proceedings off campus.
3. The University may, however, inform off campus law enforcement authorities of the policies of the Code of Conduct and how the offense in question may be handled by the university. The University will cooperate fully with the off campus law enforcement authorities, as well as other related agencies in the enforcement of criminal law on campus and in the conditions imposed by civil and criminal courts on student violations.

II. ACADEMIC HONESTY

In a University community, true knowledge can be gained only through honest means. All academic dishonesty is expressly prohibited. This policy is applicable for campus and distance learning activities. Violations include BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, the following:

- A) The use of unauthorized materials or the receipt of unauthorized assistance during an examination or in the completion of any other assignment, exercise, experiment, or project for academic credit. Unauthorized materials may include, but are not limited to, notes, textbooks, previous examinations, exhibits, experiments, papers, or other supplementary items.
- B) Copying or utilizing information from a paper of another student during an examination.
- C) Rendering unauthorized assistance to another student by knowingly permitting him or her to copy an examination, project, paper, assignment, exhibit, exercise, or other material to be submitted for academic credit.
- D) Illegally obtaining or attempting to obtain unauthorized prior knowledge of an examination or test materials.
- E) Selling or giving to another student unauthorized copies of tests or examinations or research assignments.
- F) The use of commercially prepared term papers or research projects or the submission of a paper, project, or experiment completed by someone other than the student submitting any of the above for academic credit.
- G) Falsifying class attendance.
- H) Falsifying reasons why a student did not attend a required class or take a scheduled examination.
- I) Taking an examination in the place of another student.
- J) Making an unauthorized change in any reported grade or on an official academic report form.
- K) Unauthorized collaboration between two or more students on an examination, paper, or project.
- L) Plagiarism, which is the deliberate act of copying, writing, or presenting as one's own the information, ideas, or phrasing of another person without proper acknowledgement of their true source.
- M) Making use of computing facilities in an academically dishonest manner.

Note: Students may be found in violation of the Academic Honesty Policy through the academic grading procedure as long as notice and hearing are granted and appeal is available through the University Judicial Systems.

III. CODE OF CONDUCT

A) Alcohol Policy

Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on the campus of Jacksonville State University is expected to conform to the laws of the State of Alabama and City of Jacksonville. In summary, these laws prohibit the following:

1. Possession, use or purchase of liquor, beer, or wine by persons under 21 years of age. (Code of Alabama, 28-3-266)
2. Consumption of alcoholic beverages in unlicensed public places. (City of Jacksonville Ordinance #178-Drinking in Public)
3. Sale or advertisement of sale of alcoholic beverages without a license. (Code of Alabama, 28-3-60:10)
4. Public Drunkenness. (Code of Alabama, 28-3-260:3)
5. Providing liquor, beer, or wine to an underage individual. (Code of Alabama, 28-3-261)
6. Sale of alcoholic beverages on Sunday (Code of Alabama, 28-3-261)
7. Driving while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances. (Code of Alabama, 32-5A-191)

Enforcement: These laws are enforceable by University Police as well as local and state law enforcement authorities. In addition to the above, Jacksonville State University residence hall rules and regulations specifically prohibit the following:

1. Consumption of liquor, beer, or wine in the hallways, reception rooms, and lounges.
2. Loud or disruptive behavior, interference with the cleanliness of the residence halls, or drinking habits that otherwise interfere with the rights of residents to study, sleep, and have privacy within their rooms are prohibited.
3. Violations of JSU alcohol policy by students under 21 years of age will be subject to parental notification and disciplinary sanctions.

University Sanctions: Alcohol abuse violations of the student code of conduct at Jacksonville State University will be handled as follows:

1. First-time violators:
 - a. Administrative hearing with appropriate penalty, or
 - b. Counseling and evaluation
2. Repeat violators:
 - a. Administrative hearing with possibility of suspension or expulsion
 - b. If under age of 21, parental notification of violation

B) Disruptive or Deleterious Behavior

Students who demonstrate a documented pattern of frequent disruptive or deleterious (self-harming) behavior will be subject to intervention and, possibly, disciplinary action. Intervention may include referrals to health professionals on or off campus, notification of family, or other responses deemed appropriate to the circumstances. Disciplinary action may include probationary periods, suspension, or expulsion.

