

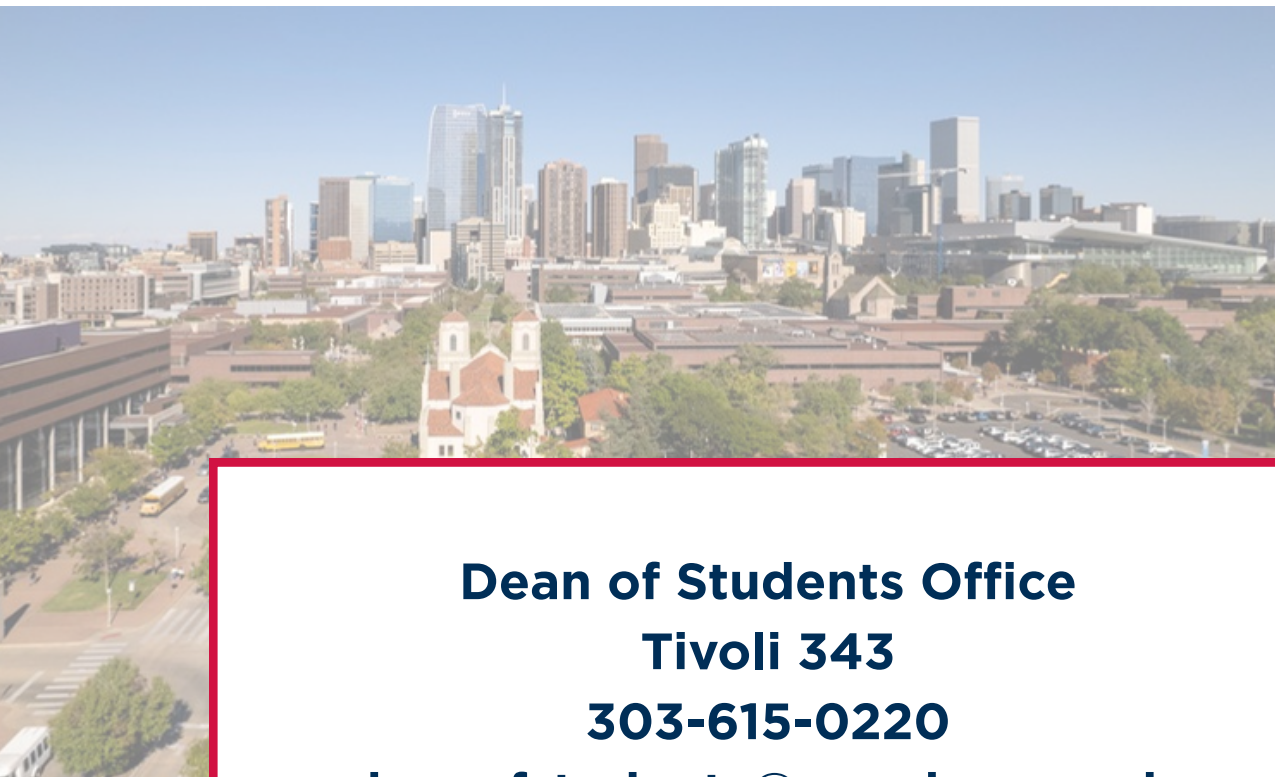


METROPOLITAN
STATE UNIVERSITY
OF DENVER

2026-2028

Student Code of Conduct





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**For a more accessible version of
the Student Code of Conduct,
please contact the Dean of
Students Office.**

