



**STUDENT
HANDBOOK**
2026-2027

Introduction

In the spirit of healing, we acknowledge and honor the Potawatomi, Odawa, and Ojibwe Tribes, the original people of the land upon which Northwestern University stands.

Who We Are

Northwestern is a comprehensive research university that is deeply interdisciplinary across multiple schools. Our rigorous, yet empathetic, academic environment is impactful, producing top-tier research, new knowledge, creative expression, and practical application.

We Are Guided By These Principles

- We transform society
- We grow leaders
- We champion access, opportunity and belonging
- We encourage debate
- We embrace breadth and depth
- We pursue excellence across all disciplines
- We strengthen our community
- We care about one another

These principles require us to live and learn independently and in community with each other. Students must engage fully and consistently in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for adhering to class attendance policies, completing coursework in accordance with established deadlines, and participating respectfully and collaboratively in all learning environments. Northwestern is distinctive in the multidisciplinary journey it offers students. Most students take courses across many disciplines and schools and are responsible for learning and adhering to the policies in each school of enrollment. Undergraduate students are required to live on campus during their first and second years of enrollment; limited housing is also available for upper-class and graduate students. Students must be self-sufficient, able to live safely and independently, care for their basic human needs, and treat other members of their residential communities with dignity and respect. Every student is expected to create and sustain an inclusive living and learning environment, which includes fostering open dialogue and a sense of belonging.

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The provisions of this Student Handbook do not constitute a contract, expressed or implied, between any students, prospective and/or matriculated, and Northwestern University. The University reserves the right to change any of the provisions, programs, rules, or regulations articulated in the Student Handbook at any time without prior notice with respect to any subject matter. For example, the University reserves the right to change any information contained herein to reflect its response to a pandemic, outbreak, or other significant public health concern at any time. The University likewise expressly reserves the right to modify the Student Handbook and its other written policies and procedures in response to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond its control that impact the University or its campus.

Statement of Community Values¹

Northwestern is a place where faculty, staff, and students engage in **COLLABORATION**, partnering to achieve success together.

- Disagreement and conflict are acknowledged in respectful discourse.
- Listening to and incorporating diverse perspectives allows us to achieve better outcomes.
- Partnering with others expands the reach of our success.

Northwestern University is a place where we learn through **DISCOVERY**, growing ourselves as we seek to enrich our community.

- Commitment to truth and knowledge is unwavering.
- Lifelong learning is expected.

Northwestern is a community where we embrace our **DIVERSITY**, affirming identity and fostering inclusion.

- Individual differences and unique perspectives are respected.
- Our common humanity is the basis for community relations.
- Unique cultural and ceremonial practices are affirmed.
- Inclusion is the foundation for decisions.

Northwestern University is a place where we connect with **EMPATHY**, building trust and respect for each other.

- Social responsibility and an ethic of care to others are extended to all members of the community.
- Accurate self-awareness is the foundation for empathy, compassion, and understanding others.
- Emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being is cultivated in academic and extracurricular life.

Northwestern is a community where we strive for **EXCELLENCE**, instilling rigor and a sense of pride.

- Missteps provide important feedback for innovation.
- Disciplined habits we build in small things lead us to excellence in our larger goals.
- Celebrating our accomplishments and resilience provides fuel for future endeavors.

Northwestern University is a community where we act with **STEWARDSHIP**, creating a better University for the future.

- Integrity, honesty, and accountability are expected.
- Pride and accountability for our past, reflection on our current endeavors, and visionary thinking help us build a better Northwestern.

¹ Northwestern's six Community Values were developed by a committee representing students, faculty, and staff. The committee was co-led by senior level administrators from the Office of the Provost, Student Affairs, and HR, and included student representatives from the Associated Student Government (ASG) and the Graduate Student Association (GSA). Between 2018-2019, the committee worked to identify the values that define the strengths and aspirations of our community, and today these values underlie multiple facets of University life and the student experience.

The Student Handbook contains the standards for behavior and conduct in the Northwestern community. It includes Academic Conduct Policies, Student Code of Conduct, Office of Civil Rights & Title IX Policies, University Housing Policies, and other University policies and resources. Its companion, the [Student Handbook Appendix: University Hearing and Appeals System](#), outlines the procedures that are followed when it is alleged that these standards are not met. Students should read and familiarize themselves with both documents, including the rights and responsibilities outlined below.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ethnicity, caste, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship status, veteran status, genetic information, reproductive health decision making, height, weight, or any other classification protected by law in matters of admissions, employment, housing or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates. [Read Northwestern's notice on non-discrimination.](#)
2. Student records may be released to persons outside the University only on request of the student or through compliance with applicable University policies and laws.
3. Students have a right to be secure in their possessions subject to law and University policy.
4. Student publications are free from any official action controlling editorial policy. Publications shall not bear the name of the University or purport to issue from it without University approval.
5. Subject to University policy and applicable law, students are free to form, join, and participate in any group for intellectual, religious, social, economic, political, or cultural purposes.
6. A student is free, individually or in association with other individuals, to engage in all campus activities, provided they do not in any way purport to represent the University and comply with applicable laws and University policies, including but not limited to time, place, and manner restrictions imposed by the University.
7. Students are free to use campus facilities for meetings of registered student organizations, subject to University policies, including reservation and other time, place, and manner policies governing the space or facility.
8. Subject to University policy and applicable law, students may invite and hear speakers of their choice on subjects of their choice, and approval will not be withheld by University officers for the purpose of censorship.
9. Subject to University policy and applicable law, students are free to assemble, to demonstrate, to express their views, and to protest, recognizing that freedom requires order and staff discipline, and to reflect the right of all faculty, students, and staff to pursue their legitimate goals without interference.
10. Students will be exempt from disciplinary action or dismissal from the University except for academic failure, failure to pay a University debt, or violation of law or University policy. Policies shall be fully and clearly communicated in advance of the alleged violation. A student is subject to local, state, and federal statutes.
11. Every member of the Northwestern community has the responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that does not violate the rights and freedoms of others.



ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICIES

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICIES

Academic integrity at Northwestern is based on a respect for individual achievement that lies at the heart of academic culture. Every faculty member and student, both graduate and undergraduate, belongs to a community of scholars where academic integrity is a fundamental commitment.

The Basic Standards of Academic Integrity and the Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity are outlined below.

It is each student's responsibility to be aware of all rules and policies applicable to their programs. More information, including a list of contacts and procedures for each of Northwestern's schools, can be found on the [Academic Integrity site](#).

Basic Standards of Academic Integrity

All students registered for classes at Northwestern must adhere to the University's standards of academic integrity. These standards may be intuitively understood, and cannot in any case be listed exhaustively; the following examples represent some basic types of behavior that are unacceptable:

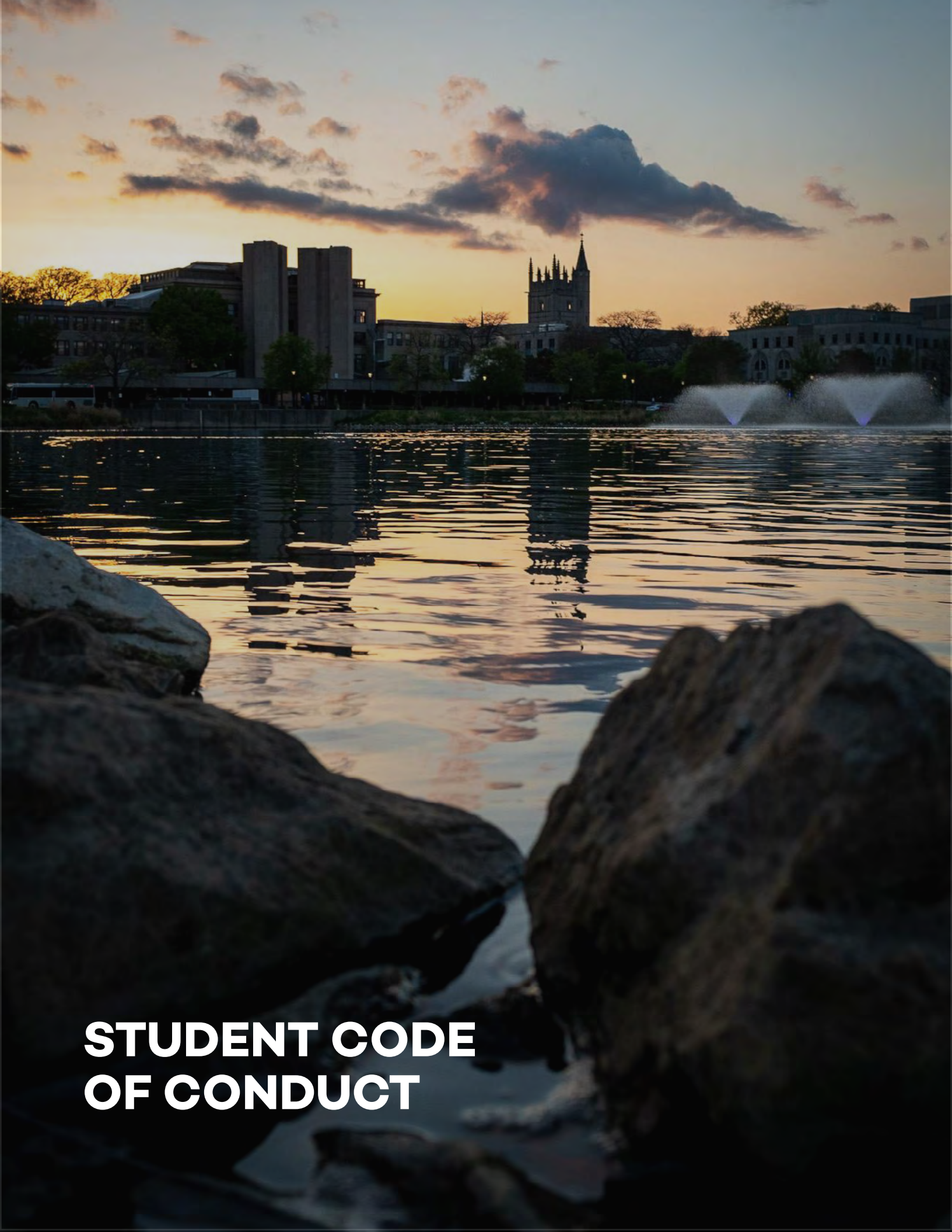
- 1. Cheating:** using unauthorized notes, study aids, or information on an examination; altering a graded work after it has been returned, then submitting the work for regrading; allowing another person or resource (including but not limited to, generative artificial intelligence) to do one's work and submitting that work under one's own name without proper attribution; submitting identical or similar papers for credit in more than one course without prior permission from the course instructors.
- 2. Plagiarism:** submitting material that in part or whole is not entirely one's own work without attributing those same portions to their correct source. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized use of generative artificial intelligence to create content that is submitted as one's own.
- 3. Fabrication:** falsifying or inventing any information, data, or citation; presenting data that were not gathered in accordance with standard guidelines defining the appropriate methods for collecting or generating data and failing to include an accurate account of the method by which the data were gathered or collected.
- 4. Obtaining an Unfair Advantage:** (a) stealing, reproducing, circulating, or otherwise gaining access to examination materials prior to the time authorized by the instructor; (b) stealing, destroying, defacing, or concealing library or other materials with the purpose of depriving others of their use; (c) unauthorized collaborating on an academic assignment; (d) retaining, possessing, using, or circulating previously given examination materials, where those materials clearly indicate that they are to be returned to the instructor at the conclusion of the examination; (e) intentionally obstructing or interfering with another student's academic work; (f) recycling one's own work done in previous classes without obtaining permission from one's current instructor or (g) otherwise undertaking activity with the purpose of creating or obtaining an unfair academic advantage over other students' academic work.
- 5. Aiding and Abetting an Academic Integrity Violation:** (a) providing material, information, or other assistance to another person with knowledge that such aid could be used in any of the violations stated above; (b) providing false information in connection with any inquiry regarding academic integrity; or (c) providing (including selling) class materials to websites that sell or otherwise share such materials – including homework, exams and exam solutions, submitted papers or projects, as well as original course materials (for example, note packets, PowerPoint decks, etc.). In addition to violating Northwestern's policies on academic integrity, such conduct may also violate University policies related to copyright protection.

6. **Falsification of Records and Official Documents:** altering documents affecting academic records; forging signatures of authorization or falsifying information on an official academic document, grade report, letter of permission, petition, drop/add form, ID card, or any other official University document.
7. **Unauthorized Access to Computerized Academic or Administrative Records or Systems:** viewing or altering computer records, modifying computer programs or systems, releasing or dispensing information gained via unauthorized access, or interfering with the use or availability of computer systems or information.

Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity

Maintaining academic integrity requires an intentional approach to all academic pursuits. Students must be mindful of their work process, including appropriate engagement with others, and their work product, particularly the representation of sources and data. The following rules should be internalized by all students and consulted as needed for reinforcement or a mere refresher:

1. **Know Your Rights:** Do not let other students in your class diminish the value of your achievement by taking unfair advantage. Report any academic integrity violation you see.
2. **Acknowledge Your Sources:** Whenever you use words or ideas that are not your own when writing a paper, use quotation marks where appropriate and cite your source in a footnote, and back it up at the end with a list of sources consulted.
3. **Protect Your Work:** In examinations, do not allow your neighbors to see what you have written; you are the only one who should receive credit for what you know.
4. **Avoid Suspicion:** Do not put yourself in a position where you can be suspected of having copied another person's work, or of having used unauthorized notes in an examination. Even the appearance of an academic integrity violation may undermine your instructor's confidence in your work.
5. **Do Your Own Work:** The purpose of assignments is to develop your skills and measure your progress. Letting someone else do your work defeats the purpose of your education and may lead to serious charges against you.
6. **Never Falsify a Record or Permit Another Person to Do So:** Academic records are regularly audited and students whose grades have been altered put their entire transcript at risk.
7. **Never Fabricate Data, Citations, or Experimental Results:** Many professional careers have ended in disgrace, even years after the fabrication first took place.
8. **Always Tell the Truth When Discussing Your Work With Your Instructor:** Any attempt to deceive may destroy the relation of teacher and student.



STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

OVERVIEW AND SCOPE

As members of the Northwestern community, all students, groups of students, and student organizations are expected to model exceptional conduct, character, and citizenship on campus and beyond. The Student Code of Conduct outlines behavior that is prohibited and subject to a range of sanctions. Students are responsible for knowing and following the standards and policies in the Code of Conduct. The Office of Community Standards (Community Standards) is responsible for determining violations and imposing sanctions under the Code of Conduct. More information regarding Community Standards, including how to report alleged misconduct, can be found on the [Community Standards page](#).