C) Drugs

1. No student shall possess or distribute an illegal drug as defined by state law. Such possession or distribution is prohibited in any building or on any property owned or operated by the University. Possession is defined to include any area or property for which the student is responsible.
2. University policy conforms to state law with regard to drug paraphernalia.

D) Dangerous Practices

No student shall engage in any activity which shall endanger the life or safety of that student or others in any building or on any property owned or operated by the University. This includes, but is not limited to, the following activities:

1. The use or possession of fireworks, firecrackers, gunpowder, or any dangerous chemicals or explosive materials.
2. Inappropriate or dangerous use of fires, open flames, candles, matches, or other flammable materials in all residence halls, apartments, or in any other building owned or operated by the University.
3. Blocking or in any way preventing the use of or access to fire exit doors, residence hall room doors, and building hallways.
4. Improper use of electrical appliances or wiring which creates a fire hazard. (Activities carried out in science classes or laboratories under faculty guidance are exempt from this policy.)

E) Destruction or attempted Destruction of Property

1. No student shall intentionally or negligently damage, attempt to damage, or participate in the damage of property belonging to or in the care of the University, a member of the university community, or a campus visitor.
2. Damage which is caused accidentally should be promptly reported to a residence hall staff member or an appropriate university official. Failure to report accidental damage will be considered a violation of this regulation.

F) Disorderly Conduct

No student shall participate, cause, or excite any disturbance, excessive noise, or contention in or near any building or other property owned or operated by the University.

G) Falsification of Official Information

1. No student shall alter or have in his or her possession an altered University identification card, nor alter or enter false information on an official university document.
2. No student shall provide false information or fail to provide current information to the University for the purpose of defrauding the University.

H) Hazing

No form of hazing is permitted by any student or student organization. Hazing is defined as verbal, mental, or physical abuse against an individual, with or without consent.

I) Interference with the Judicial Process

No student shall engage in any activity which disrupts, unfairly influences, or obstructs the judicial process of Jacksonville State University. This includes, but is not limited to, the following activities:

1. Attempting to influence, intimidate, or threaten any witness, judicial member, or other participant involved in the preparation of a case or the procedures constituting a judicial proceeding.
2. Inappropriate or illegal distribution, announcement, or publication of confidential judicial information, letters, or decisions.
3. Giving false information to a judicial body.

J) Non-Compliance with an Official Request

1. No student shall fail to comply with reasonable and lawful requests or directions by members of the faculty, administrative staff, residence hall staff, police officers, or their employees acting in the performance of their official duties. Students must carry a JSU ID card at all times and a request for proper identification from a student is a reasonable expectation.
2. No student shall fail to answer or respond promptly to lawful requests from members of the faculty, administrative staff, residence hall staff, police officers, or other employees acting in the performance of their official university duties.
3. No student shall intentionally provide false information verbally or in writing, to faculty, administrative staff, residence hall staff, police officers, or other employees acting in the performance of their official duties.

K) Obscene Conduct

No student shall engage in lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct or expression on university property or in university owned or operated buildings.

L) Personal Abuse

No student shall threaten, abuse, or degrade anyone on university owned or operated property. Forms of sexual harassment are a violation of this policy.

M) Projectiles

No student shall throw or cause to be projected any object or substance which has potential for damaging or defacing university or private property or causing personal injury or disruption.

N) Right of Expression

Jacksonville State University seeks to preserve the student's privilege to take an active role in exercising their rights of expression, conscience, affiliation, and peaceful assembly. At the same time, the University also recognized its responsibility to protect the rights and freedom of those who wish to pursue their educational interest without interference. The following procedures have therefore been established to safeguard the orderly functioning of all rights while also providing for the safety and protection of members of the university community.