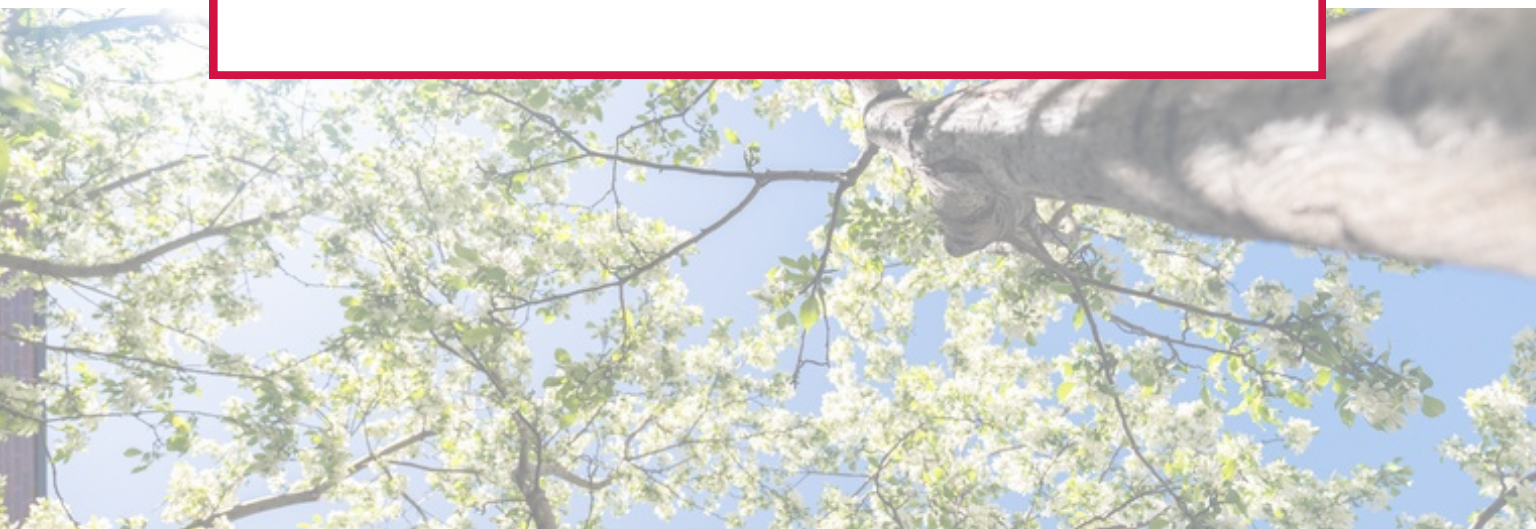


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Article I. Introduction

Section A. The Student Code of Conduct

As part of the Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver) community, every individual on campus plays a role in keeping campus safe, friendly, inclusive, and engaging. The Student Code of Conduct below serves as a guiding document for all students. It identifies behaviors that may disrupt, harm, or negatively impact the campus learning community. All campus community members must work to maintain an environment where students can learn, grow, and develop. The Student Code of Conduct provides a set of standards and guidelines for MSU Denver students to aspire to and uphold.

Section B. Document Utilization

This document can be read from start to finish to fully understand the entirety of the Student Code of Conduct and how it is implemented on campus. Students alleged to have violated a component of the Student Code of Conduct should review the applicable Conduct Process and Appeals procedures outlined in this document. This document guides the process related to alleged Student Code of Conduct violations and is intended to provide students with all the information necessary to engage thoughtfully in the process.

Section C. Purpose

The Student Code of Conduct outlines behavioral and academic conduct standards for students during their time at MSU Denver. This document describes the structures used to respond to conflict, as well as harmful and prohibited student behaviors, when students are involved. The Student Code of Conduct's purpose is to keep campus safe, encourage accountability and resolution for harmful or prohibited behaviors, and help ensure all students can thrive in an inclusive environment. The Student Code of Conduct outlines student responsibilities, the Conduct Process, and related procedures.

Section D. Values

The Student Code of Conduct is influenced by MSU Denver's CADRE Values, detailed below:

1. **Community**

We are a student-centered, supportive University dedicated to one another's success and well-being and our campus' connections to the world around us. The Student Code of Conduct ensures a shared understanding of what it means to be a MSU Denver community and highlights behaviors that may negatively impact said community.

2. **Access**

We break down barriers to a college degree and ensure educational accessibility for all students.

The Student Code of Conduct ensures that all students can equitably access and participate in MSU Denver's academic and community life.

3. **Diversity**

We create and sustain an equitable and inclusive culture, woven into the fabric of our University, in which all community members are valued and belong.

The Student Code of Conduct highlights the commitment to working with students in a restorative, and not punitive, way. This means taking into account the unique circumstances of each incident and each student's needs.

4. **Respect**

We foster a climate of trust that encourages and prepares us to engage one another with open minds, open dialogue and free expression.

The Student Code of Conduct upholds students' legal due process, encourages students to share their perspectives, and takes into account individual needs when deciding outcomes.

5. **Excellence**

We are committed to world-class scholarship, innovative learning environments and exceptional services that support faculty, staff and students.

The Student Code of Conduct requires that the Dean of Students Office administrators are timely, thorough, and responsive to students who are going through the process.