WHO: The Student Code of Conduct applies to all students and student groups (as defined below). Student hosts are additionally responsible for any policy violations of their on-campus guests. The Code of Conduct applies at the times and locations described below.

WHEN: The Code of Conduct applies from the date a student receives notification of admission to Northwestern until the date a student is awarded a degree from Northwestern, including but not limited to these specific time frames:

- During the academic year.
- Before classes begin or after classes end.
- During time pursuing credit away from campus (e.g., study abroad, internships, coops).
- During periods between terms of actual enrollment.
- While on leave from the University.

Conduct that occurs during any period of time described above that is not discovered until after a degree is awarded remains subject to adjudication and sanction and may result in degree revocation.

WHERE: The Code of Conduct applies everywhere – on and off campus.

Some behaviors or conduct may be covered by more than one University policy or by multiple definitions in the Student Code of Conduct. The University will consider all relevant conduct definitions and University policies when addressing behaviors or conduct.

Groups and Recognized Student Organizations

Groups of students and recognized student organizations (here after referred to as “student groups”) are expected to comply with all University policies, including the Student Code of Conduct and any additional policies pertaining to groups and organizations. Student groups are defined within the UHAS process as student-run groups that are either recognized by the University as student organizations or independent student-led entities. These include, but are not limited to, registered student organizations, University housing affiliated groups, academic/department affiliated and/or professional organizations, recreation and athletic teams, and organizations connected to a third-party business or corporation.

The decision to hold a student group responsible as a whole is ultimately determined by examining all the circumstances of a situation and by considering factors, including but not limited to whether the actions:

1. Were committed by one or more officers or an authorized representative acting in the scope of their student group capacities.
2. Involved, were committed by, or were condoned by (actively or passively) a significant number of group members, alumni, or guests.
3. Occurred at or in connection with an activity or event funded, sponsored, publicized, advertised, or communicated about by the student group.
4. Occurred at a location over which the student group had control at the time of the action.
5. Occurred at or in connection with an activity or event that reasonable people would associate with the student group.
6. Should have been foreseen by the student group or its officers, but reasonable precautions against such actions were not taken.
7. Were the result of a policy or practice of the student group.
8. Would be attributable to the student group under the group's own policies (including local or inter/national risk management guidelines).
9. Were taken by individuals who, but for their affiliation with the student group, would not have been involved in the incident.

Or whether:

10. One or more officers or members of a student group fail to report knowledge or information about a violation to, or otherwise fail to cooperate with, appropriate University or emergency officials.
11. The student group, or any member acting on its behalf, fails to satisfactorily complete the terms of any disciplinary sanction or outcome.

Collective and Individual Responsibility

Student groups, as well as their members and officers, may be held collectively and/or individually responsible for violations of the Student Code of Conduct or other University policies as part of their role during an incident or participation in the UHAS process. See also Misconduct within the Student Conduct Process ([see page 23](#)).

Additionally, in cases where students are knowingly affiliating with or providing assistance to unrecognized student groups, the University may use the Groups and Recognized Student Organization factors to determine if Misconduct Related to Unrecognized Student Groups may apply ([see page 24](#)).

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

The following behaviors are prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct. Attempting these behaviors and/or assisting or willfully encouraging others to engage in these behaviors also violates the Code of Conduct.

1. Use/Misuse of Alcohol, Cannabis, and Other Drugs

Alcohol Violations

Misconduct related to alcohol and alcoholic beverages, including the following:

- a. Use or possession of alcohol, or containers that previously contained alcohol, by individuals under the age of 21 (or the age of majority in the jurisdiction).
- b. Providing or distributing alcohol to individuals under the age of 21.
- c. Severe intoxication resulting in disruptive behaviors or concern for the student's well-being, regardless of age.
- d. Driving under the influence of alcohol or while intoxicated.
- e. Possession of open containers of alcohol in public buildings, parks, beaches, highways, streets, alleys, sidewalks, parkways, and public parking lots (except as specifically authorized by legal authorities).
- f. Possession of kegs or other large storage devices, quantity-dispensing containers, or common sources of alcohol (except as specifically authorized by the University), regardless of age.
- g. Drinking practices or games that encourage participants to consume alcohol or promote intoxication and any paraphernalia that supports such activities, regardless of age.
- h. Possession of open containers of alcohol on University property, in University facilities, or in University vehicles or transportation (except as specifically authorized by the University). Approval for alcohol in outdoor spaces can be obtained through the Events Planning Office at Norris University Center.
- i. The use or possession (except as specifically authorized by the University) of alcohol by students or their guests in any dry or alcohol-free areas on campus. This includes most areas in administrative, athletic, and academic buildings, as well as common spaces within on-campus housing facilities, inclusive of fraternities, sororities, and cooperative living environments.

Exceptions to this policy are available for some spaces and must be explicitly authorized via the University's Alcohol at Undergraduate Events process or other approved University policies. Additionally, residents of graduate housing aged 21 or older are permitted to consume alcohol responsibly in graduate residence hall common lounges, excluding designated children's play areas.

- j. Students living on-campus who are 21 years of age or older may consume alcohol in the privacy of their personal rooms so long as the only individuals present are at least 21 years of age, with the exception of the student's roommates, or in the case of students in graduate housing, family members, and the number of individuals present meets the occupancy guidelines of the room ([see page 40](#)).
- k. For students under the age of 21, being present in the personal rooms of any on-campus housing in which an alcohol policy violation is occurring, inclusive of fraternities, sororities, and cooperative living environments. Students under the age of 21 are expected to leave the location in which the alcohol policy violation is occurring or notify appropriate staff members to stop the violation.
- l. The sale of alcohol on campus without explicit permission from the relevant University body and an Evanston liquor license, as obtained by an approved pourer.
- m. Manufacturing alcoholic beverages on University property, premises, or facilities (except as specifically authorized by the University) or off campus by individuals under the age of 21.

Students and student groups who wish to plan an event for undergraduate students at which alcohol is available for individuals over the age of 21 must comply with the [Policy Regarding Alcohol at Events for Undergraduates](#). The University will only authorize events with alcohol within a group housing facility if such events are consistent with the organization's inter/national policies and processes. Student groups applying to hold these types of events will be expected to provide documentation of those expectations. Note that the University would share allegations of student groups violating any substance-free facility policies with the organization's inter/national governing organization, in addition to investigating any violations of University policy.

Students who are 21 years of age or older and living in a group house are also expected to abide by the group's inter/national risk management policies regarding substance-free housing. Students who are alleged to have violated such policies will also be referred by the University to their inter/national governing organizations.

Cannabis Violations

Misconduct relating to cannabis, including the following:

- a.** Possession, use, distribution, or cultivation of cannabis on campus or at a University-sponsored event.
- b.** Possession, use, distribution, or cultivation of cannabis by those off campus under the age of 21 or above levels determined by Illinois state law.
- c.** Severe cannabis intoxication resulting in disruptive behaviors or concern for the student's well-being, regardless of age.
- d.** Driving under the influence of cannabis.
- e.** Being in the presence of the use of cannabis on campus.

"Cannabis" means the parts, products, and derivatives of the plant cannabis sativa, indica, ruderalis and hybrid strains, regardless of the delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol level. Federal law prohibits the possession, use, manufacture, cultivation, distribution, and storage of cannabis for any purpose by students, faculty, staff, and visitors on all of Northwestern's campuses and properties and at University-sponsored events.

Other Drug Violations

Misconduct related to other drugs, including the following:

- a.** Possession, use, or misuse of illegal drugs or controlled substances (except as expressly permitted by all levels of legal authority).
- b.** Possession, use, manufacturing, or distribution of drug paraphernalia.
- c.** Manufacturing, distribution, or cultivation of illegal drugs or controlled substances.
- d.** Driving under the influence of any illegal drug or controlled substance.
- e.** Being in the presence of the use or misuse of illegal drugs or controlled substances on campus.

"Other drugs" means illegal drugs and controlled substances, including but not limited to narcotics, cocaine, heroin, prescription medication, synthetic cannabinoids, and/or any chemical substantially similar to a controlled substance.

Resources for students experiencing alcohol and/or drug related concerns or who have alcohol and/or drug related questions can be found on the [Alcohol, Cannabis, and Other Drug Resources and Support page](#).

Amnesty for Taking Responsible Action in Response to Impairment or Overdoses Involving Alcohol, Cannabis, and/or Other Drugs

At Northwestern, we care for each other. Consistent with this principle, when students or student groups take the following steps in response to situations involving impairment or overdoses from alcohol, cannabis, and/or other drugs, Northwestern honors that care by using educational and supportive resources outside of the University's disciplinary processes.

Amnesty requires these three actions:

1. **CALL:** for help in medical emergencies, by calling 9-1-1 from either on or off campus. Students in the residence halls should contact the Resident Assistant on-duty (phone number varies by building) or the building's Community Service Officer (CSO).
2. **STAY:** in place with the person until responding staff or emergency personnel arrives and they inform the student caller that their assistance is no longer needed.
3. **COOPERATE:** with responding staff or emergency personnel, including all requests for information and assistance. This also includes cooperation with any post-incident follow-up from the University.

In situations where students or a member(s) of a student group take these responsible actions (for themselves or for others) or have such actions taken for them, they will not face disciplinary action for their personal use or possession of alcohol, cannabis, or other drugs, or the provision of alcohol. Individuals who are transported or evaluated for transport may be referred to educational and supportive resources.

Amnesty does not apply to other policy violations arising out of the same incident (e.g., destruction of property, disorderly conduct, hazing, drug distribution, sexual misconduct, or driving under the influence (DUI)). Amnesty also does not apply to deceptive behavior or other actions that intentionally cause delay in getting help.

Amnesty for Taking Responsible Action can be utilized more than once by individual students or a student group. However, each recurrence will be evaluated to determine if there is a higher level of concern that may warrant additional follow-up by the University.

To the extent authorized by law, the University may notify parents or emergency contacts in severe or repeated instances of alcohol, cannabis, or other drug use. Students who refuse emergency medical transport may forfeit their eligibility for amnesty.

2. Violation of the University Demonstration and/or Display Policies

Conduct prohibited by Northwestern's [*Demonstration*](#) and [*Display and Solicitation*](#) Policies. An overview of these policies, including definitions and requirements, is outlined below.

Demonstration Policy

The Demonstration Policy governs parameters for free expression and peaceful demonstration at Northwestern.

For purposes of this Policy, "demonstration" is defined as any public speech or other expressive activity by an individual or group occurring either (i) on or adjacent to Northwestern property or (ii) at University-sponsored events off campus. Examples of demonstrations may include but are not limited to assemblies, picketing, protests, counter-protests, rallies, parades, marches, teach-ins, or sit-ins.

These requirements protect the rights of others:

- a.** No community member or third party may intimidate, threaten to use force, or use force against any community member or third party.
- b.** No community member or third party may deprive (or attempt to deprive) others of the ability to participate in a University activity.
- c.** No community member or third party may prevent or obstruct (or attempt to prevent or obstruct) the speech or other expression of another community member, except that University officials may act consistent with this and other Northwestern Policies to ensure the speech or other expression of community members is consistent with the guidelines in this and other Northwestern Policies, including but not limited to those linked at the bottom of this Policy.
- d.** Placards, banners, signs, and other displays may not impede the participation of those assembled, endanger other community members, or violate University Policies, including but not limited to those linked at the bottom of this Policy. Displays, including but not limited to banners, signs, installations, light projections, and sound amplification are subject to restrictions detailed in the Display and Solicitation Policy.

These requirements protect University operations:

- a.** No community member or third party may disrupt, prevent, or obstruct, or attempt to prevent or obstruct (i) the regularly scheduled activities of the University, such as classes, research, learning, meetings, interviews, ceremonies, emergency services, or operations of the University; (ii) co-curricular activities; (iii) University or public events; or (iv) medical center access or business.
- b.** No community member or third party may use or occupy campus facilities in a manner that impedes University operation of activities or events.
- c.** No community member or third party may obstruct movement around the campus (including but not limited to preventing entrance to or egress from any campus building or campus facility, or obstructing any University-owned and -maintained roadway or pathway) unless authorized by a University official.
- d.** On weekdays on the Evanston campus, demonstrations at the Rock may not occur until after 3:00 p.m., when most classes in adjacent buildings have concluded. Amplified sound, including the use of bullhorns, loudspeakers, and similar devices, is prohibited on weekdays before 5:00 p.m. at the Rock and is subject to reservation and approval processes. The tradition of painting the Rock is permitted. Tabling and other events reserved through the University may continue to be held at the Rock at their reserved time. See the Display and Solicitation Policy for additional information on amplified sound, tabling, and other displays.

These requirements ensure the physical safety of community members and third parties and compliance with applicable policies and other rules governing use of University facilities:

- a.** Overnight demonstrations, between 12:00 a.m./midnight and 6:00 a.m., are not permitted in any University location regardless of space (indoor or outdoor). All materials associated with a demonstration must be collected and/or removed during the overnight hours. One small camping tent at the Rock will continue to be permitted for guarding and painting it.
- b.** All events and demonstrations are subject to the requirements and limitations of the event or demonstration's location (e.g., school, college, or facility), including room occupancy and hours of operation. All events and demonstrations must comply with applicable building safety codes and University Policies.

- c. Demonstrations cannot take place in areas where the presence of participants would compromise physical safety or a reasonable expectation of privacy, or violate laws, regulations, or Northwestern policies (e.g., laboratories and/or other research areas, residential spaces, dining halls).

These requirements affirm that community members and third parties must comply with direction from Northwestern University Police and other University officials when they (police and officials) are enforcing this Policy and/or other University Policies. The role of Northwestern University Police during a demonstration is to maximize the physical safety and security of community members as well as protect University property:

- a. Community members and third parties must identify themselves upon request by University officials.
- b. Community members and third parties must remove placards, banners, signs, installations or other displays that violate this Policy and/or other University Policies upon request by University officials.
- c. Community members and third parties must leave University locations when instructed to do so by a University official or Northwestern University Police. When possible, participants will be first given a warning to leave unless a physical safety issue prevents that step.

The University may impose additional time, place, and manner restrictions to achieve the purposes of this and other University Policies. Instances in which the University may enact time, place, and manner restrictions include but are not limited to during major University events (e.g., Commencement, sporting events) and in areas of the University where there is a need to balance free expression with the continuity of University operations.

Participants in demonstrations are subject to other Northwestern policies, city ordinances, and state and federal law in addition to this Policy.

