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<http://www.bc.edu/publications/studentguide/behavioralpolices.html>

Section 4. Code of Student Conduct

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4.0 CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Being a member of the Boston College community is a privilege, which comes with the responsibility to act in accordance with all institutional rules and policies. The Code of Student Conduct exists to provide information on these behavioral expectations and to articulate the process of addressing violations of these expectations.

As a Jesuit Catholic institution, Boston College is committed to the holistic development of our students, and part of this commitment is instilling integrity, encouraging right decision-making, and fostering self-accountability. Each student is expected to grow and develop during their time here, to be more than when they began their journey at BC. The goal of the Code of Student Conduct is to facilitate this growth by educating and fostering the civility, communality, and social decorum required of an educational institution.

4.1 STATEMENT OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Source: Office of the Dean of Students

All student members of the Boston College community have certain rights. These include:

- The right to learn, which includes the right of access to ideas, the right of access to facts and opinions, the right to express ideas, and the right to discuss those ideas with others.

- The right of peaceful coexistence, which includes the right to be free from violence, force, threats, and abuse, and the right to move about freely.
- The right to be free of any action that unduly interferes with a student's rights and/or learning environment.
- The right to express opinion, which includes the right to state agreement or disagreement with the opinions of others and the right to an appropriate forum for the expression of opinion.
- The right of privacy, which includes the right to be free of unauthorized search of personal property.
- The right to have access to a process through which to resolve deprivations of rights.
- In the case of conduct procedures:
 - the right to be informed of any charges of misconduct,
 - the right to an opportunity to respond to the charges,
 - the right to hear evidence in support of the charges,
 - the right to present evidence against the charges,
 - the right to an adviser,
 - the right to a fair procedure, which is appropriate to the circumstances,
 - the right to be informed of the outcome of your proceeding.

For more information please refer to the [Boston College Notice of Non-Discrimination](#) policy.

As members of a learning community, all student members of the Boston College community have certain responsibilities to the institution and to its members. These include:

- Respect for the rights of others, which includes the obligation to refrain from conduct that violates or adversely affects the rights of other members of the Boston College community.
- The obligation to refrain from conduct in the general community, which adversely affects Boston College.
- The obligation to refrain from interfering with the freedom of expression of others. This includes such activities as newspaper thefts, attempting to shut down speakers, and intentional jamming of computer networks.
- The responsibility for the avoidance of force, violence, threat, or harassment.
- The responsibility for the avoidance of disruption. Certain kinds of conduct can convert the expression of opinion into disruption. The Student Demonstrations policy describes the procedures and limitations appropriate to the public expression of opinion.
- The responsibility to comply with state, federal, and municipal laws and regulations. Student members of the Boston College community must be aware that they continue to be subject to the obligations of all citizens while they attend the University. The University is committed to the observance of the laws. There is no immunity on campus from the prohibitions of state and federal law.
- The obligation to ensure that the conduct of others who come to the University through a student's invitation or permission complies with the rules and regulations of the University.

- The obligation to respect the environment of Boston College, which includes respect for the physical features of the campus and its facilities as well as the special needs of an institution of learning, such as quiet and privacy.
- The obligation to provide proper identification when requested to do so by a representative of the University. All students are expected to carry their Boston College identification card at all times and to produce it when requested. ID cards may be electronically scanned by a University official to confirm a student's status.
- The responsibility to cooperate with University officials in the performance of their duties.
- The responsibility to respect the values and traditions of Boston College as a Jesuit, Catholic institution.

4.2 GENERAL PROVISIONS

4.2.1 Academic Policies

Students are expected to maintain high standards of integrity in their academic work and comply with the University's academic policies and procedures. See the University's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) within the [Academic Policies and Procedures](#).

4.2.2 Complicity

A student shall not, through act or omission, assist, facilitate or encourage a violation of the Code of Conduct.

4.2.3 Conditions of Residency

Students residing in Boston College residential facilities are held by the policies and procedures of the Student Guide as well as the Conditions of Residency, which includes the Fire Safety and Security Policies. These documents can be found at [Residential Life Community Expectations](#).

