

Community Standards Sanctions Fall 2009

The Student Conduct System exists to maintain an environment that is complementary to the mission of Boston College, and to foster student learning and development. In addition, it seeks to protect the rights of the Boston College students accused of a breach of the University Code of Student Conduct or the Conditions of Residency. The Student Conduct System takes an educationally proactive and integrative approach to address community standards violations. Sanctions are educational devices designed to assist students in attaining the maturity required to live in community.

In the interest of clarity and transparency, the University has established minimum, mandatory sanctions for policy violations. Please note that no sanctions are imposed without a meeting with a professional staff member. The incident or conflict may then be resolved administratively with the staff member or at an appearance before a conduct board. At the time of this meeting, students will have the opportunity to review an incident report and to offer their perspective on the alleged violation. In order for the sanctions below to be imposed, a student must be found “responsible” for a violation of the Code of Conduct at a hearing.

Violations of the Code of Conduct impact all members of the Boston College community. Depending on the nature, severity, and impact (both on the individual and on the community) sanctions are imposed with progressing levels. In addition, a student’s history of repeated violations will also be taken into consideration when arriving at a decision regarding the level of sanction.

Alcohol Violations

Violation Category	Underage Possession of Alcohol	Large Quantity or Central Source	Enabling Underage Consumption of Alcohol	Intoxication, Requiring Medical Assistance
Rationale for Sanctions	Emphasizes education on healthy decision making; illegal behavior	Health and safety concerns; possible community disturbance	Improper role modeling; illegal behavior	Health and safety concerns; impact on others in the community; unhealthy decision making
1st Violation	Disciplinary Probation Menu Item ¹	Under 21: Housing Suspension Over 21: Housing Probation Menu Item ¹	Housing Probation Menu Item ¹	Disciplinary Probation ADE Referral ²
2nd Violation	Housing Probation \$200 Fine ADE Referral ²	Under 21: Housing Dismissal Over 21: Housing Suspension and/or University Probation \$300 Fine ADE Referral ²	Housing Suspension and/or University Probation \$300 Fine ADE Referral ²	University Probation \$200 Fine ADE Referral ²
3rd Violation	Housing Suspension and/or University Probation \$400 Fine ADE Referral ² or Roads Retreat ⁴	University Suspension AIM ³ and/or Roads Retreat ⁴ upon return	University Suspension AIM ³ upon return	University Suspension \$400 Fine AIM ³ upon return

Drug Violations

Violation Category	Class D or E Small Quantity	Class D or E Large Quantity	Class A, B, or C Small Quantity	Class A, B, or C Large Quantity
Rationale for Sanctions	Education on healthy decision making; civil violation	Possible distribution or sales within the community; illegal behavior	Health and safety risk; illegal behavior	Health and safety risk; possible distribution or sales within the community; illegal behavior
1st Violation	Housing Probation Substance Abuse Program ⁵	Housing Suspension (1 Year) Substance Abuse Program ⁵ \$200 Fine	Housing Suspension (1 Year) Substance Abuse Program ⁵ \$200 Fine	University Suspension (1 Year) Housing Dismissal Substance Abuse Program ⁵ \$400 Fine
2nd Violation	University Probation and/or Housing Suspension \$200 Fine Substance Abuse Program ⁵	University Suspension \$500 Fine	University Suspension or University Dismissal \$500 Fine	University Dismissal
3rd Violation	University Suspension or University Dismissal \$500 Fine	University Dismissal	University Dismissal	