Display and Solicitation Policy

The Display and Solicitation Policy governs the parameters for expression through displays and/or solicitation on University property. The policy defines what constitutes a display and sets requirements for the types, locations, and content of displays.

Display is defined as any sign, flyer, installation, or other material, including but not limited to advertising or informational signs or posters, affixed to or placed on Northwestern's property. Other examples include banners; chalking; painting; leaflets/handbills; tabling on campus property; and tents, art installations, flags, and other 3D materials with a physical footprint on campus property. Displays also include projection of light onto a campus building and amplification of sound on campus property (e.g., using bullhorns and similar devices, loudspeakers, etc.)

Display Types and Locations

- a. **Flyers:** Flyers can be posted to bulletin boards made available by most academic and other campus buildings. Individuals and groups should consult with relevant schools, departments, or facilities offices for additional guidance and/or restrictions before adding a display to a board that is managed by a specific office. Permitted outdoor locations for flyers are University-provided bulletin boards and kiosks. Flyers may not be affixed to other outdoor locations, including but not limited to trees, benches, fences, lampposts, exteriors of campus buildings, campus sidewalks, and roadways. Every flyer must include the date on which it was posted and/or, if applicable, the date of an upcoming event being promoted.

- b. **Banners:** Banners to be attached or affixed to University property must be approved and consistent with rules for the specific building or space (e.g., academic department, Residential Services, etc.) or Northwestern University Facilities. [Norris Event Management](#) facilitates reservation of banner space between Weber Arch and the Rock. Individuals and/or groups must obtain a reservation from Norris Event Management before displaying a banner at the Arch or trees near the Arch. The banners hung on Weber Arch and affixed to the top of light poles on the Evanston and Chicago campuses are managed by the Office of Global Marketing and Communications. These fixtures are only for official use by University departments. On the Chicago campus, banners hung on light poles must be approved through the [City of Chicago](#). For other banner locations on campus, community members seeking to display a banner must consult with the administrators responsible for the individual location or facility.
- c. **Chalking:** Chalking is permitted on Evanston campus sidewalks that are not covered by any overhangs. Chalking on campus property other than the sidewalk is not permitted, including on building exteriors or other vertical surfaces and on horizontal surfaces covered by permanent structures such as covered walkways, tented entryways, and covered terraces.
- d. **Painting:** Painting any campus property—other than the Rock, the short wall around the Rock, and lakefront rocks— including any part of the sidewalks, trees, benches, and/or plaza around the Rock, is strictly prohibited. The Rock is an Outdoor Event Space. For more information on painting the Rock, contact [Norris Event Management](#).
- e. **Tabling:** All outdoor tabling activities on campus require a confirmed reservation through the [Outdoor Event Request Process](#). For spaces not included in this process, community members must consult with the administrators responsible for the location or facility and ensure they have documented approval available at the table. More information is available on the [Norris Events website](#).
- f. **Installations:** Any installation of a 3D display on University property must be reserved through the [Outdoor Event Request Process](#), whether the installation is meant for art, advertisement, viewpoint expression, demonstration, or another purpose. Outside of University-sponsored events, installation of tents is prohibited. One small camping tent at the Rock will continue to be permitted for guarding and painting it. In addition to reserving space through the [Outdoor Event Request Process](#), students and/or student groups must also provide advance notice to [Student Organizations and Activities](#), or the relevant Student Affairs office in Chicago, for any 3D display. Installations meant for demonstration must comply with the Demonstration Policy.
- g. **Light Projections:** The University owns and controls the lighting in and on its buildings and properties. Only authorized University officials are permitted to alter or project light onto University buildings or properties. Requests to alter or project lighting will not be considered.
- h. **Outdoor Sound Amplification:** The University prohibits sound amplification using any device including bullhorns, loudspeakers, and similar devices that would disrupt operations of the University, including but not limited to classes. Amplified sound is prohibited on weekdays before 5:00 p.m. at the Rock. At all other times, sound amplification on the Evanston campus requires a space reservation through the [Outdoor Event Request Process](#). In some instances, sound permits may be required from the City of Evanston. While the City of Evanston does not require a permit for bullhorns, their use must adhere to this and other University Policies and cannot disrupt University operations. In Chicago, sound must comply with the Chicago Municipal Code.
- i. **Prohibited Outdoor Locations:** Displays are not allowed on Rebecca Crown Plaza, Technological Institute Plaza, or under the overhangs of any buildings, including but not limited to the Jacobs Center, the Henry Crown Sports Pavilion, any part of Weber Arch, and the west main and south ground entrances to Norris Center.

- j. Unit Spaces:** Individual schools, units, and certain University facilities may have additional display policies that are more restrictive than the Policy set forth here, in which case the more restrictive display policy will apply. Individuals should consult with relevant schools, units, or facilities offices before adding a display in a space that may be under the control of a specific unit (e.g., classroom, residence hall, whiteboard/chalkboard, hallway, door).

Content

- a. University Trademark:** All displays must comply with the University's Trademark Licensing Policy.
- b. Prohibited Content Display:** Content that is deemed by the University to be in violation of University Policies, including Use of University Facilities for Political Activities, the Student Code of Conduct, and the Policy on Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct, is prohibited and may subject the group or individual to disciplinary action.

Display Removal

The University reserves the right to remove displays, including but not limited to between academic terms, in advance of major University events (e.g., Reunion, Commencement), and when they contain prohibited content and/or violate this and other University Policies. Securing a reservation for a display does not indicate that a display is compliant.

A Northwestern student organization, unit, or individual should remove their own displays in a timely fashion. The University may remove flyers after an event has passed and/or after a week from the date of posting. In addition, individuals whose displays damage University property may face disciplinary consequences, including restitution, to restore the property to its normal condition.

Northwestern community members may remove or cover a display under certain circumstances:

- If an event being promoted has passed, then displays may be removed or covered.
- If multiple displays for the same event, organization, or subject are in the same location, then some (but not all) may be removed or covered to make way for others.
- If a display meets the conditions of unapproved solicitation (as discussed below), then displays may be removed or covered.

Solicitation

Any community member or third party must obtain permission to solicit on campus. Permission must come from the appropriate unit officer or University official responsible for the area or building where the solicitation occurs, as well as observe applicable solicitation policy for that building. Notwithstanding anything in this Policy to the contrary, University employees may engage in protected activity under the National Labor Relations Act, except that no employee should: engage in solicitation of any kind during work time or engage in solicitation of any kind targeted at an employee during that employee's working time. Distribution of materials by employees must only be engaged in during non-working time and in non-working areas. Commercial solicitation is prohibited at the Rock, door to door within University buildings, or in residence halls. Northwestern community members and third parties must comply with the Policy on Use of University Facilities for Political Activities.

3. Destruction of Property

Destroying, damaging, defacing, tampering with, or vandalizing property.

4. Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct

Conduct prohibited by Northwestern's policies on discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct, all of which are enforced by the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance (NU-OCR). An overview of these policies, including definitions of prohibited conduct, can be found in the NU-OCR policies section of the Student Handbook ([see page 32](#)). Read the full version on the [NU-OCR webpage](#).

5. Disorderly Conduct and Disruption

Disorderly conduct or disruptive acts, including the following:

- a. Significantly interfering with the functioning of the University or a University class, program, or activity.
- b. Causing or allowing excessive or disruptive noise, including but not limited to violations of residence hall quiet hours or Evanston noise ordinances.
- c. Urinating or defecating in public view or in a public space, or in any space not intended for such purpose.

6. Endangering Self or Others

Any action (or threat of action) that endangers or threatens to endanger the health, safety, or well-being of any person (including oneself). Severity and/or persistence may be considered. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Alcohol, cannabis, or other drug use resulting in assessment for hospitalization or transport for hospitalization.
- Alcohol distribution resulting in severe intoxication.
- Acts that endanger human life or threaten or cause physical injury.
- Unwanted physical contact with any person that reasonably places that person in fear of physical injury or danger (e.g., physical restriction, fighting, pushing, punching, slapping, spitting on, and/or kicking any person).

7. Failure to Comply

Students are required to comply with the requests, directives, and instructions of University officials acting in performance of their duties. Prohibited conduct includes but is not limited to:

- Interfering or refusing to comply with University law enforcement, administrators, faculty, staff, and emergency rescue personnel when they are addressing law or policy violations and health or safety concerns.
- Failing to identify oneself by name and with a photo identification card (Wildcard or government-issued ID) when requested by an authorized University official. University officials must also provide identification if requested by students to do so.
- Refusing to remove or adjust a mask or face covering if requested to do so by an authorized University official for identification purposes.
- Failing to dispose of or relinquish prohibited items when directed to do so by an authorized University official.
- Fleeing the scene of an incident when directed to stay on site by an authorized University official or staying on site when directed to disperse/leave the scene of an incident by an authorized University official.

8. Fire Safety Violations

Acts that jeopardize the safety or security of the University, the University community, or any University facilities, building, or premises, including intentionally damaging or destroying property by fire or explosives.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- a.** Causing, creating, or maintaining a fire or fire hazard; this includes the misuse or unauthorized use of appliances or heating devices prohibited within the residence halls that cause damage, partially or totally, to any University property.
- b.** Misuse or tampering with fire safety equipment, including but not limited to fire alarms, smoke or fire detection devices, emergency call devices, fire exits or doors, automatic sprinkler systems, or extinguishers.
- c.** Failing to immediately exit any facility or building when an emergency or fire alarm or notification has been sounded; this includes hindering, impairing, or stopping the orderly evacuation of any University facility, building, or premises.
- d.** Smoking, including the use of e-cigarettes, vaporizers, or hookahs, in any enclosed University facility, designated smoke-free outdoor area, or within 25 feet of a University facility or building entrance, open window, or ventilation intake system or similar feature.
- e.** Violation(s) of state or local fire or fire-related ordinances.

9. Guest and Visitors

Knowingly allowing guests or visitors to violate the Student Code of Conduct or other University policies and/or failing to monitor the behavior of guests or visitors to assure they adhere to Northwestern policy standards.

10. Hazing

Hazing is any intentional or unintentional situation created, or action committed, that:

- a reasonable person would consider to cause mental, physical, or emotional discomfort, and;
- is for the purpose of admission to, affiliation with, initiation into, or as a condition for continued membership in any group, team, or organization.

This applies to situations and actions that occur on or off University premises and whether the situation or action is presented as optional or required. Acceptance or consent by incoming, new, or continuing members of said group, team, or organization does not then authorize the situation or activity to occur. Members in positions of leadership or power within the group, team, or organization who fail to report an act of hazing committed against another individual may be held accountable for violating the hazing policy.

Situations and actions causing mental, physical, or emotional discomfort include but are not limited to those encouraging or requiring servitude, degradation, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. A non-exhaustive list of situations or behaviors that would reasonably cause such discomfort is provided below.

Examples:

- Encouraging or requiring individuals to participate in activities that are illegal or unlawful or are not consistent with the group's mission or values, or the policies of the University, including the Student Code of Conduct.
- Servitude or placing another in a position of servitude, including asking, encouraging, or requiring a new member to do the tasks of, or to do tasks for, another individual or member, or to address members with honorary or formal titles.

- Falsely leading an individual to believe that they will be inducted or initiated by participating in particular activities.
- Encouraging or requiring individuals to wear uniforms, costumes, or apparel that is conspicuous or reasonably unsuitable for the given situation.
- Depriving an individual of any privileges of membership or affiliation to which one is entitled.
- Engaging in degrading or humiliating games, activities, stunts; including requiring, encouraging, or expecting individuals to carry, possess, or maintain objects or items.
- Periods of silence, social isolation, or confinement to a small space.
- Kidnapping, road trips, abandonment, scavenger hunts, or any other involuntary excursions.
- Creation of excessive fatigue, sleep deprivation, or interference with scholastic activities, including late night work sessions, meetings, or sleepovers.
- Taking, withholding, or interfering with an individual's personal property.
- Removing, stealing, taking, or damaging public or private property.
- Requiring or compelling the consumption of liquid (including alcohol), food, drinks, or other substances considered edible or inedible.
- Physical and psychological shocks, including lineups, berating, verbal abuse, threats, and name calling.
- Any strenuous physical activity expected of or inflicted upon another, including calisthenics or physical training as punishment.
- Prolonged exposure to the elements, including severe or inclement weather.
- Any physical abuse expected of or inflicted upon another, including but not limited to whipping, beating, striking, electronic shock, tattooing, branding, placing harmful substances or objects on someone's body, or similar activity.
- Sexual violations or other required, encouraged, or expected sexual activity, whether actual or simulated.

Hazing may violate the Illinois Hazing Act (720 ILCS §5/12C50), carrying penalties of up to three years in prison and a \$25,000 fine. Organizations found responsible by the University for hazing will be listed in the annual Campus Hazing Transparency Report under the federal Stop Campus Hazing Act, which mandates public disclosure of the organization's name, the violation details, and key dates of the incident, investigation, and findings. This public disclosure does not include individual student information.

For additional resources and information about hazing, including guidance on how the University determines severity when hazing violations are alleged, visit [Northwestern's Hazing Prevention website](#).

Reporting Hazing

Any violation of this policy should be reported to the Dean of Students Office (847-491-8430), the Office of Community Standards (847-491-4582), or on the [Report a Hazing Concern website](#). An individual who makes a timely good faith report of hazing and/or participates in good faith in an investigation will not be subject to disciplinary action by the University for conduct or policy violation(s) related to and revealed in the report or investigation (e.g. underage consumption of alcohol or use of drugs), with limited exceptions, such as, if the complainant's own behavior placed the health, safety, or well-being of others at significant risk. For more information on good faith reporting and its exceptions, ([see page 7](#)) in the Student Handbook Appendix.

11. University Housing Violations

Conduct prohibited by Northwestern's Housing Policy, which is outlined on [page 38](#).

12. Information Technology Violations

Misconduct related to University computer, network, or telecommunications systems or resources, including the following:

- a. Unauthorized use of facilities, services, equipment, account numbers, listservs, or files, including but not limited to using University listservs for personal business ventures or pranks, using a NetID or account assigned to another user, or providing another user with access to your NetID or account.
- b. Additions to, modifications of, and unauthorized connections to existing University electrical, telephone, data, wireless access points, routers, or television/radio signal wiring and distribution systems, which will be removed at the student's expense.
- c. Reading, copying, changing, deleting, tampering with, or destruction of another user's files, software, programs, and accounts (including monitoring another user's data communications) without permission of the owner.
- d. Use of University resources to interfere with the work of another student, a faculty member, or a University official, or that otherwise interferes with normal operation of University systems.
- e. Use of computing facilities and resources in violation of copyright laws (including unauthorized downloading or sharing of copyrighted files).

