

How We Work With New Students

The Office of Student Conduct fosters student development and upholds community standards by helping new students understand their personal and community responsibilities in support of a nurturing educational community.

Fast Facts

- 1) Noise and underage alcohol use/possession are the most frequent policy violations.
- 2) New students are more likely to violate the Student Code of Conduct as they adjust to the independence of living away from home.
- 3) Students meet with a University Hearing Officer when there is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Some policy violations are also law violations and result in separate legal proceedings.
- 4) A covered smoke detector in a student room can result in an immediate loss of housing.

Key Takeaways

This is a normal time for a young adult to test their boundaries. Research shows that a parental "no use" expectation can provide a braking mechanism for dangerous alcohol and drug use. Don't hesitate to share your expectations with your student.

- What happens if my student receives a letter from the Office of Student Conduct?
 - Staff actively work to help students understand the policies, procedures and, when applicable, the concept of personal responsibility. This is the first opportunity for the student to understand their growing adult expectations. Encourage them to ask questions, understand the process, and be honest.
- Parents/friends cannot "fix" student conduct issues.
 - The Office of Student Conduct will welcome student questions regarding investigation, case specifics, and adjudication. The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives West Chester University limited ability to notify parents when students under the age of 21 violate any law or policy concerning the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance. Parent questions on process are welcome, but questions regarding case specifics will require the student's written permission be on file before this information can be shared.
- What is the range of sanctions used when a student is found responsible for a policy violation?
 - Students are subject to a disciplinary reprimand which serves as a warning, a period of disciplinary probation, disciplinary suspension when a period of reflection or therapy may be required, or disciplinary expulsion for the most egregious violation(s).

Who to Know

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