Note: Examples of Drugs in Each Drug Class

Class A: Heroin

Class B: LSD, Cocaine

Class C: Mushrooms

Class D: Marijuana

Class E: Non-prescribed use of prescription drugs

Off-Campus Community Disturbance Violations

Violation Category	Small Gathering No Underage Alcohol Use Documented	Small Gathering Underage Alcohol Use Documented	Large Gathering No Underage Alcohol Use Documented	Large Gathering Underage Alcohol Use Documented
Rationale for Sanctions	Disruption to neighbors	Disruption to neighbors; safety concerns; illegal alcohol use	Disruption to neighbors and broader community	Disruption to neighbors and broader community; safety concerns; illegal alcohol use
1st Violation	Disciplinary Probation Formative Referral ⁶	Disciplinary Probation Formative Referral ⁶ \$100 Fine	Housing Probation or University Probation ⁸ Formative Referral ⁶ \$200 Fine Community Restitution ⁷	University Probation ⁸ or University Suspension Formative Referral ⁶ \$250 Fine Community Restitution ⁷
2nd Violation	Housing Probation Formative Referral ⁶ \$200 Fine Community Restitution ⁷ Suite/House Warning	University Probation ⁸ Formative Referral ⁶ \$200 Fine Community Restitution ⁷ Suite/House Warning	University Probation ⁸ or University Suspension Formative Referral ⁶ \$300 Fine Community Restitution ⁷ Suite/House Warning	University Suspension
3rd Violation	University Probation ⁸ Formative Referral ⁶ \$400 Fine Community Restitution ⁷	University Suspension AIM ³ upon return	University Suspension AIM ³ upon return	University Dismissal

Note: In general, a “small” gathering is less than 30 students subject to circumstances and documented behavior

¹Menu items include but are not limited to: ADE Referrals, Formative Referrals, Reflection Papers, or Community Service

²ADE Referral: For alcohol and other drug education/treatment (Choices, BASICS, or AIM)

³AIM: 10-week mandatory group program with individual component

⁴Roads Retreat: Off-campus retreat for students at risk

⁵Substance Abuse Program: Drug education course (e-Toke)

⁶Formative Referral: Conversation with a member of the student formation program

⁷Community Restitution: Educational program that includes service, written reflection, and a concluding group discussion

⁸Students placed on University Probation for a community disturbance violation may attend the Friday Night Heights program to reduce the sanction to Housing Probation (first time placed on University Probation only).

Explanation of sanctions:

1. **Fines:** Certain offenses will result in monetary sanctions. Financial penalties will be applied to a student's account. Community restitution programs may be substituted for fines if approved by an appropriate administrator.
2. **Restitution:** Compensation to the injured party, payment for damages, and/or "court costs" for hearing appearances of Boston College Police when such appearances are key to a case and if the accused is found responsible.
3. **Disciplinary Probation:** A formal notification that the activity in question is unacceptable and that if continued or other inappropriate behavior follows, more severe action may be taken.
4. **Housing Probation:** Any similar or more serious violation of the University Code of Student Conduct while on this status will result in the mandatory imposition of a suspension or dismissal from University housing, the length being a minimum of the balance of the semester or one full semester.
5. **Suspension from University Housing:** Requires moving out of housing for the length of time specified at the hearing. Any student who receives a suspension from University Housing will lose eligibility to live in the Modular Apartment (Mods) area.
6. **Housing Dismissal:** Requires permanently moving out of housing. The student may not reapply for residency.
7. **University Probation:** A similar or more serious violation of the University Code of Student Conduct while on this status will result in the mandatory imposition of a suspension or dismissal from the University, the length being a minimum of the balance of the semester or one full semester. Any student placed on University Probation will lose eligibility to live in the Modular Apartment (Mods) area.
8. **University Suspension:** Requires that the student no longer be present on any Boston College owned or leased property for the time specified at the hearing (minimum of one semester or the balance of the semester). Any student who receives a suspension from the University will lose eligibility to live in the Modular Apartment (Mods) area. In addition, in the case of graduating seniors, the University reserves the right to withhold, for a specified period of time, the awarding of their degree. While on suspension, a student may not take courses to advance his or her degree. Students cannot be readmitted until after the date their suspension ends, nor may they register or pre-register for the following semester's courses. The graduation date will be adjusted upon readmission according to the length of the suspension. Please contact your academic dean's office for additional information.
9. **Dismissal from the University:** Requires that the student completely sever any and all connection with Boston College. Please note that a record of disciplinary sanctions may impact a student's ability to be a Resident Assistant, student government officer, Orientation Leader, Student Conduct Board member, or other student leader position. Such a record must be reported on most law school applications, state bar examiner reports, medical school applications, graduate school forms, college transfer forms, and in some instances job applications, particularly for federal or state positions. In addition, any student suspended from housing or the University or who has been placed on University Probation will be prohibited from participating in international study programs or living in the Modular Apartment area during their senior year. Please see the Boston College Student Guide at www.bc.edu/studentguide for additional information.