4.2.4 Guest Policy

Any student who hosts a person on campus is responsible for ensuring that such person knows and adheres to all regulations of the Code of Student Conduct and all University policies and procedures. Students are responsible for the behavior of their guests and may be held accountable for violations committed by their guests, including restitution for damage to University facilities or other restitution as necessary. Responsibility under the rules may occur even if the host is not a participant in the activity or has left the guest(s) alone. Students residing in Boston College residential facilities must follow all policies regarding guests, as listed in the [Conditions of Residency](#).

4.3 SUBSTANCE USE AND ABUSE POLICIES

Boston College abides by all local, [state](#), and [federal](#) laws with regard to alcohol and drug use. The University prioritizes the health, safety, and wellbeing of every member of the community and requires that individuals who choose to use alcohol and drugs do so in a responsible manner.

All members of our community have the right to an academic and residential environment free from the abusive effects of alcohol and drug use.

4.3.1 Alcohol Policy

Students under the age of 21 years are prohibited from possessing, using, purchasing, transporting, selling, and/or distributing alcohol.

Regardless of legal drinking age, all students are prohibited from:

- possessing or consuming an open container of alcohol in on- or off-campus public or common areas (e.g., Campus Green, outdoors, lounges, hallways, etc.).
- engaging in drunkenness and disorderly conduct.
- possessing, furnishing, consuming or serving from a large quantity or common source of alcohol (i.e. kegs, beer balls, punch bowls).
- Hosting or participating in the rapid consumption of alcohol, including high-risk drinking games.
- Enabling underage alcohol consumption. A student will be considered to be enabling the underage consumption of alcohol if he/she possesses or has alcohol present in their residence for use by others, *regardless of who purchased or acquired the alcohol*. The student is also responsible for misconduct if he/she passively allows illegal alcohol or drug use to occur within his/her residence hall room or off campus residence, or otherwise provides a setting that allows for the underage consumption of alcohol. For information about social host liability, please visit www.socialhostliability.org.

Alcohol consumption resulting in the need for medical attention is a threat to the safety and wellbeing of the individual and the larger community and is strictly prohibited regardless of whether the individual is of legal drinking age. Situations where an individual seeks medical attention for him/herself or for another Boston College student will be handled according to the [Seeking Help for Alcohol and Drug Related Medical Emergencies policy](#).

For specific guidelines pertaining to alcohol use and abuse within the residence halls, refer to the [Conditions of Residency](#).

4.3.2 Drug Policy

The University prohibits the possession, use, consumption, manufacturing, sale or distribution of drugs, as well as the possession, use, manufacturing or sale of drug paraphernalia. Additionally, the possession of drugs with intent to deliver, sell or manufacture is prohibited.

The term “drugs” broadly includes, without limitation, any stimulant, intoxicant (other than alcohol), nervous system depressant, hallucinogen, or other chemical substance, compound or combination when used to induce an altered state, including any otherwise lawfully available product used for any purpose other than its intended use (e.g., the misuse of prescription drugs, over the counter drugs, or household products).

The institution classifies drugs into three broad categories:

- marijuana,
- illicit drugs, and
- misuse of prescription drugs

Marijuana: The federal government regards marijuana as a Schedule I Controlled Substance, and possession of marijuana remains illegal in Massachusetts. However, society currently has a complex and rapidly shifting relationship with marijuana, and perspectives around the dangers and potential medical uses for marijuana are evolving. While Boston College prohibits the possession and use of marijuana, the University’s response is reflective of the particularly complex and changing societal view of marijuana.

Illicit Drugs: Cocaine, heroin, ecstasy (MDMA), amphetamines, methamphetamines, hallucinogens (i.e. LSD, psilocybin mushrooms), and similar substances are considered to be illicit drugs due to the severe negative health and safety outcomes associated with their use. Illicit drug use is illegal and can lead to serious harm to physical and mental health, emotional wellbeing, and relationships; it can also lead to dangerous physical and psychological withdrawal symptoms, and put individuals at high risk for tolerance and dependence.

Misuse of Prescription Drugs: Misuse of prescription drugs, including opiates/pain-killers (i.e. morphine, oxycodone), stimulants (i.e. Ritalin), sedative-hypnotics (i.e. barbiturates, anxiolytics) and other psychoactive drugs, is prohibited. This includes taking a medication that is not prescribed to you, taking more than the prescribed dose of a medication, or taking a prescription medication for a reason other than the intended use (i.e. to produce a “high”).