Students must also abide by other University policies regarding computers, networks, or electronic communications. Links to a full listing of the University's Information Technology policies are listed in the Other Policies section ([see page 54](#)).

13. Intimidation

Subjecting another person or group to abusive, demeaning, harassing, humiliating, intimidating, threatening, or violent behavior that substantially affects the ability of the person or group to learn, work, or live in the University environment.

Intimidation may occur in person, via written or electronic means, or through a third party. For purposes of this policy, the defined behavior and its subsequent impact must meet both a subjective standard (i.e., does this person or group believe they were subject to Intimidation that substantially limited their ability to engage in the named ways?) and an objective standard (i.e., would a reasonable person in the same or similar circumstances believe they were subject to Intimidation and react in similar substantially limited ways?) A single severe incident or a pattern of persistent behavior may constitute Intimidation.

Examples may include but are not limited to:

- Acts of physical violence against any person or group (e.g., slapping, hitting, biting, punching, shoving, kicking, restraining, or spitting at others).
- Using words, symbols, graphics, or other forms of communication to threaten violence against any person or group.
- Throwing, hurling, or firing of projectiles without regard for the safety of others.
- Verbal and/or written abuse or other forms of hostile behavior directed towards another person or group (e.g., insulting, teasing, mocking, degrading, or ridiculing others).
- Deliberately damaging or defacing another's property, including the desecration of religious objects and places.

- Using force, threat, or coercion to compel a particular course of action or participation in support of a cause or activity.
- Engaging in abusive, demeaning, harassing, humiliating, intimidating or threatening behavior that excludes a student from joining or participating in a student organization.
- Acts of doxing, i.e., publicly revealing someone's private or personally identifiable information, such as their phone number, home address, or private medical information, online for malicious purposes.
- Abusive behavior toward a university official or agent acting in performance of their duties.

Offensive conduct that does not, by itself, meet the definition of Intimidation under this policy may still be the basis for educational or other non-punitive interventions; the goal of such interventions is to prevent behavior from escalating and becoming a future policy violation.

Conflicts among roommates and suitemates do not typically meet the definition of Intimidation under this policy; resident assistants (RAs) and professional staff in Residential Services are trained in conflict mediation and serve as valuable resources to help students resolve conflicts in their on-campus living environments.

14. Misconduct within the Student Conduct Process

Misconduct related to the student conduct process (University Hearing and Appeals System) or an Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance investigation, including the following:

- a. Failing to fully cooperate with a student investigation process, including by individuals with information pertaining to an allegation. Failing to respond to multiple attempts by an administrator to contact or meet with a member of the University community may be considered a refusal to cooperate.
- b. Knowingly falsifying, distorting, or misrepresenting information during the investigation, hearing, or administration of a student conduct proceeding.
- c. Filing a report or appeal that lacks good faith or is malicious (i.e., intended to harass or cause harm). A complaint made in good faith is not a violation of this policy, even if the allegations are later determined to be unfounded.
- d. Any action that attempts to retaliate against, intimidate, threaten, coerce, discriminate against, or improperly influence any Northwestern community member for reporting alleged violations of policy or concern for the health or safety of a Northwestern community member, assisting another in making such a report, or participating in an investigation or resolution of such matters.
- e. Unauthorized release or disclosure of information related to a student conduct proceeding.
- f. Failure to comply with the sanctions or outcomes imposed for violations of this code or other University policies.
- g. Failure to comply with the interim actions or informal resolution put in place by a University administrator, including but not limited to failure to comply with a no-contact directive.

The University's "good faith" reporting and participation definitions can be found within the Student Handbook Appendix, under Reports and Initial Inquiry ([see page 7](#)).

15. Misconduct Related to Unrecognized Student Groups

To knowingly affiliate with or provide assistance to any groups, teams, or organizations that have had their University recognition withdrawn, suspended or permanently revoked by the University for disciplinary reasons or not meeting the registered student organization annual requirements is prohibited. The definition of affiliation includes joining, rushing, pledging, or being involved in any activity that would normally be associated with being a member of such a student group. This applies to student groups that were created, even under a different name by members of a de-recognized student group, in an attempt to continue its presence in the community. Students perpetuating and/or affiliating with these student groups are subject to disciplinary action.

For a list of student groups that are currently not recognized by the University due to disciplinary reasons, [visit this status report](#).

16. Misrepresentation

Acts of fraud, misrepresentation, or dishonesty, including the following:

- a. Knowingly furnishing false, forged, or inappropriately altered information to the University, any University official, or emergency response personnel.
- b. Intentionally misrepresenting the University, any University official, your status at the University or utilizing the University's brand (name and/or other marks, logos, insignias, seals, designs, and symbols) without permission.
- c. Possession, use, manufacture, or distribution of identification cards or devices that are false or fraudulent or that misrepresent an individual's identity, age, or other personal characteristics, including using another individual's identification.
- d. Intentionally initiating or causing to be initiated any false report, warning, or threat of emergency or crisis.

17. Unauthorized Taking of Property, Services, Materials or Funds

- a. Taking (e.g., stealing, theft) of property or services of another without the permission of the owner.
- b. Knowingly possessing, selling, collecting, or distributing stolen or misappropriated property, materials, or funds.

18. University Properties (Misuse of)

Unauthorized presence in, entry to, and access/use of University facilities, property, systems, services or space. Prohibited conduct includes but is not limited to:

- Unauthorized access to athletic fields or facilities, construction sites, or any other University building or property.
- Presence on roofs, balconies, or fire escapes of any University building or facility for any purpose except in cases of emergency.
- Hosting, attending, or participating in an event in University-owned or University-operated facilities, property, or space that violates the policies governing that space, including rules related to occupancy, opening/closing times, or other use restrictions.
- Possessing, duplicating, distributing, or using keys, access codes, access cards, or other means of entry or access to any University property, amenity, premises, or location without authorization; this includes loaning and/or giving one's own University key/access card to anyone for any reason.

19. Violations of Law and Other University Policies

Actions that violate federal, state, or local laws or ordinances or that violate other University policies.

20. Weapons and Related Items

Misconduct related to firearms, weapons of any description, fireworks or explosive devices, or **dangerous substances and materials**, including the following:

- a. Possession of any such item on University premises or at University activities or events (except as specifically authorized).
- b. Use or brandishing of any such item, even if legally possessed, in a manner that harms, threatens, causes fear to, or otherwise endangers others.

SANCTIONS

When a student or student group is found in violation of the Code of Conduct or other policies referenced in the Student Handbook, any of the sanctions described in this section may be imposed. The following factors guide decisions on sanctions:

- The nature, context, and severity of the incident.
- The level of accountability and responsibility taken by the student/student group.
- The need to stop the misconduct and prevent its recurrence.
- The impact of the conduct on the complainant when one exists.
- The impact of the conduct on the community or the University.
- The need to remedy and address the impact or effects of the conduct on others.
- The disciplinary history of the student/student group.²
- The developmental needs of the student/student group.
- The best interests of the University community.
- Any other aggravating, mitigating, or relevant factors.

2. For student groups, the deciding sanctioning body will review the group's history for the 30 months prior to the incident date.

A student/student group respondent's proactive use of harm reduction techniques, or lack thereof, prior to or in connection with an incident may be considered when determining the nature, context, and severity of any respondent responsibility findings involving alcohol, cannabis, and other drug policies, or that occurred during such a finding (i.e. a finding of hazing that intersects with a finding of distribution of alcohol by a respondent). Participation in high-risk drinking or drug behaviors, including but not limited to high proof alcohol consumption or distribution (30 proof or higher), such as shots or common source alcohol or sharing or consuming high-THC level cannabis, are generally seen as escalating the severity. Harm reduction techniques such as following the planning tenets laid out in the Alcohol at Undergraduate Events health, safety, and wellness guiding principles ([Provision 6](#)), offering or consuming food and water during use, consuming or providing only lower-proof alcohol, and other techniques may be considered as lowering severity. For proactive education in these areas, students/student groups may visit [Wellness at Northwestern](#).

Compliance with all sanctions within the assigned deadlines is mandatory. Failure to complete or comply with any sanction, or failure to meet an assigned deadline (if applicable), may result in further disciplinary action and/or the placement of a hold on a student's University account. If a student withdraws or takes a leave from Northwestern prior to the completion of their sanctions, they must complete all assigned sanctions before they will be permitted to re-enroll.

Educational, Interventional, and Restorative Sanctions (Individuals and Groups)

Sanctions of an educational, interventional, or restorative nature are used to ensure students learn the most from their actions and are equipped to make better decisions in the future. Options include but are not limited to the following:

Educational Requirements: Participation or completion of a project, class, or other activity to build awareness or knowledge relevant to the nature of the offense or oneself, including research papers, personal reflections, workshops, organizing events, designing community education, or preparing an action plan.

Disciplinary Service Hours: Assignment of a designated number of service hours that must be completed (a) at a nonprofit organization, (b) under supervision of an employee or volunteer coordinator who is not a friend or relative of the student, and (c) without payment or other compensation for the work performed. Disciplinary service hours may, but need not, be completed for an office or department of Northwestern University. Disciplinary service hours may not count towards service-learning hours or other community service required by another program, scholarship, or organization. Court-mandated community service may count towards disciplinary service hours. Deadlines for disciplinary service hours may vary.

Referrals to Other Offices, Departments, Programs, or Agencies: Attendance at and completion of any educational programs, interventions, or assessments to which a student is referred. This includes referrals to on- and off-campus resources for services including but not limited to substance-use assessments and interventions as well as interventions/education programs for abusive/controlling behaviors.

Mental Health/Medical Assessment and/or Treatment (individual only): Requirement that a student receive a mental health, medical, substance use, or threat assessment from an appropriate health care professional and follow through with the recommendations of the professional.

Restorative Actions (recommended): Engaging in actions to restore the impact of a violation and repair the harms resulting from misconduct on other members of the community. These actions may include letters of apology, drafting and implementing a plan of resolution, engaging in restorative justice conferences, and developing plans for reintegration.

Parent or Family Notification: Contact with a student's parents or legal guardians may occur or be required in certain circumstances, including when (a) there has been a determination that the student's use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance constitutes a violation of University policy or any federal, state, or local law and the student is under the age of 21 at the time of disclosure; (b) knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of a student in connection with an emergency; or (c) the disclosure is otherwise authorized by law and University policy.

Notification to Inter/National Organization Representatives, Officers, or Advisers (group only): The group's national representative, officers, and/or advisers may be notified of the violation for which the student group has been found responsible.

Other Reasonable Sanctions: Any reasonable sanction may be assigned that appropriately promotes the education and development of a student or student group, ensures safety, or otherwise furthers the mission of the University.

Disciplinary Sanctions (Individual)

University Warning: Formal notice that a student's actions violated a University policy, that such actions are not acceptable in our community, and that further misconduct, or any other violation of a University policy, may result in more impactful disciplinary action. Students are expected to reflect upon their decisions and be mindful of how their future choices and actions may impact themselves, others, and the University community.

Disciplinary Probation: A status imposed for a specific period of time to alert the student to the fact that their behaviors are substantially inconsistent with University policy and expectations. During this time, students are expected to take active steps toward improving their decisions and behaviors and to demonstrate that they can abide by University policy and succeed as a member of the Northwestern community. Disciplinary probation may impact other opportunities for which a student's disciplinary record is considered as a criterion for participation.

Suspension: A status imposed for a minimum of one full academic quarter, in which students are removed from the University and may not register for classes, attend classes, submit coursework, receive academic credit, remain in University housing, or participate in any function or event sponsored by the University or any of its departments, groups, or organizations (unless specifically authorized by the Dean of Students or designee). A suspended student will also be banned, during their suspension, from entering, visiting, or being present on University property or facilities including for the purposes of work (unless specifically authorized by the Dean of Students or designee). Suspension may also include the imposition of conditions for reenrollment. The maximum length of a suspension is two years.

Suspensions from the Pritzker School of Law and Feinberg School of Medicine are noted on student transcripts. Suspensions of those enrolled in other schools are not noted on a student's official transcript.

If a student who has been suspended does not reenroll in the University within two years of the end of the suspension term (or longer if specified), the student may not reenter the University without acceptance of a formal application by the Office of Admission and approval of the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee (and completion of any other conditions that may have been imposed for reentry).

A student who is suspended after having satisfied all degree requirements may not participate in Commencement exercises and will not be awarded their degree until the period of suspension is over and they have been approved to reenroll.

In the event a disciplinary suspension and an academic or medical withdrawal occur simultaneously, the leaves of absence are to be effective consecutively, and not concurrently, unless otherwise determined by Community Standards.

Expulsion: Expulsion is the permanent removal of a student from the University. Expulsion includes forfeiture of all rights and degrees not conferred at the time of the expulsion, withdrawal from all courses, and forfeiture of tuition and fees. A student who has been expelled may not register for classes, submit coursework, receive academic credit, attend classes, remain in University housing, or participate in any function or event sponsored by the University or any of its departments, groups, or organizations (unless specifically authorized by the Dean of Students or designee). A student who is expelled is also banned from entering, visiting, or being present on University property or facilities including for the purposes of work (unless specifically authorized by the Dean of Students or designee). A student who has been expelled may never apply to be a student at Northwestern University again. A student who is expelled will have their NetID and Northwestern email deactivated. Expulsions are noted on student transcripts.

Degree Revocation: A student's degree is revoked. Degree revocation includes forfeiture of all rights and responsibilities associated with the degree, and forfeiture of tuition and fees. All restrictions outlined under Expulsion also apply, including the prohibition from applying to be a student at Northwestern University in the future. Degree revocations are noted on all student transcripts.

Financial Restitution: Restitution is monetary compensation required of students who have taken, misused, damaged, or destroyed University, public, or private property or services. Amounts charged to students may include the cost to repair, replace, recover, clean, or otherwise account for the property or services affected.

Loss or Restriction of Privileges or Activities: The withdrawal of the use of services or privileges as a student or member of the community, or the loss of the privilege to participate in an activity or event. Examples include:

- Restriction on representing Northwestern University in any official capacity.
- Restriction from holding positions of leadership in any University recognized student group or from being hired by University departments to serve in leadership roles.
- Restriction from attendance at University events or activities.
- Restriction on use of University resources.
- Restriction on entry or access to particular locations, premises, or events.
- Restriction on contact with another member or group of members of the University community.
- Restriction on ability to study abroad.
- Additional conditions as deemed appropriate by Community Standards.