Section E. Philosophy

The Conduct Process at MSU Denver is not intended to be strictly punitive. The Dean of Students Office administers this process through a restorative lens, which focuses on impact, accountability, and the repair of harm. Students may be held accountable through outcomes, which can include status changes and educational measures, that promote reflection and growth. The Dean of Students Office leads this process with students, faculty, and staff, guided by respect, equity, and care. Rooted in a foundation of care, the Conduct Process strives to support growth and community accountability by:

1. Promoting reflection on the impact of behavior on others.
2. Encouraging active participation in the Conduct Process.
3. Supporting the development of community belonging and wellbeing.
4. Recognizing that these situations often occur within complex contexts.
5. While the Dean of Students Office facilitates the response to student conduct concerns, it is the shared responsibility of all MSU Denver community members to engage openly and with the intent to find a path toward resolution.

Section F. Learning Outcomes

As a result of engaging with the student Conduct Process, students will:

1. Be able to name, describe, and be accountable for the impact of their actions on themselves, others, and the larger MSU Denver community.
2. Develop skills related to conflict management and resolution, difficult conversations, personal reflection, and responsible decision-making.
3. Have a better understanding of what it means to be a member of a community.
4. Get connected with resources across campus that promote success as an MSU Denver student.



Article II. Definitions

This article identifies important definitions to understand the Student Code of Conduct.

1. **Academic Misconduct**

Defined as a violation of expectations of honesty and integrity when completing academic work. Additional definitions are located in the Student Code of Conduct.

2. **Appeals Administrator**

An Appeals Administrator receives and responds to appeals that are submitted by students after a decision letter has been sent. Appeals administrators are appointed by the Dean of Students and Associate Dean of Students.

3. **Business Days**

Refers to the days MSU Denver is open and does not include Saturdays, Sundays, MSU Denver recognized holidays, or days when MSU Denver is otherwise closed.

4. **Conduct Administrator**

Refers to those persons designated by the Dean of Students to be responsible for the administration of the Student Code of Conduct.

5. **Conduct File**

Refers to the creation of a record with MSU Denver when a student is referred to the Conduct Process. The contents of this file include the outcome of a Conduct Hearing, referrals to a Restorative Process, findings of responsibility for a Student Code of Conduct violation and/or any institutional outcomes assigned in the Conduct Process.

6. **Conduct Hearing**

Refers to the specific conversation between the responding student and Conduct Administrator outlined in Article V, Section E. The Conduct Hearing includes discussion of the Conduct Process, responding student perspective, any applicable information, response to the Incident Report, and potential outcomes.

7. Faculty

Refers to any person hired by MSU Denver to conduct classroom or teaching activities or who is otherwise considered by MSU Denver to be a member of its faculty.

8. Hazing

Defined in the [MSU Denver Anti-Hazing policy](#) as any act that endangers the physical or mental health of a person, coerces participation, or abuses positions of power in the context of membership or new-member activities.

9. Incident Report

Refers to any mechanism by which the Dean of Students Office is informed of a potential violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

10. Member of the MSU Denver Community

Includes any person that is a student, faculty member, MSU Denver official, or any other person employed by or affiliated with MSU Denver.

11. MSU Denver

Refers to Metropolitan State University of Denver.

12. MSU Denver Official

Includes any person employed by the MSU Denver performing assigned administrative or professional responsibilities.

13. MSU Denver or Campus Property

Includes all land, buildings, facilities, online or electronic communication and other property in the possession of or owned, used, or controlled by the Auraria Higher Education Center and/or MSU Denver, including the adjacent streets and sidewalks.

14. MSU Denver Sponsored Activity

Any activity, academic or extracurricular, that is connected in any way with MSU Denver. This includes but is not limited to: Classes, online forums/classes, Athletic events, music and theater events, student activities, study-abroad programs, internships, field experiences and student trips funded by MSU Denver.

15. Preponderance of Evidence

The defined standard of proof used in all conduct meetings under this Student

Code of Conduct. A preponderance-of-evidence standard means that it is more likely than not that a violation occurred.

16. Registered Student Organization

Refers to any number of persons that have complied with the formal requirements for MSU Denver recognition as defined by CMEI.

17. Reporting Party

Refers to the student, staff, faculty, or third party who submits an Incident Report regarding an incident that may be a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. The reporting party may or may not have directly experienced the incident they are reporting.

18. Responding Student

Refers to the student(s) named in an Incident Report as alleged to have violated any part of the Student Code of Conduct.

19. Restorative Processes

Refers to processes that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by a responsible student to impacted person(s) and the community. Participation in Restorative Processes is voluntary for all parties involved. Restorative Processes are utilized when a responsible party (student or organization) accepts responsibility for their actions.

20. Sexual Misconduct

Refers to any behavior of a sexual nature that is committed by force or intimidation, nonconsensual, or that is otherwise unwelcome. This includes, but is not limited to: sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence. For more definitions relating to sexual misconduct, see the University policy on Sexual Harassment.