The University takes the use of illicit drugs, misuse and abuse of prescription drugs, and possession and distribution of drugs very seriously and will respond accordingly.

The term “drug paraphernalia” broadly includes any material, product, instrument or item used to create, manufacture, distribute, use or otherwise manipulate any drug and includes, but is not limited to hypodermic needles, syringes, bongs or pipes.

4.3.3 Seeking Help for Alcohol- and Drug-Related Medical Emergencies

The health and safety of Boston College students is of paramount concern. As a result, all students are expected and encouraged to seek immediate assistance for themselves or others in situations where help is needed due to intoxication or drug ingestion.

Students should actively seek assistance for themselves or others, as a result of impairment due to alcohol and/or drug use. Boston College will support and encourage this help-seeking behavior by treating the situation as a health and safety matter, rather than a conduct matter, when students contact emergency responders or university officials (e.g., Resident Assistant, Boston College Police). Additionally, anyone who seeks help or calls for help on behalf of another student will not be subject to action through the conduct system.

Students who seek and receive medical attention in such situations will be required to complete certain educational and/or counseling interventions and will also be subject to all fees related to their medical care. Failure to complete these referrals would be treated as a conduct matter.

Students who demonstrate consistent and repeated patterns of seeking help for alcohol and drug related medical emergencies may require further medical review and/or treatment up to mandated medical leaves of absence.

Regardless of help-seeking behavior, students will be held accountable for misconduct accompanying or incidental to the use and/or abuse of alcohol or other substances. For example, disorderly behavior, violence, property damage, or distribution or intent to distribute will be treated as conduct violations and will be responded to accordingly.

For immediate medical assistance, contact the BC Police at (617) 552-4444.

4.4 RESPECT FOR PERSONS

To foster the sense of communality that is vital for an educational institution to function as a marketplace of ideas, to foster student development, and to encourage cognitive growth, all members of the campus community must respect the rights and contributions of other members of the community. Students are expected to be open to learning, meaningfully engage with difference, and care for others. Boston College expects its members to honor the inherent dignity of other members of our community by being considerate, sensitive, understanding, and concerned for the welfare of others.

4.4.1 Bias-Motivated Offensive Conduct and Hate Crimes

Bias motivated offensive conduct and hate crimes are prohibited. See the Boston College [Bias Incident Response Team page](#) for policy information, reporting options, and institutional responses.

4.4.2 Discriminatory Harassment

[Discriminatory harassment](#) is prohibited. See the [Boston College Policies and Procedures Manual](#) for policy information, reporting options, and institutional responses.

4.4.3 Hazing

Any form of hazing is prohibited by [University policy](#) and [Massachusetts State Law](#). For information regarding the University Hazing Policy, see our [Hazing Awareness & Prevention page](#).

4.4.4 Physical Violence

Physical violence in any form cannot be tolerated in a civil, educational environment. This category of misconduct encompasses any action where physical contact is made resulting in harm or with the intent to cause harm. Such actions include, but are not limited to assault and

battery (simple and/or by means of a dangerous weapon), fighting/brawling, slapping, shoving, restraining, etc. Under no circumstance is physical violence an acceptable means to resolve problems, disputes, or interpersonal relations.

4.4.5 Retaliation

Boston College prohibits retaliation of any kind against any individual filing a complaint or participating in an investigation or conduct hearing involving a Boston College student. Such retaliation would result in conduct action.

4.4.6 Sexual Misconduct

[Students are expected to abide by the Sexual Misconduct Policy.](#)

4.4.7 Threats

Threats are prohibited and are any action that insults, stigmatizes, threatens, or endangers another individual's emotional or mental well-being or causes another to reasonably fear for his/her safety.

4.5 RESPECT FOR PROPERTY

The efficient and mutually beneficial functioning of an educational community requires the responsible use of all property, including buildings, green spaces, tangible goods intellectual property, technology, and equipment. Respect for property also involves helping to foster a positive and supportive environment. A sense of security, tranquility and accomplishment are all essential to the learning endeavor. This principle requires students to respect personal and institutional property, inside and outside the Boston College community.

4.5.1 Property Damage

Damage or destruction of property is a very serious offense. Instances of deliberate or malicious damage will be referred to the Student Conduct System for conduct action and appropriate sanctions.