Restrictions on Access or Contact: Restrictions or prohibitions on a student's entry or access to particular locations, premises, or events, or on a student's contact with another member of the University community.

Disciplinary Housing Sanctions (Individual or Group)

Housing sanctions may be imposed in conjunction with violations of University Housing policies, in conjunction with violations related to on-campus residential facilities (including fraternity and sorority houses), or as otherwise appropriate. Housing sanctions include the following:

Housing Warning: Formal notice that a student's actions violated a Housing policy, that such actions are not acceptable in our community, and that further misconduct, or any other violation of a Housing policy, may result in more impactful disciplinary action. Students are expected to reflect upon their decisions and to be mindful of how their future choices and actions may impact themselves, others, and the Housing community.

Housing Probation: A status, imposed for a specific period of time, to allow students to reflect upon their choices and behavior and to demonstrate the ability to abide by policies and expectations. Any violation that occurs while on this status may result in a sanction of relocation, suspension, or removal from a residential facility or fraternity/sorority house. Students may be required to resign any office or committee appointment associated with Residential Services or its affiliated student groups. Housing Probation is typically assigned for a minimum of the rest of the quarter.

Housing Suspension: Requires a student or student group to vacate their residence hall, residential college, or fraternity/sorority house for a specified period of time, with the understanding the student or student group may return to a space within the housing system at the conclusion of that period. Students or student groups suspended from housing must comply with all University vacancy procedures, including properly turning in keys and checking out of the hall. All access to the residence hall, residential college, or fraternity/sorority house may be terminated and students or student groups may not be able to enter into or visit any residence hall, residential college, or fraternity/sorority house during the suspension period. Housing fees may be forfeited. Housing Suspension is typically assigned for a minimum of the rest of the quarter, and may be assigned for up to two years.

Housing Relocation: Requires a student to move to a different residential facility or housing unit. The new location and timeline for move are determined by Residential Services.

Housing Removal: Permanent removal from residence halls, residential colleges, and fraternity/sorority houses. Students removed from housing must comply with all University vacancy procedures, including properly turning in keys and checking out of the housing unit. All access to the residence hall, residential college, or fraternity/sorority house may be terminated and students may not be able to enter into or visit any residence hall, residential college, or fraternity/sorority house. Housing fees may be forfeited.

Restriction on Guest Privileges: A student's or student group's privileges with respect to hosting guests in a residential facility may be restricted or revoked for a specified period of time.

Financial Housing Restitution: When damages are done to housing facilities, Financial Housing Restitution may be assigned. Amounts charged to students may include cost to repair, replace, recover, clean, or otherwise account for the property or services affected. When responsible individuals cannot be identified, restitution may be charged to all residents of the smallest applicable area of the housing unit, the total being divided equally.

Disciplinary Sanctions (Group)

Group Formal Warning: Formal notice and censure that a student group's actions violated a University policy, that such actions are not acceptable in our community, and that further misconduct, or any other violation of a University policy, may result in more serious disciplinary action. Student groups are expected to reflect upon their decisions and be mindful of how their future choices and actions may impact themselves, others, and the University community.

Group Conduct Review: Group Conduct Review indicates that a student group's behavior is a significant violation of University policy either because the group has had one significant incident or because the group is beginning to show a pattern of concerning behavior. Conduct Review is imposed for a specific period of time to encourage groups to reflect upon their choices and behavior and to demonstrate the ability to abide by University policies and expectations. Any policy violations committed during this period will likely result in a heightened level of response and a more significant sanction such as Group Probation, Suspension, or Dissolution.

Group Probation: A status imposed on a student group for a specific period of time to alert the group to the fact that their choices and behaviors are significantly inconsistent with University policy and expectations. During this time, the group is expected to take active steps toward improving the actions of their group and to demonstrate that they can abide by University policy. Any policy violations while a group is on Disciplinary Probation will result in strong consideration of Group Suspension or Group Dissolution. Group Probation will be assigned for a minimum of three months and typically not more than two years. Probation will frequently be accompanied by a Loss or Restriction of Privileges or Activities (see below).

Group Suspension: This action is a total separation of the student group from the University for a specified period of time. This includes total restriction on the group and its members or supporters conducting any activity on the campuses of the University or at off-campus, University-associated events that in any way promote the goals, purposes, identity, programs, membership, or activities of the group. Group Suspension is typically assigned for a minimum of the remainder of the academic year. Once the suspension period has ended, if the group has met all other terms of its sanction, it will be allowed to resume activity as a recognized group.

Group Dissolution: Group Dissolution is the termination of the student group's recognition by the University. This action is a total separation of the group from the University. This includes total restriction on the group and its members or supporters conducting any activity on the campuses of the University or at off-campus, University-associated events that in any way promote the goals, purposes, identity, programs, membership, or activities of the group. Once dissolved, a group may only reapply for recognition once all current members have left the University community.

Financial Restitution: Restitution is monetary compensation required of student groups who have taken, misused, damaged, or destroyed University, public, or private property or services. Amounts charged to student groups may include cost to repair, replace, recover, clean, or otherwise account for the property or services affected. Financial Restitution for student groups will be assessed to the student group as a whole.

Loss or Restriction of Privileges or Activities: The withdrawal of the use of services or privileges as a student group or the loss of the privilege to participate in an activity or event. Examples include:

- Restriction on representing Northwestern University in any official capacity.
- Restriction from participation in University-affiliated programs, events, and/or activities.
- Restriction on the group's use of University resources (e.g., ability to receive University-affiliated funding, reside in University Housing).
- Restriction on the group's entry or access to particular locations, premises, or events.
- Restriction on the group's ability to host or participate in programs or events.
- Restriction on the group's ability to host programs or events with alcohol.
- Restriction in the group's co-programming with other groups on campus.
- Additional conditions as deemed appropriate by Community Standards.

CONDUCT RECORDS/STUDENT STATUS

All student disciplinary files (paper and electronic formats) that involve matters resolved by the Division of Student Affairs are kept and maintained by the Office of Community Standards and are considered educational records subject to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and University policy.

Records of disciplinary matters that result in suspension, expulsion, or degree revocation are retained permanently and may be disclosed to external third parties (such as graduate schools, employers, or licensing agencies) if requested by the student or as required or permitted by law and University policy. Records of disciplinary matters that do not result in suspension, expulsion, or degree revocation are retained until a student graduates or withdraws from the University, and for an additional period as required by law or University policy (typically seven years). These records are not reported to external third parties unless required by law or specifically requested by the student.

The University may report unresolved disciplinary matters, including any incomplete sanctions, for current or former students, including those who depart the University prior to graduating. This reporting will occur as required or permitted by law and University policy, and the matters will be noted as "pending." Records of pending matters are retained indefinitely; once resolved, they are retained according to the policies stated above. Any response to a request for student disciplinary records will include a statement explaining the University's policy regarding retention and reporting of disciplinary records.

The final outcome of student group conduct cases are not protected under FERPA. The Office of Community Standards publishes the final outcomes of student group cases on the office's website. In circumstances where the resolution of a case is ongoing, information will not be shared publicly by the Office of Community Standards.

**OFFICE OF CIVIL
RIGHTS & TITLE
IX COMPLIANCE
(NU-OCR) POLICIES**

DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT & SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICIES

Northwestern is committed to fostering an environment in which all members of our community are safe, secure, and free from prohibited discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct in any form. Discrimination, Harassment, or Sexual Misconduct related concerns are addressed by the [*Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance \(NU-OCR\)*](#). [*Read additional information about NU-OCR's policies and procedures*](#). The definitions of conduct prohibited by these policies are excerpted below. These definitions are current as of the publication date of the Student Handbook each year. Any changes to these definitions during the academic year will be updated in the policies linked above.

POLICY ON DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT VIOLATIONS

Northwestern prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ethnicity, caste, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship status, veteran status, genetic information, reproductive health decision making, height, weight, or any other classification protected by law (referred to as “protected statuses or protected characteristics”) in the educational programs or activities Northwestern operates, including but not limited to matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services.

1. Discrimination and Harassment

Discrimination

Discrimination is adverse treatment of an individual based on one or more actual or perceived protected bases or characteristics listed in this policy. Discrimination is a violation of this policy when it results in adverse action or negatively impacts the terms and conditions of an individual's employment or education or denies or limits participation in programs, services, or activities, except as permitted or required by law. Some examples of discrimination include:

- Not allowing a student to join or participate in a student organization based upon their religious belief or because they wear symbols or styles of dress associated with their religion.
- Refusing to allow a student or employee to participate in a program, class, or meeting based upon their national origin.
- Not offering a job to a person based on their age.
- Not recommending a person for promotion based on their gender identity.

Harassment

Prohibited harassment is unwelcome verbal, physical, written, or visual conduct or conduct using technology based on an actual or perceived protected characteristic that when based on the totality of circumstances is subjectively and objectively offensive and so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the education program or activity or has the purpose or effect of creating an academic or working environment that a reasonable person would consider to be intimidating, hostile, or offensive.

In determining whether the conduct is sufficiently severe or pervasive so as to meet the above standards, NU-OCR examines the context, nature, scope, frequency, duration, and location of incidents, as well as the relationships of the persons involved. A person's subjective belief that behavior is intimidating, hostile, or offensive does not make that behavior prohibited harassment under this Policy. The behavior must create a hostile environment and/or substantially interfere with access to a University program or activity from an objective perspective.

Examples of harassing conduct that may create a hostile environment include:

- Verbal abuse or use of racist, anti-Semitic, or anti-Arab slurs or hostile behavior, which could include insulting, teasing, mocking, degrading, or ridiculing another person or group regardless of whether the person is actually a member of the group.
- Defacing an individual's property with hateful symbols, such as a swastika or noose.
- Inappropriate physical contact, comments, questions, advances, jokes, epithets, or demands based on one or more actual or perceived protected characteristics.
- Physical assault, intimidation, or stalking on the basis of one or more actual or perceived protected characteristics.
- Displays or electronic transmission of derogatory, demeaning, or hostile materials related to one or more actual or perceived protected characteristics.

2. Sexual Misconduct

Sexual Assault

Sexual penetration without consent:

Any penetration of the sex organs or anus of another person when consent is not present; any penetration of the mouth of another person with a sex organ when consent is not present; or performing oral sex on another person when consent is not present. This includes penetration or intrusion, however slight, of the sex organs or anus of another person by an object or any part of the body.

Sexual contact without consent:

Knowingly touching or fondling a person's genitals, breasts, buttocks, or anus, or knowingly touching a person with one's own genitals or breasts, when consent is not present. This includes contact done directly or indirectly through clothing, bodily fluids, or with an object. It also includes causing or inducing a person, when consent is not present, to similarly touch or fondle oneself or someone else.

Statutory rape:

Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent under the laws of the state¹ in which the incident occurred. In Illinois, the age of consent is 17 years old. However, if the offender is in a position of authority or trust over the victim, the age of consent is 18.

Incest:

Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Sexual Exploitation:

Taking sexual advantage of another person or violating the sexual privacy of another when consent is not present. This includes, but is not limited to, the following actions (including when they are done via electronic means, methods, or devices):

- Sexual voyeurism or permitting others to witness, listen to, or observe the sexual or intimate activity of another person without that person's consent.
- Indecent or lewd exposure or inducing others to expose themselves when consent is not present.²
- Recording (through video or audio) any person engaged in sexual or intimate activity in a private space without that person's consent.
- Distributing sexual information, images, or recordings about another person without that person's consent.

1. For incidents that occur outside of the U.S. (e.g, study abroad programs), Illinois law will apply in determining a violation of this policy.

2. Breast-feeding a child is not indecent.

- Recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining another person for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- Inducing incapacitation in another person for the purpose of engaging in sexual conduct with someone who lacks capacity to consent, regardless of whether prohibited sexual conduct actually occurs.

Dating/Domestic Violence

Dating violence is any violence (including but not limited to emotional, physical, sexual, and financial abuse or threat of abuse) between two people who are or have been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. The existence of such a relationship will depend on the length and type of the relationship and the frequency of interactions between the persons involved.

Domestic violence is violence between two people who are or have been in an intimate or romantic relationship, who share a child in common, or who live or have lived together as spouses or intimate partners. Violence against any person by that person's caretaker or guardian (such as abuse against an elderly, young, or disabled person) may also be considered domestic violence. Examples of domestic violence include but are not limited to physical, emotional, sexual, technological, and economic abuse or threat of abuse.

Stalking

Knowingly engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that one knows or should know would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety (or the safety of a third party) or suffer substantial emotional distress. "Substantial emotional distress" means significant mental suffering, anxiety, or alarm.

Conduct that can amount to stalking may include two or more actions directed at another person, whether done directly, indirectly, through others, via devices, or via any other methods or means (specifically including electronic means e.g., cyberstalking), including but not limited to:

- Following a person.
- Being or remaining in close proximity to a person.
- Entering or remaining on or near a person's property, residence, or place of employment.
- Monitoring, observing, or conducting surveillance of a person.
- Threatening (directly or indirectly) a person.
- Communicating to a person.
- Giving gifts or objects to, or leaving items for, a person.
- Interfering with or damaging a person's property (including pets).
- Engaging in other unwelcome contact.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature where:

- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of a person's employment, academic standing, or participation in any University program and/or activity, or is used as the basis for University decisions affecting the individual (often referred to as "quid pro quo" harassment); or

The conduct has the purpose or effect of:

- Substantially interfering with, limiting or depriving a member of the community from accessing or participating in the academic or employment environment, and/or substantially interfering with an individual's academic performance or work performance.
- Creating an academic or working environment that a reasonable person would consider to be intimidating, hostile, or offensive.

Examples of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include:

- Pressure for a dating, romantic, or intimate relationship.
- Unwelcome sexual advances.
- Unwelcome touching, kissing, hugging, or massaging.
- Pressure for or forced sexual activity.
- Unnecessary references to parts of the body.
- Sexual innuendoes, gestures, or humor.
- Sexual graffiti, pictures, or posters.

Title IX Sexual Harassment

Conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

Quid Pro Quo Sexual Harassment

An employee of Northwestern conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the University on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

Hostile Environment Sexual Harassment

Unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to Northwestern's Education Program or Activity.

Title IX Sexual Assault

Title IX Sexual Assault as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v). Under 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), the term "sexual assault" means an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Uniform Crime Reporting System includes the following offenses as forcible or nonforcible sex offenses:

Rape:

The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object or instrument, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, or by a sex-related object, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

Criminal Sexual Contact:

The intentional touching of the clothed or unclothed body parts without consent of the victim for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation. The forced touching by the victim of the actor's clothed or unclothed body parts, without consent of the victim for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation. This offense includes instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or incapacity due to temporary or permanent mental or physical impairment or intoxication for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation.