21. Student

Includes persons admitted to, enrolled at, or taking courses at/or sponsored by MSU Denver, and those who may not be currently enrolled but have a continuing relationship with MSU Denver.



Article III. Oversight

Section A. Student Code of Conduct Authority

The Dean of Students Office staff serves as the primary Conduct Administrators and are responsible for resolving potential violations of the Student Code of Conduct. If additional Conduct Administrators are needed, the Associate Dean of Students or designee may appoint qualified MSU Denver staff or faculty to serve in an interim capacity.

Decisions made by the Conduct Administrator or designee are final, pending the appeal process outlined in Article X: Appeals. The Conduct Administrator may extend or adjust the timeframes in the Conduct Process for good cause.

Section B. Jurisdiction

The Student Code of Conduct applies to all individuals who meet MSU Denver's definition of a student, as noted in the "Definitions" section of this document. This includes conduct occurring on campus, online, abroad, during break periods and at any MSU Denver sponsored site such as internships, school sponsored trips, study abroad programs, and Athletics activities.

MSU Denver may address off-campus conduct when a student's continued presence is likely to interfere with the educational process or the orderly operation of the campus, is likely to endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the University community, or when the behavior is so serious that it adversely affects the student's standing as a member of the University community. Sole discretion for addressing off-campus behavior will be determined by the Conduct Administrators. Use of electronic media, including email, social media, and other digital communication, may be considered during the Conduct Process, regardless of where the communication originated.

The Student Conduct Process is a university administrative process and is separate from any legal proceeding. MSU Denver may share information gathered through the Conduct Process with law enforcement when appropriate or when required by court order or subpoena. Conduct proceedings may occur while criminal or civil matters are active.

Section C. Scope

The Scope of the Student Code of Conduct includes all behaviors outlined in the Conduct Standards.

Certain matters may fall under separate MSU Denver policies, and in those cases, the appropriate office will manage the response.

1. The Student Complaint Process is for students alleging harmful behavior by faculty or staff.
2. The OEO/Title IX Process is for concerns involving discrimination, bias, or sexual misconduct.
3. The Grade Appeal Process is for students seeking to appeal a final course grade. Additional academic rules and regulations may be found in the University Catalogs. Operational, governance, and University-level academic policies are available in the University Policy Library. All students are also expected to uphold the Auraria Campus policies.

MSU Denver graduate programs may have specific professional and ethical standards that students are required to follow. Any alleged violation(s) of those standards that are not covered within the Student Code of Conduct Article IV: Conduct Standards will be heard and responded to through the respective department's process. Behaviors that allegedly violate both the Student Code of Conduct and their graduate program's professional standards will follow each process respectively.





Article IV. Conduct Standards

This article outlines MSU Denver's standards of conduct. All students are responsible for knowing and following these expectations, which are designed to maintain a safe, equitable, and supportive campus environment. Actions that are potential violations of these standards will be addressed through the Conduct Process noted in Article V.

Section A. Behaviors Impacting Persons or Safety

The following behaviors are prohibited as they threaten and/or disrupt the health, safety, or well-being of individuals or the community.

1. Physical Harm or Endangerment

Engaging in physical assault, abuse, fighting, or any conduct that endangers the health or safety of any person or animal.

2. Emotional and Psychological Harm

Causing or attempting to cause psychological or emotional distress by engaging in abusive, threatening, or otherwise harmful behavior toward any individual or group is prohibited. These behaviors may occur in person or through electronic means, including texting, email, social media, or other online communication platforms.

3. Verbal Abuse

Using demeaning, insulting, and/or belittling language or communication with the intent or effect to cause harm, distress, or fear.

4. Threats

Making any statement or expression of intent to cause physical injury, emotional harm, or other hostile action toward a person, group, or community.

5. Intimidation

Engaging in behavior that has the purpose or effect of instilling fear or compelling another person, group, or community to act against their will.

6. Coercion

Attempting to influence or compel another person to act through the use of

pressure, threats, or force.

7. Hazing

Participating in or facilitating any act of hazing by an individual or student organization. Please refer to the MSU Denver Anti-Hazing Policy.

8. Weapons and Dangerous Materials

Illegal or unauthorized possession, creation, use, or distribution of firearms, explosives, dangerous chemicals, or any other weapons. Students must comply with the AHEC Weapons Policy during all MSU Denver sponsored activities.

9. Identity Theft

Using or attempting to use another person's identifying information without their knowledge or permission.

10. Unauthorized Recording

Using any electronic device to make an audio or video recording of an academic lecture for the purpose of sharing or distributing such recordings with the general public.