4.5.2 Theft

Theft is prohibited and is the unauthorized taking, misappropriation, or use or possession without approval of property belonging to another person or entity. Additionally, theft is also comprised of failing to tender payment for services rendered (e.g., taxi fare evasion, sneaking into a ticketed event, etc.).

4.5.3 Information Technology (IT) Use

Students must abide by all University policies governing the use of technological resources, including the Use of Technological and [Information Resources Policy](#) and the [Copyright Compliance Policy](#).

4.6 RESPECT FOR THE COMMUNITY

Students are expected to conduct themselves with the social decorum and respect for the rights of others required of an educational institution. Upholding the reputation of the University through proper citizenship within the community is essential in maintaining the educational and developmental reputation of the institution, which is vital in preserving the standing of Boston College within our global community.

4.6.1 Community Disturbance

Boston College imposes an obligation upon all its students to demonstrate responsible citizenship and to not create conditions, which disrupt the educational environment (e.g., excessive or unreasonable noise, excessively large parties, or rude and abusive language or behavior). This policy applies to all students while on-campus, off-campus, studying abroad, etc.

4.6.2 Disorderly Conduct

Disorderly conduct is the unreasonable or reckless behavior by an individual or group that creates a potentially unsafe situation for members of the community or damages property; disrupts the peace or interferes with the normal operation of the University or University sponsored events; and/or infringes on the rights of others.

4.6.3 Failure to Comply

Students must comply with the requests of University officials, law enforcement, fire, or other public officials acting in the performance of their duties, and they must identify themselves to these persons when requested to do so. Additionally, students are expected to comply with published and/or distributed departmental policies or directives not specified in the Student Guide. Students are also required to complete all sanctions issued as part of the conduct process by the specified due dates.

4.6.4 False Information

Students may not intentionally provide false or inaccurate information or records to the University or local authorities. This includes, but is not limited to providing a false report of an emergency, crime, or code violation; providing false statements during a University investigation or proceeding; or falsely activating a campus Emergency Blue-Light Call Box.

4.6.5 Fire-Related Misconduct

Any conduct having a foreseeable risk that a fire will result is unacceptable, even if no fire is intended or does occur. Deliberately setting a fire on the campus such as burning trash, starting a bonfire, igniting door decorations or materials on a bulletin board, or possessing/using fireworks of any sort will be treated as deliberate attempts to start a fire. The misuse or tampering with fire protection devices such as extinguishers, smoke detectors, and alarms is unacceptable. Setting off a false alarm may result in University Suspension.

Candles and burning incense are absolutely prohibited in the residence halls. The Office of Residential Life assigns certain minimum sanctions for violations of the fire safety policies at Boston College, which occur in residence halls. A complete and current list of Safety and Security Policies for the residence halls, as well as sanctions for violations, is available on the Office of Residential Life's website at www.bc.edu/reslife.

4.6.6 Gambling

Such prohibited activity includes, but is not limited to: betting on, wagering on, or selling pools on any athletic event; possessing on one's person or premises (e.g., room, residence unit, car) any card, book, or other device for registering bets; knowingly permitting the use of one's premises or one's telephone or other electronic communication device for illegal gambling; knowingly receiving or delivering a letter, package, or parcel related to illegal gambling; offering, soliciting, or accepting a bribe to influence the outcome of an athletic event; and involvement in bookmaking or wagering pools with respect to sporting events.

4.6.7 Misrepresentation of Identity

Students may not implicitly or explicitly present themselves as another person or affiliated with an entity they are not through the misuse of identification, forgery, fraud, or other duplicitous actions. It is considered a misrepresentation of identity for any student to alter, deface, or falsify IDs or in any way obtain or conspire to obtain fake identification. This also includes manufacturing fraudulent IDs (including attempting to manufacture or assisting in the manufacture or distribution of such IDs), conspiring to obtain, and possession.

Additional actions, which may be considered a misrepresentation of identity include, but are not limited to forgery, the alteration/misuse of any University document, fraudulent acts, or the creation and use of fake online accounts to harass or harm others.

4.6.8 Sexual Activity

All students have a responsibility to respect the values and traditions of Boston College as a Jesuit, Catholic institution, including adhering to the Church's teachings with respect to sexual activity. Consequently, incidents of sexual intercourse outside the bonds of matrimony may be referred to the Student Conduct System.