Incest:

Non-forcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Statutory Rape:

Non-forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

Title IX Dating Violence

“Dating violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10). Under 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), the term “dating violence” means violence committed by a person— (A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and (B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (i) The length of the relationship, (ii) The type of relationship, (iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Title IX Domestic Violence

“Domestic violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8). Under 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), the term “domestic violence” includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

Title IX Stalking

“Stalking” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30). Under 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30), the term “stalking” means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to— (A) fear for their safety or the safety of others; or (B) suffer substantial emotional distress.



UNIVERSITY HOUSING POLICIES

UNIVERSITY HOUSING POLICIES

University housing is defined as all residence halls (undergraduate and graduate), residential colleges, and special interest communities managed by Residential Services. As such, all residents are responsible for complying with these policies in addition to the policies outlined in the Housing Contract Terms and Conditions, Student Code of Conduct and all other University policies. Fraternity, Sorority, and Evans Scholars houses must also comply with these policies and procedures as outlined in their individual leases with the University. Residents are responsible for the activities that occur in their room or apartment, regardless of whether they are present or not. When policy violations occur in a room or apartment, the University may follow up with all residents of that room or apartment.

All residents and their guests are expected to comply with all reasonable requests and instructions of all University officials and emergency personnel (e.g., Residential Services staff, Resident Assistants, Graduate Resident Assistants, and Community Service Officers) to ensure the general safety and welfare of students or to follow up on suspected violations of University policies.

Access, Keys, and Wildcards

Students are prohibited from: entering vacated rooms, entering buildings during times when they are closed, entering other restricted areas, or entering and exiting through windows for any purpose except in case of an emergency.

For more information regarding access and keys, please visit the [Residential Services Access & Keys webpage](#).

Facility Use

1. Rooms must be maintained in good sanitary condition and free of any noxious odors. A noxious odor is any aroma of such intensity that it can be detected outside of the room. Any odor may become noxious or offensive when it is too strong.
2. Window screens and/or limiters designed to control how the windows open must be kept intact.
3. All University furnishings and fixtures must remain in the room they are assigned to at all times. Furniture in lounges and common areas must not be removed from the room they are located in.
4. Engaging in physical activities of any kind outside of areas designated for physical activity (e.g., fitness centers) in the residential facilities is prohibited.
5. University housing facilities are restricted areas and may not be used for sale and solicitation of goods and services, for the collection of information, or to gain support for organizations or causes without permission from Residential Services. Students may not operate a business or other commercial enterprise, including those conducted online or via the internet, from their residence hall room or building. Students may not use room/apartment addresses, mail and package center, desk services, phone numbers, data jacks, or wireless internet access for non-residential purposes. Any exception to this policy requires written approval from the Assistant Vice President, Residential Services or designee.
6. Subletting, purchasing, or renting of rooms to another individual outside of the assigned resident is always prohibited (e.g., Airbnb, HomeAway, etc.). This can include the solicitation of room changes for compensation (i.e., cash, gift cards, vouchers, trinkets, etc.).
7. No one is permitted to place materials on, at, or under resident room doors unless the materials are communications from the University or between known acquaintances.
8. Residents may be held accountable for behavior they allow to occur in their room or apartment, even if they are not present.

9. Students are prohibited from any misuse or modification of a room, suite, building common area, and/or lounge in any university housing facility.

At the University's sole discretion, construction may take place near residential units. No adjustment will be made to any residence charges at any time based solely on that construction. For more information regarding flyers and publicity posting in University Housing, please visit the [Residential Services Posting Policy webpage](#).

For more information on building evacuations, residents are encouraged to review the [Environmental Health and Safety Building Evacuation webpage](#).

For more information regarding internet and phone service, please visit the [Residential Services Internet & Phone webpage](#).

Guests

A guest is defined as any person who does not have a contract to live in a given space or who is not an approved additional occupant in graduate housing.

1. Only residents assigned by Northwestern University may reside in their assigned rooms. Residents may not invite or permit any other person to reside in their assigned room or in any other area of university housing.
2. A resident may have overnight guests, limited to one guest per resident at any one time with approval of all roommates/suitemates. Overnight guest privileges are limited to a maximum of three consecutive nights and a total of seven nights per resident per quarter.
3. A resident may host non-overnight guests at any time with approval of all roommates/suitemates. All guests who are not residents of the building must always be escorted by a resident and must be registered with the community service officer when on duty.
4. Residential College/GREEN House/Graduate Housing/Fraternity & Sorority Housing Non-Residents are held responsible for all residential policies while present in the residential facilities. Specifically, non-residents should be aware of the following:
 - a. Non-residents are only allowed to enter the common spaces within the building and are explicitly prohibited from entering the residential areas (i.e., sleeping rooms) of the building unless as the escorted guest of a current resident in that community.

Non-resident members of residential colleges/GREEN House, Kellogg students residing in Graduate Housing, or Fraternity & Sorority Life groups with on-campus houses are Northwestern students who live in a different building on campus or off campus with the ability to participate in programmatic opportunities offered in the community.

- b. Residential College/GREEN House non-resident members apply through the Office of Residential Experience and are approved by Residential College staff and executive board members.

Occupancy

1. Only approved residents may remain in the undergraduate residence halls during break periods. Residents not approved must check out of University housing in the fall quarter by the communicated closing date. In addition, all residents must check out and remove all personal belongings by the communicated closing date of the spring quarter.
2. Residents may not unreasonably refuse to accept a roommate or hinder the University in the assignment of or occupancy by a roommate. If any resident unreasonably refuses to accept a roommate or hinders the University in the assignment of or occupancy by a roommate, the University may, at its discretion, require that resident to be responsible for the total rent for the room.
3. Residents or guests may not occupy or sleep in common areas of university housing.

4. Residents or guests may not occupy or sleep in common areas of university housing.
5. Residents may not host an event in a sleeping room where the number of individuals exceeds double the occupancy of the room.
6. Residents may only be signed to one active housing contract and are not permitted to occupy more than one space in University Housing, this is inclusive of Fraternity, Sorority, or other Special Interest on-campus housing.

Prohibited Items

1. The Evanston housing code (City of Evanston (Ordinance 5-1-3)) prohibits the use or storage in sleeping rooms of any appliances for cooking, preparation, or heating of food or beverages, including but not limited to:
 - Microwaves
 - Hot plates
 - Crock pots
 - Coffee pots (except for machines with self-contained heating elements and auto shut-off feature)
 - Blenders
 - Toaster ovens and toasters
 - Water heaters
 - Rice cookers
 - Self-heating hot pots
2. The following items are also prohibited or restricted:
 - a. Refrigerators (other than those provided by the University in shared common areas) with interiors larger than 3.1 cubic feet are prohibited.
 - b. The following room decorations are prohibited:
 - Any decoration that covers more than 50 percent of the wall or window space (International Fire Code (Section 807.2, Exception 2)); including peel-and-stick wallpaper.
 - Combustible decorations (including but not limited to those made from paper, fabric, wood, and plastics) on or near heat sources such as radiators or light bulbs.
 - Live holiday trees or artificial trees (larger than 18 inches).
 - Dart boards.
 - c. Any method of affixing decorations that puts holes in or marks walls, woodwork, doors, or furnishings is prohibited, including mounting TVs or other items on the walls.
 - d. Hanging or draping items from a window or doorway, from the ceiling, or from exposed pipes of any residence hall is prohibited.
 - Signs or posters in windows or on doors must have the approval of all roommates and are subject to the approval of the University.
 - Students who have religious needs to burn candles should submit an accommodation request via the Non-Disability/Medical Accommodation request form in the Housing Portal.
 - e. Candles, candle warmers, incense, and open flames are prohibited.

- f.** The possession or use of firearms or other weapons of any description and for any purpose is prohibited. Airsoft guns, pellet guns, and other plastic guns/weapons, whether real or fake, are prohibited. Knives that are used for cooking purposes and pocketknives with blades less than three inches are allowed, while all others, including hunting, combat, and switchblades, are prohibited.
- g.** Fireworks, explosives, and incendiary materials are prohibited. Flammable items such as lighter fluid, charcoal, gasoline, and propane cannot be stored in residence halls.
- h.** The installation of air conditioners or possession of space heaters (that have not been provided by Residential Services) by residents is prohibited.
- i.** The building, installation, or use of “lofts,” or any structures used to increase the height, width, or length of the bed—including but not limited to cinder block, wooden platforms, and bed risers or extenders,—is prohibited.
- j.** The use or possession of items containing large amounts of water that could pose a safety and facilities hazard such as aquariums, water beds or inflatables (hot tubs, pools, etc.), washers, and dishwashers are prohibited.
- k.** No pets or animals of any kind (except for documented and approved service and assistance animals) are permitted in university housing at any time for any reason. Students planning to bring their service or assistance animal to reside in university housing must submit an accommodation request and be approved via the University [AccessibleNU housing accommodation request form](#).
 - Any approved animals must follow all guidelines documented in the agreement completed at the time of approval and the Service, Assistance, and Other Animals at Northwestern policy. Owners are responsible for the actions/behaviors of the animal and responsible for ensuring the animal is only present in approved locations.
- l.** Outside furniture (media stand, bookcase, nightstand, etc.) in which the total dimensions of each piece exceed 80 inches is prohibited.
 - Total inches can be calculated by adding the longest width, the longest height, and the longest depth together when fully extended (such as legs or sides).
 - Items causing blockage are prohibited up to 18 inches below a sprinkler head. The potential discharge spray pattern must not be obstructed for the sprinkler head. This applies to both side wall sprinklers and ceiling mount sprinkler heads.
- m.** No cameras or recording devices may be installed in any area of University housing.
- n.** Bicycles and motorized vehicles (bicycles, scooters, mopeds, etc.) may not be stored in any area of a residence hall other than in areas specifically designated for such use.

For more information regarding bunking requests, please visit the [Residential Services Loft Rental & Bunking Requests webpage](#).

For more information regarding accommodations, please visit the [Residential Services Housing & Dining Accommodation Requests webpage](#).

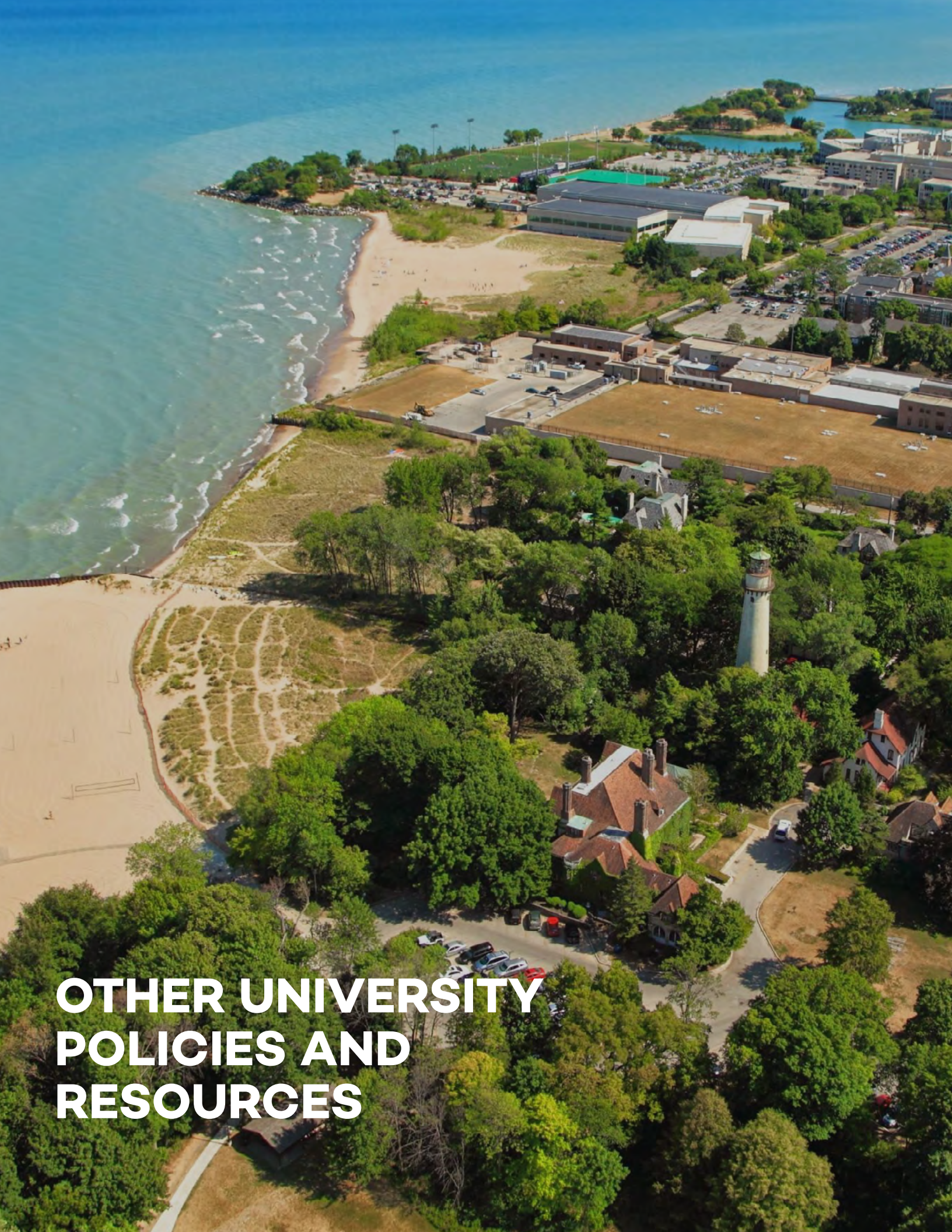
For more information on minimizing fire hazards, residents are encouraged to review the [Environmental Health and Safety Fire Prevention webpage](#).

For more information regarding personal electronic mobility devices (PEMD), such as electric scooters, please see a brief description of the PEMD expectations and a link to the full expectations on [page 55](#).