1. All demonstrations or peaceful assemblies must be registered with the Director of Student Life or appointee at least 48 hours in advance. Standard space reservation procedures must be followed for the use of any university space. Demonstrations or peaceful assemblies are generally defined as any public manifestation of welcome, approval, disapproval, protest, or conscience by a student or groups of students. (Assemblies commonly associated with social or athletic events are not usually within the purview of this definition.)
2. At the time of the registration, the student or groups of students will be advised by the Director of Student Life or designee of any guidelines that will be required for the demonstration or peaceful assembly. Guidelines may include the time, place, and duration of the demonstration or assembly and the maximum number of people who may participate. The decisions of the Director of Student life regarding any demonstration or assembly guidelines may be appealed within 24 hours to the Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs.
3. The following restrictions apply to all demonstration or peaceful assemblies:
 - a. Blocking or impeding vehicular or pedestrian traffic is prohibited.
 - b. Blocking access to or from campus buildings or offices is prohibited.
 - c. No activity that promotes violence against person or property is permitted.
 - d. Observers may not interfere with participants of the demonstration or assembly in any way.
 - e. Activities of participants or observers that disrupt or disturb classes, meetings, or any other normal functions of the University are prohibited.
 - f. All individuals participating in or observing a demonstration or peaceful assembly must comply with any request of university officials or campus police. Any student who violates any part(s) of this policy will be subject to judicial action. Depending on the individual circumstances, criminal charges may also be filed. A recognized organization that violates any part(s) of this policy may have penalties imposed upon it by the Director of Student Life.

O) Sexual Misconduct

No student shall make sexually oriented touches, advancements, or physical contact without the full consent of the other party or shall a student engage in lewd or lascivious behavior on university property or in university owned or operated buildings.

P) Invasion of Privacy

No student shall use electronic imaging devices to photograph individuals or groups in university coliseum or gymnasium dressing rooms, locker rooms or showers without written and signed permission of the individual(s) being photographed.

Q) Stalking

Stalking is defined as repeatedly contacting, following or remaining in the physical presence of another person when that contact is unwanted. This contact

includes but is not limited to: telephoning, transmitting letters or notes, or contacting through electronic media. These acts may be either passive or active. Any behavior that hampers the ability of a student to learn and/or instructor to teach shall be deemed to be disruptive. In an extreme form, this behavior may even threaten physical safety.

R) Property Theft

1. No student shall steal, attempt to steal, or assist in the theft of any money, property, or item of value not belonging to him or her.
2. No student will illegally use or appropriate any property not belonging to him or her.

S) Identity Theft

No student shall use credit cards, phone cards, identification cards, personal identification numbers, or other documentation belonging to another individual for fraudulent transactions.

T) Trespass

1. Any individual refusing to leave an area as directed by an authorized administrator, faculty, or staff member is guilty of trespass.
2. Any unauthorized individual entering a university operated building or room which has been closed, locked, and/or posted shall be guilty of trespass.

U) Unauthorized Entry

No student shall enter or remain in an automobile, private room, office, or restricted area under control of another student, guest of a student, faculty member, or university official except by permission or invitation of the resident student, guest, or the appropriate university official or faculty member.

V) Violence to Persons

No student shall engage in any form of violence directed toward another person or group of people. Responding to violence with violence is a violation of this policy.

W) Weapons

No student shall keep, use, possess, display, or carry any rifle, shotgun, handgun, knife, or other lethal or dangerous weapons or devices capable of casting a projectile by air, gas, explosion, or mechanical means on any property or in any building owned or operated by the University or in any vehicle on campus. Realistic facsimiles of weapons are also specifically not allowed. Rifles, shotguns, and bows which are to be used for hunting may be registered and stored one week before and during the appropriate hunting season at the University Police Department.