4.6.9 Student Demonstrations

To ensure that public demonstrations of opinion do not violate directly or indirectly the rights of others by preventing the ordinary operation of the University, applications for permits for all activities in the nature of a public speech, rally, demonstration, march, or protest must be submitted a minimum of 48 hours in advance to the Dean of Students. If approved, the activities must be conducted in accordance with the rules set forth below and not violate any policies set forth in the Code of Student Conduct. The Dean reserves the right to determine the time, place and manner of any public demonstration in order to safeguard University operations and the rights of the University community. Participation in a demonstration without prior authorization could result in conduct action. The organizers of any demonstration should be aware that they are

also responsible for compliance with the Code of Conduct, local, state, and federal law. The following types of conduct will be treated as disruptive and unacceptable:

1. Obstruction or disruption of the affairs of the University including, without limitation, teaching, research, public presentations, administration, conduct procedures, athletic or dramatic events, or placement or recruitment services.
2. Unauthorized entry to a University facility and failure to leave a University facility when requested to do so by a representative of the University.
3. Obstruction of the entrance or exit to a University facility or a campus roadway.

4.6.10 Weapons Policy

Possessing or carrying a firearm, loaded or unloaded, in any building or on the grounds of Boston College without the authorization of the Chief of the Boston College Police is prohibited.

All implements characterized by Massachusetts state law as "Dangerous Weapons" (e.g., switchblade knives) and any [blades in excess of 2.5 inches \(e.g., knives, dirges, picks\)](#), except for those being used in the preparation or consumption of food, are also prohibited. The possession of chemical sprays (e.g., Mace, pepper spray, or their derivatives) on the Boston College campus without the authorization of the Chief of the Boston College Police is prohibited. Improper use of laser beam instruments is also prohibited.

Prop/Theatrical Weapons

Possession of a device that could be reasonably mistaken for a weapon (such as a toy gun, starter gun or theatrical prop) is prohibited on campus, unless approved by the Boston College Police and the Office of the Dean of Students.

4.6.11 Violations of Local, State, or Federal Law

A violation of any local, state, or federal civil or criminal law is a violation of this Code, even if the specific conduct prohibited by the law is not listed within the Code or the offense is not prosecuted in a court of law.

4.7 VIOLATIONS & ADMINISTRATIVE REFERRALS

The following is a listing of common violations with which a student may be charged under the policies within the Code of Student Conduct. This list is not intended to be exclusive, and the University reserves the right to bring disciplinary charges against a student for behaviors not specifically identified below but which nevertheless violate the principles outlined in the Statement of Rights and Responsibilities set forth in Section 4.1.

- [Alcohol, Possession and/or Use of](#)
- [Alcohol Related Hospitalization](#)
- [Alcohol Related Infirmary Placement](#)
- [Central Alcohol Source](#)
- [Cohabitation](#)

- [Community Disturbance](#)
- [Complicity](#)
- [Conditions of Residency](#)
- [Disorderly Conduct](#)
- [Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of](#)
- [Drug Possession with Intent](#)
- [Drug Sales](#)
- [Drug Use and/or Possession](#)
- [Enabling Underage Drinking](#)
- [Failure to Complete Sanctions](#)
- [Failure to Comply](#)
- [Failure to Evacuate](#)
- [Fire Related Misconduct](#)
- [Forgery](#)
- [Fraud](#)
- [Guest Policy](#)
- [Harassment](#)
- [Hazing](#)
- [Help Seeking for Intoxication - Hospital](#)
- [Help Seeking for Intoxication - Infirmary](#)
- [IT Violation](#)
- [Malicious Fire Alarm](#)
- [Misuse of Identification](#)
- [Misrepresentation of Identity](#)
- [Negligent Fire Alarm](#)
- [Noise](#)
- [Physical Violence](#)
- [Possession of Stolen Property](#)
- [Production and Distribution of False ID](#)
- [Property Damage](#)
- [Providing False Information](#)
- [Retaliation](#)
- [Sexual Activity](#)
- [Sexual Misconduct \(inclusive of Sexual Assault, Stalking, Relationship Violence and other violations found in the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy\)](#)

- [Social Gathering Violation](#)
- [Theft](#)
- [Threats](#)
- [Unauthorized Entry](#)
- [Violation of local, state, or federal laws](#)
- [Weapons](#)