Quiet Hours and Noise

All residents are expected to be courteous with regard to noise at all times and to respond appropriately to requests for quiet. Quiet hours and courtesy hours are established and enforced according to the following:

- 1. Sound/Excessive Noise:** Use of amplifiers or P.A. systems in the residence halls is prohibited. Playing musical instruments outside of resident's room or designated areas (such space may not be available in all residence halls) is prohibited when the playing disturbs the community.
- 2. Quiet Hours:** Quiet hours identify times when quiet is essential and required. Generally, during quiet hours, any noise that prevents a resident (who is in their room with the door closed) from sleeping or studying is unreasonable. During finals weeks, all residents are expected to comply with 24-hour quiet hours. Quiet hours begin at 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before finals week and end at 5:00 p.m. on the Friday at the end of finals week.
- 3. Courtesy Hours:** All other times are considered courtesy hours. During courtesy hours, residents may ask another resident to lower the volume of noise of their activity if it is disturbing their sleep or studying.
- 4. Enforcing Quiet and Courtesy Hours:** Residents are expected to talk directly with people causing noise and respectfully ask them to reduce the noise. If a resident does not honor a reasonable request to reduce the noise, a Resident Assistant/Graduate Resident Assistant should be contacted for assistance.



OTHER UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

OTHER UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

The other policies and resources outlined in this section govern additional aspects of student life at Northwestern. While not a comprehensive list, this section outlines the primary policies and resources for navigating the University.



Certain policies, as marked with a clipboard icon to the various policies' left, carry the potential for conduct action. Violations of these policies may be resolved through the Office of Community Standards and the University Hearing and Appeals System or other designated resolution procedures.

Administrative Obligations

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), all students have certain rights with regard to their access to personal educational records. Northwestern's privacy policy is available at the [Office of the Registrar's website](#).

Financial Obligations

The Office of Student Finance is responsible for billing and collection of tuition, fees, and room and board charges. Northwestern students are responsible for fulfilling their financial obligations to the University. Complete financial regulations for Northwestern students can be found on the [Student Finance website](#).



Identification Cards (Wildcard)

The University identification card (Wildcard) identifies registered students and should be carried at all times. The Wildcard is the property of the University and is not transferable; its privileges may be canceled at any time if the card is misused. Students are required to surrender their Wildcard to University officials upon request. [Read more about Wildcard policies](#).

The student's ID number is encoded on the card and indicates whether the student is currently registered and if the card is valid. The Wildcard Advantage program provides access to secured on-campus buildings, food services, parking, recreation facilities, sporting events, student functions, University Shuttles, residence halls (if applicable), and library services. The WildCard Advantage program is managed by Procurement and Payment Services. This program offers discounts to Wildcard ID members of the Northwestern University community.

For general information, including the Wildcard offices' contact information and locations, please visit [the WildCard webpage](#).

Policies on Student Immigration Status

International students agree to maintain and follow the regulations of their F-1 or J-1 non-immigrant status. They should refer to [the Office of International Student and Scholar Services](#) in order to remain in compliance with U.S. immigration regulations, which govern their academic study, travel, and employment in the United States.



Library Materials and Services

Students must observe policies on the use of library facilities, computers, and materials. These policies apply to all libraries on the Evanston campus and in general to those on the Chicago campus. Additional policies for Chicago campus library locations can be found on the websites for the Galter Health and Pritzker Law libraries.

The use of computers and digital library resources is subject to the University policies noted in the Information Technology policy ([see page 22](#)), especially in matters of copyright, privacy, and network security.

Theft, mutilation, graffiti, vandalism, or any other actions that render books, periodicals, or other library materials or facilities inaccessible or unfit for use will be referred to the Office of Community Standards and may also lead to police investigation and prosecution.

See the Northwestern Libraries website for more information. Any direct inquiries may be sent to library@northwestern.edu.

Health and Safety

Leave of Absence Policies for Health-Related Reasons

Northwestern students must engage fully and consistently in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for adhering to class attendance policies, completing coursework in accordance with established deadlines, and participating respectfully and collaboratively in all learning environments. When medical or mental health conditions interfere with a student's ability to fully participate, students can speak with their academic advisers about various options for reducing course load or taking a medical leave of absence. AccessibleNU is also available to coordinate academic accommodations for students with registered disabilities.

Medical Leave of Absence Protocol

The purpose of a voluntary medical leave of absence (MLOA) is to provide students with time away from campus for treatment of a physical or mental health condition that impairs a student's ability to function safely and successfully as a member of the Northwestern community. Students can apply for a MLOA up to the eighth week of the quarter in which the student wishes to take a leave. During a voluntary MLOA, the student will be assigned an Assistant Dean from Student Assistance and Support Services (SASS) to support them during both the leave and return process.

International students receiving treatment may be able to maintain legal status and remain in the United States while on MLOA. International students should contact OISS to discuss any immigration-related issues related to a MLOA.

A MLOA may not be used to circumvent or supplant the procedures of the student conduct or academic integrity processes. If a suspension and a MLOA occur simultaneously, the suspension and leave will be served consecutively and not during the same academic period.

All MLOAs for undergraduate students and students in The Graduate School and master's degree programs in the School of Communication, Medill, and McCormick are processed in the Dean of Students Office. These students can begin the process on the [Student Assistance and Support Services website](#). Students in other programs should speak to the deans in their schools about medical leave options.

Involuntary Leave of Absence

The University may consider placing a student on an interim Involuntary Leave of Absence (ILOA) for the following reasons:

- The student has engaged or threatened to engage in behavior that poses a significant risk to the health or safety to others.
- The student is unable or unwilling to carry out substantial self-care obligations and poses a significant risk to their own safety.
- The student has engaged or threatened to engage in behavior that poses a significant disruption to the programs, services, or activities of the University.

In making a determination, the University will conduct an individualized risk assessment using current medical knowledge and the best available objective evidence and will consider whether reasonable accommodations are available to reduce or eliminate the risk. To the extent practicable, students will be given the option to take a voluntary leave of absence before a decision is made with respect to mandating ILOA.

During an involuntary leave of absence, the student will be assigned an Assistant Dean from Student Assistance and Support Services (SASS) to support the student in meeting their individualized requirements for a return from leave. Students on an involuntary leave of absence may be eligible for tuition refunds for the quarter in which they are placed on leave. For more information, please review the full [involuntary leave of absence policy](#).

Post-Hospitalization Process

Due to the rigor of the Northwestern curriculum and the rapid pace of the quarter system, any hospitalization (however brief) creates complex challenges for students. In partnership with Northwestern Medicine Student Health Service, the Student Assistance and Support Services (SASS) team works with hospitalized students to help navigate a successful return to campus life. Health and well-being are prioritized while supporting a plan for persistence to completion of degree. Options may include return to the full quarter of enrollment, reduction of course load for a treatment program, or medical leave of absence, depending on the recommended treatment course.

Upon discharge from the hospital, students will be asked to meet with a SASS team member and provide medical documentation about their recommended course of treatment and recovery. Together the SASS team member and student will discuss options.

Occasionally, a student is unable to maintain enrollment at Northwestern due to the seriousness of the health condition they are navigating. These decisions are always made on an individualized basis; they are common in cases requiring longer or partial hospitalizations or referrals to intensive outpatient treatment programs and may be implemented through the leave of absence policies.

Behavioral Consultation Team

The Behavioral Consultation Team (BCT) is a multidisciplinary team comprised of representatives from departments across the University, including Northwestern Police, Dean of Students Office, Office of Human Resources, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance, Office of the Provost, and Office of General Counsel, that is responsible for assessing threatening, significantly disruptive, or other concerning behavior, based upon referrals it receives from the campus community as well as additional information gathered by members of the team. BCT may develop and implement intervention and management strategies to reduce a potential risk or threat.

For additional information on BCT, including a definition of Behavioral Threat Assessment, how BCT engages in violence prevention, examples of concerning behavior, and how to report concerning information, please see the [Northwestern University BCT Policy](#) and [BCT Website](#).

Crime and Safety Information

Northwestern's Department of Safety and Security releases an Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (ASFSR) containing specific information on campus crime, safety and security policies, and fire safety for all Northwestern University campuses. This document is created in line with requirements outlined in the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act (Clery Act). The report also outlines the University policy relative to emergency notifications for our community.

Loss of Student Property

The University bears no responsibility for the loss of, theft of, or damage to personal property of students. Students are encouraged to purchase insurance that will cover their personal property while the student is attending Northwestern. Any illicit/unlawful/felonious loss, theft, or damage to personal property should be promptly reported to the Northwestern Police Department.

Northwestern Police Department

The Northwestern Police Department provides service to both the Evanston and Chicago campuses 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The police department is a full-service agency, employing state-certified police officers and dispatchers. University police officers have the same authority as other police officers throughout the state of Illinois while operating within their designated jurisdiction. In addition to exercising police authority, University police officers also serve as University officials and assist in assuring compliance with University policies, with the expectation to report all alleged violations to the appropriate administrative office(s). Community Service Officers (CSOs) are part of the University's Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) department and support campus safety and security functions in coordination with the police department.

Community members are encouraged to direct questions, comments, or other feedback regarding the Northwestern Police Department via phone at 847-491-3456 or [via the web](#).



Off-Campus Noise

Students are expected to be responsible neighbors and abide by local noise ordinances in the municipalities and cities in which they reside or visit. Such city ordinances often limit the time, volume, and type of noise that is allowed within city limits (Evanston ordinances on noise and related subjects are found in [Title 9, Chapter 5, of the Evanston City Code](#)).

When the University receives a report of a complaint of loud, unnecessary, or unusual noise from a student-occupied residence, or a report that a student has been cited for a violation of the noise ordinance, the University may respond with student conduct action. All students living in an off-campus residence, not just the student who is cited, may be required to meet with a University official to resolve the matter.

Respect NU—Bias Incidents

At Northwestern, we are committed to maintaining an open and supportive environment, free of acts of bias, hate, discrimination, and harassment that impede access to educational programs, activities, or opportunities, or diminish the dignity of any member of the University community.

Northwestern prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ethnicity, caste, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship status, veteran status, genetic information, reproductive health decision making, height, weight, or any other classification protected by law (referred to as “protected statuses” or “protected characteristics”) in the educational programs or activities Northwestern operates, including but not limited to matters of admission, employment, housing, or services.

The Bias Incident Response system and team (BIRT) is an informal Northwestern system for students to report identity-based concerns that arise when interacting with a member of the Northwestern community. BIRT was created in response to feedback students gave during community forums after racial incidents that occurred in 2012. A bias incident is an act of conduct, speech, or expression to which a bias motive related to the incident appears as a potential contributing factor. Bias Incident Reports are reviewed by the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance (NU-OCR) and BIRT. NU-OCR reviews a bias report to determine whether the reported conduct may fall under the University's Policy on Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct or Title IX Policy.

If the reported conduct could constitute discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct, NU-OCR will respond and provide support, resources, and resolution options to the impacted individual. If the reported incident would not fall within the NU-OCR policies, one of the BIRT members will support the student, connect them with the appropriate resources, and follow up with them as appropriate, which can include engaging with other University offices.

For information on reporting, individuals can use the [Hate and Bias Report Form](#).



Service, Assistance, and Other Animals

Students are encouraged to review the [University policy on Service, Assistance, and Other Animals](#).

Service Animal: Students planning to bring their service dog to reside in a campus residence hall should notify AccessibleNU (ANU) by completing the online application form through [ANU's website](#). Notification of service dogs in residential halls does not require documentation of a disability, rather students are asked to confirm that the service dog is required because of a disability and provide information regarding the work or task that the dog has been trained to perform. Student employees (e.g. resident assistant, etc.) should notify the [Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance](#).

Assistance/Emotional Support Animals: Students with disabilities may request use of an assistance animal as part of ANU's housing accommodation determination process. For more information on how to request an accommodation, please review the ANU website. Student employees (e.g. resident assistant, etc.) may request use of an assistance animal through the workplace accommodation determination process with the [Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance](#).

Civility, Mutual Respect, and Unacceptability of Violence on Campus

As members of the Northwestern community, its faculty, staff, and students are expected to deal with each other with respect and consideration. Each community member is expected to treat other community members with civility and respect, recognizing that disagreement and informed debate are valued in an academic community. [Read the entirety of the civility policy](#).

Student Life and Organizations



Athletic Facilities Policies of Conduct

The use of tobacco, electronic smoking devices, and other nicotine delivery systems is prohibited in all Northwestern athletic facilities regardless of whether there is a scheduled University athletic event.

At and during scheduled Northwestern athletic events, students are prohibited from engaging in any conduct which may be illegal, disruptive, or otherwise violates Northwestern policies. Such activities may include, without limitation, throwing or projecting objects of any kind; wearing inappropriate, inflammatory, or offensive clothing that violates Northwestern discrimination or harassment policies; using disruptive or abusive language or gestures; inappropriate verbal or non-verbal behavior directed at participants; distracting other patrons or interfering with the progress of any athletic event by the use of cameras, stadium horns, radios, miscellaneous items (e.g., banners, signs, placards, etc.); or entering the floor, field, or playing surface of any athletic facility before, during, or after an athletic event without prior approval. Any student who violates this Section may be immediately ejected from an athletic event and may be subject to corrective actions as determined by the Office of Community Standards and legal action according to the nature of the violation.



Alcohol at Events for Undergraduate Students

With respect to all events for undergraduate students at which alcohol will be present, the following apply:

1. The possession, use and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages by students must at all times be in compliance with applicable local ordinances, laws of the State of Illinois, and the policies of Northwestern University, including the Student Handbook. All of these prohibit the use or possession of alcohol by individuals under the age of 21.
2. Alcohol may not be purchased using University funds (including student group funds held by the Student Organization Finance Office) for undergraduate student events. In no case shall University funds be used for the purchase of alcohol with any intent to be served to those under the age of 21.
3. All events with alcohol at which undergraduate students are present must follow the requirements of section 6, parts 6.f-6.s. Groups of students, and student organizations planning such events should attend to those requirements in consultation with their advisors and/or Student Affairs staff to promote safety, health, and well-being for participants.
4. Violations are grounds for conduct action under Northwestern's Student Code of Conduct.

The remainder of this Policy describes a required approval process for certain events: events planned or hosted by groups of students or student organizations in designated locations, at which alcohol is available for undergraduate student participants over the age of 21. These are hereinafter referred to as "student events with alcohol."

1. Student events with alcohol occurring at the following locations must seek approval:
 - a. Off-campus events occurring at a third-party venue (a private home is not such a venue);
 - b. On-campus group housing (includes fraternity and sorority houses but not residence halls, residential colleges, or special interest housing);
 - c. On-campus in any other reservable University space.
2. The term "groups of students or student organizations" includes registered student organizations (RSOs), recognized fraternity and sorority chapters, and Northwestern athletic or intramural teams. It also includes unofficial organizations acting in a similar manner to any of the above. The "Groups and Recognized Student Organizations" provisions of the University Hearing and Appeals System will be used to determine whether an event's organizers constitute a group, and that group's responsibility for an event with alcohol under this Policy.
3. Student events with alcohol at the designated locations must be approved by the Vice President of Student Affairs or their designee, without respect to the source of payment for the event's venue or services.
 - a. Where University funds are to be used for the event's venue or services, failure to secure approval will result in a denial of all payment and contractual requests submitted, and may result in the denial of future event requests by the student organization.
 - b. Where a group of students or a student organization self-pays for an event's venue or services, failure to secure approval may result in the denial of present and future event requests by the group of students or the student organization.
 - c. Where an event proceeds without approval, or after notice of non-approval, the student organization or organizers may be referred to the Office of Community Standards for conduct action under the Student Handbook.
4. Approval decisions for a student event with alcohol will be based on review of all necessary contracts including use of the Northwestern Events with Alcohol Rider, as well as risk management plan developed by the student organizers which emphasizes health, safety, wellness, and adherence to the requirements of section 6, below. [Review the Rider and Risk Management template, and other tools for planning an event with alcohol.](#)

5. Exceptions to this policy may be granted for religious observance in accordance with Illinois state law. Event planners must submit a risk management plan, and then submit the documented need for an exception to the Assistant Vice President of Campus Inclusion & Community for approval in consultation with the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance.
6. All approved student events with alcohol must comply with all applicable University policies set forth in the Student Handbook as well as the requirements of this section. The requirements have been abbreviated here. [Read the complete version of these policies, including important components applying to all undergraduate gatherings with alcohol.](#)

An individual, group, or organization may be held responsible for the actions and behaviors of guests; groups and organizations may be held responsible for the actions of individual members. Failure to follow this policy will result in the cancellation of the planned event, and may affect eligibility to host future events.

Student Affairs reserves the right to approve or disapprove events based on the University's academic and events calendar, volume of similar events on the same day, and volume of similar events in proximity to each other. Student Affairs also reserves the right to approve or disapprove events based on City of Evanston requirements for the number of liquor licenses that can be issued to any one sales address or applicant (see the [City of Evanston One-Day Liquor License Application](#)).



FSL Recruitment for First-Year Students

Northwestern University restricts first-year students from joining the Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, or Panhellenic Association member groups until winter quarter. During fall quarter no fraternity or sorority may offer an invitation of membership to any first-year student formally or informally (i.e., promising, alluding to, or offering a guarantee of membership to an organization in the winter in the event they cease exploring all possible affinity options). A first-year student may accept an invitation of membership from a chapter only after the start of winter quarter. Upperclass students and transfer students are permitted to participate in fall, winter, or spring quarter informal or formal recruitment programs sponsored by the chapters and/or governing councils. Any recruitment or new member/pledge activity must be substance-free, inclusive of alcohol.

In the fall quarter during Wildcat Welcome (New Student Week) and during any admitted student events in the Winter or Spring, first-year students or incoming or prospective first-year students may not attend an event sponsored by an individual fraternity or sorority chapter. Additionally, during Wildcat Welcome, first-year students may not visit a fraternity or sorority house except to visit a close relative, carry out official University business, or meet obligations of employment. Starting on the first day of classes, first-year students are permitted to attend chapter-sponsored events and enter chapter houses unless University policy violations are occurring or their presence is otherwise prohibited under the policies governing fraternity and sorority chapters. Both first-year students and chapters are subject to discipline for violating this policy. Check with Fraternity and Sorority Life for additional policies and procedures.



Gambling

Illinois law and University policy prohibit gambling in any form, including but not limited to the sponsoring of lotteries, and the sale of lottery tickets, except lotteries and raffles conducted in accordance with state and local law. It is also Northwestern University policy that any event that suggests University endorsement of gambling is not permissible. Students and student groups involved in gambling-related incidents may face legal and disciplinary actions.

Gambling includes any game of chance or skill played for money or any other thing of value, but it may be permissible to offer prizes, awards, or other compensation to the actual contestants in any bona fide contest for the determination of skill. Prohibited activities include blackjack,

poker, euchre, any other card game, craps, roulette, and other comparable games when these games are played for money or any other thing of value, including but not limited to cash or prizes. Events featuring bona fide games of skill, such as darts or billiards, at which prizes are awarded may be permissible, but betting will not be allowed. Any requests for events at which games of skill will be played must be approved by Campus Life or other designated University officials.

Non-Enrolled Students

In regular academic terms as defined by a student's program (typically fall, winter, and spring) students must be enrolled to be eligible for privileges afforded to students. Various circumstances may lead to breaks in study such as student choice, academic or disciplinary suspension, dismissal, failure to register in a timely manner, unresolved registration holds, medical leave of absence, or circumstances beyond the student's control. Regardless of the reason for the period of non-enrollment, students not registered for courses (including graduate continuation and research) are not permitted to live in University housing, use University facilities and services without permission, maintain or initiate student employment, and/or participate in any Northwestern-sponsored extra-curricular activity, including registered student group membership or leadership in ways that are not also open to the general public. Students also must adhere to academic policies of their individual school, college, and department, and any other conditions required by the University during such a break in study. Students who believe they have a need to access campus resources while not enrolled may contact the Dean of Students Office for consideration of an exception.



Student Organizations

Student organizations must be registered and approved annually via 'Cats on Campus through SOA's annual registration process. All Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) are also responsible for maintaining an accurate roster, including their advisor and the students involved, when hosting events for the Northwestern community, and conducting any sponsored activities. For a complete set of policies, applications, and information on hosting any type of event for the Northwestern community and conducting any sponsored activities, go to the Office of Campus Life – Student Organizations & Activities on the third floor of Norris University Center, or [online](#), or to the office that is responsible for advising the particular group (e.g., Fraternity and Sorority Life, Residential College Office, Residential Services, Multicultural Student Affairs, Religious & Spiritual Life, Competitive Sports or the appropriate academic department).

The recruitment of first-year students is not allowed until the first day of classes in the fall; to apply for an exemption, your group must contact Student Organizations & Activities.

In the spirit of an engaged community, students engaged in a registered student organization must be enrolled in a credit-bearing course; see "Non-Enrolled Students" (see above).



Crowdfunding: RSOs are not authorized to participate in third-party crowdfunding platforms. Students may contact SOFO for more information. Northwestern hosts its own crowdfunding platform, CATalyzer, managed by staff representing Alumni Relations & Development. For more information, including how to apply, [visit this site](#). If a group or individual chooses to use another crowdfunding tool, students must:

- Review the terms and conditions of the agreement, including tax issues.
- Use individual name or the name of your group or organization (not Northwestern University).
- Identify role at Northwestern but clearly state that the project is separate from Northwestern Student Code of Conduct and Other University Policies and Resources.
- Not use any official Northwestern University images for marketing.
- Not make any statements about charitable contributions to Northwestern University.



Fiscal Responsibility, Contracts, Business Practices: RSOs, through their affiliation with Northwestern University, must meet requirements that include restrictions and procedures governing fiscal responsibility and the use of University monies (including the use of SOFO, SAFC, and other University funds, accounts, and financial systems), making and executing contracts (including restrictions on who may sign contracts), and business dealings (including conflicts of interest). These policies are in place to assist student organizations in maintaining fiscally sound and ethical practices and to comply with University policies. Many of these policies also include administrative actions and penalties that may be imposed in the event of a breach.

The [Student Organization Finance Office \(SOFO\) website](#) contains the most comprehensive outline of the guidelines, practices, and policies governing the fiscal and business practices of student organizations.

Study Abroad

Before students may be approved to study abroad for credit at Northwestern, they must — in addition to all other requirements — demonstrate emotional stability and maturity, indicating the ability to lead a stable, responsible, and healthy life abroad as a representative of Northwestern and the United States. To make thorough assessments, the Global Learning Office consults with the Division of Student Affairs to determine whether applicants have committed any disciplinary or housing violations and to ascertain the circumstances surrounding any such violations. This information is used in determining a student's suitability for study abroad and may also be shared with the program to which that student applies. Students who have serious or repeated disciplinary and/or academic violations may not be permitted to study abroad. A student who is placed on disciplinary probation that extends into the program's term will not be permitted to study abroad. In some cases, students denied access to study abroad due to disciplinary probation may have the opportunity to appeal.

All students studying abroad for credit must also adhere to Northwestern University policies, as explained in this Student Handbook. Students studying abroad on any program, including programs administered by Northwestern and those administered by outside institutions, who violate Northwestern policies may be subject to further disciplinary action upon returning to Northwestern. The onsite resident director, program administrator, or Northwestern University may require the withdrawal of any student whose conduct or academic standing warrants such a step. Furthermore, Northwestern reserves the right to deny credit to students who do not complete their study abroad programs on site, whether they were dismissed from the program or left voluntarily.



Trademark Licensing Policy

Northwestern University owns and controls its name(s) and other marks, logos, insignias, seals, designs, and symbols (hereafter, "marks" or "trademarks") that have become associated with the University. For more information and guidance on permissible use and restrictions on the use of the University's names and marks, please visit the [licensing policy](#).

A license is required for any individual, organization, or company wishing to reproduce Northwestern University's name and/or marks for a commercial or non-commercial purpose. Students seeking to use Northwestern's name and/or marks may contact Student Organizations & Activities (SOA) in Campus Life for guidance on making requests to do so. Below is general guidance on what will and will not be approved.

Only currently registered student organizations (RSOs) are eligible to use Northwestern University's name and/or marks. RSOs may use "at Northwestern" or "at Northwestern University" in the organization's name and/or branding materials without requesting prior

approval from the University (e.g., “The XYZ Organization at Northwestern” or “The XYZ Organization at Northwestern University”). RSOs seeking to use “Northwestern XYZ Organization,” “The Northwestern University XYZ Organization,” or “Wildcat XYZ Organization” and/or other University marks must request prior approval through SOA.

Individual students, groups of students, and/or any other student organizations that are not currently registered as RSOs at Northwestern are prohibited from using Northwestern University’s name and/or marks in any form.

Technology and Communication

Addresses and Phone Numbers

It is the responsibility of the student to keep the University informed of up-to-date permanent address, local address, and telephone information, as well as emergency contact information. All changes should be reported promptly through the Profile tile in CAESAR. Changes to parent addresses must be reported to the Office of the Registrar. Instructions can be found on the [Office of the Registrar website](#).



Information Technology Obligations

The Northwestern University Information Technology office (NUIT) is responsible for providing an effective, comprehensive, and secure technology infrastructure that delivers high-quality and sustainable information technology services in support of the University’s mission. In support of these responsibilities, NUIT has set policy expectations that all members of the University community must abide. Find the link for a full listing, including the [Appropriate Use of Electronic Resources policy, at IT Policies, Standards, and Guidelines](#).



Drones (Unmanned Aircraft Systems)

All operations of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly known as drones, either (i) on, in, or above University property or (ii) in any location, when conducted on behalf of Northwestern, must follow the procedures set forth in the [Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program](#).



Email Notification

Email is a valid mechanism for official communication with students at Northwestern University. The University has the right to send official communications to students by email. The University has the right to expect that students will receive and read email in a timely fashion. All students will be assigned an official University email address, and all official University communications will be sent to that address to ensure such communications reach the intended recipient. More information on the expectations for the official University email addresses can be found in the [Electronic Communications Standard](#).

Faculty may also use a student’s official University email address for communicating with any student registered in their classes. For the University’s full email policy, including University expectations and University Policies regarding use of email, course-related use of email, and expectations regarding students forwarding email, please visit [this site](#).



Patents & Inventions

The University’s [Patent and Invention Policy](#) applies to all members of the University community, including students. Acceptance of this policy is a condition of enrollment. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Innovation and New Ventures Office at 847-467-2097 or invo@northwestern.edu.



Copyrighted Videos and Materials, including Public Showings

The Federal Copyright Act and the Digital Millenium Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code) governs how copyrighted materials, such as games, movies and television shows, may be acquired or used. Neither the rental nor the purchase of media, including but not limited to DVDs or streaming services (such as Netflix, Disney+, etc.), carries with it the right to show the video outside the privacy of home, regardless of the number of people in the room or the cost of

entry. A Public Performance Site License is a site-based license that allows entertainment produced for “Home Use Only” to be exhibited in a specific public setting.

Public showing of copyrighted material without the appropriate license is prohibited by University policy and may result in disciplinary action. For questions regarding what constitutes a legal showing on campus or for further details on how to obtain a license to share media, see [Campus Movie Guidelines](#), or contact an advisor in SOA, or an appropriate Residential Services official.

Additionally, downloading copyrighted movies, television shows, or games from sources without a valid license (e.g. Bittorent) is a violation of Northwestern’s Appropriate Use of Electronics Resources Policy.

Transportation

Bicycles

Registration serves as a deterrent to theft and aids in the recovery of stolen bicycles. Bicycle registrations are free and must be submitted online as detailed on the [bicycle registration and locks website](#). Current Northwestern students who register their bike are eligible to receive a free helmet and light.

Biking in Evanston

There are more than 2.5 miles of bicycle paths on the Evanston campus ([see map](#)).

- For information specific to bike storage, visit the [Bike Storage website](#).

Motor Vehicles

Policies regarding the possession, operation, and parking of motor vehicles on the Evanston campus are available on the [Transportation & Parking webpage](#).



Personal Electronic Mobility Devices

Personal electronic mobility devices (PEMDs) include devices such as electric scooters and electric bicycles, but not electric/motorized wheelchairs. Because substantial fire risk is associated with improper charging of the lithium-ion batteries contained in these devices and further safety risk occurs when they are operated and/or stored incorrectly. PEMDs may not be operated, charged, or stored in academic, administrative, or residential campus buildings. These devices must be parked outside on a designated rack. If found stored or charging in violation of policy, these devices are subject to immediate removal and relocation. For more information regarding policies and resources related to active transportation on campus, visit the [Facilities Bikes, Scooters, and Active Transportation website](#).

Safe Ride

Safe Ride is a safety service provided to members of the Northwestern community as a free alternative to walking alone after dark when you feel unsafe. Safe Ride operates from 7:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m., seven days a week during the fall, winter, and spring quarters when classes are in session. Visit the [Safe Ride website](#).

Shuttle Services

Northwestern operates several shuttle routes for students on the Evanston and Chicago campuses. A valid Wildcard is required to ride the shuttles. Route and schedule information are available on the [Campus Shuttle Routes webpage](#). Students can track real-time arrival and departure times through the [TripShot tracking app](#).

A close-up photograph of a dense field of purple and blue flowers, likely hyacinths, with a large white letter 'N' overlaid in the center. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing deep purple and others a lighter blue. The background is a soft, out-of-focus expanse of similar flowers, creating a sense of depth. The lighting is bright, highlighting the textures of the petals and the vibrant colors of the blossoms.

N