11. Disruptive Conduct and Demonstrations

Participating in or leading demonstrations that disrupt MSU Denver operations or infringe on the rights of others; inciting or engaging in behavior that obstructs scheduled activities or unreasonably interferes with pedestrian or vehicular movement on campus.

12. False Reports and Misuse of Safety Equipment

Reporting a false bomb threat, fire alarm, or other emergency, or misusing fire safety or emergency equipment.

13. Drug Use and Possession

- a. Possessing, using, manufacturing, distributing, or selling narcotics, controlled substances, prescription drugs, or drug paraphernalia in violation of law or MSU Denver policy.
- b. Being under the influence of illegal substances in a way that negatively impacts one's behavior or that presents a danger to oneself or others in the community.

Note: Although state law permits limited cannabis possession and use for adults twenty-one (21) and older or for certain medical conditions, cannabis remains

prohibited on the MSU Denver and Auraria campuses, and at all MSU Denver sponsored activities. Federal law, including the Controlled Substances Act and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, also prohibits possession or use of cannabis on campus.

14. Alcohol Use and Possession

- a. Possessing, using, manufacturing, distributing, or selling alcohol in violation of law or MSU Denver policy.
- b. Being under the influence of alcohol in a way that impacts one's behavior or that presents a danger to oneself or others in the community.

15. Encouraging Misconduct

Encouraging or assisting another person in committing any prohibited act under the Student Code of Conduct.

Section B. Behaviors Impacting the Educational Environment

The following behaviors are prohibited as they compromise the integrity, fairness, and effectiveness of the MSU Denver academic mission.

1. Disruption of University Activities

Disrupting or obstructing education, teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, or other MSU Denver functions, including online classes and MSU Denver sponsored events on or off campus.

2. Improper Influence in the Academic Process

Attempting to influence an academic decision through bribery, coercion, threats, lying, or sexual behavior.

3. Fraudulent Admission or Credentials

Submitting false information or falsified academic credentials with the intent to deceive or mislead during admission, program applications, or participation in MSU Denver activities, programs, or services.

4. Falsifying a Degree or Credentials

Forging a MSU Denver degree, certification, or credentials with the intent to deceive or mislead an individual, group, company, service, or agency into believing the degree or credentials have been obtained legitimately.

Section C. Behaviors Impacting Academic Integrity

The following behaviors are prohibited as they compromise the student learning experience, integrity of the MSU Denver degree, and undermine faculty curriculum. Violations contained in this Section will follow the Academic Misconduct Process outlined in Article VII.

1. Plagiarism

Presenting another person's words, ideas, data, or creative work as one's own without proper acknowledgment or citation.

2. Self-Plagiarism

Submitting the same or substantially similar work for different classes without prior disclosure and approval from the instructor.

3. Unauthorized Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Using artificial intelligence tools or technologies in a manner not permitted by the instructor or assignment guidelines.

4. Falsification

Creating, manipulating, or altering sources, citations, or data. This includes providing non-existent sources or misrepresenting information from a legitimate source.

5. Cheating

Submitting work completed by another person with the intent to deceive an instructor into believing it was completed independently and/or the use of any unauthorized assistance while completing any course assignment.

6. Tampering

Interfering with, altering, or attempting to alter academic materials, records, or resources for dishonest advantage or to obstruct another student's work.

7. Fabrication

Making up data, results, quotes, or sources that don't exist and recording or reporting them and/or providing false information, lying, or otherwise obscuring information from faculty in order to influence a grading decision.

Section D. Behaviors Impacting Property and/or Technology

The following behaviors are prohibited as they compromise the integrity, security, or

proper use of MSU Denver and community property or systems.

1. Theft or Attempted Theft

Attempted or actual theft of personal or public property that is owned by any member of the community, MSU Denver, or AHEC.

2. Property Damage

Damaging, defacing, or destroying MSU Denver property, AHEC property, or the personal or public property of any member of the MSU Denver or campus community.

3. Unauthorized Access or Use of Facilities

Unauthorized entry to, or use of, campus premises or unauthorized possession, duplication, or use of keys or access cards.

4. Misuse of Technology

Improper use of MSU Denver technology resources, including:

- a. Unauthorized access to or misuse of accounts, passwords, or access codes.
- b. Unauthorized use of digital platforms or classroom technology (e.g., Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or other online systems).
- c. Any activity that violates MSU Denver technology or acceptable use policies.

Section E. Behaviors Impacting Community Partners

The following behaviors are prohibited as they interfere with MSU Denver relationships and obligations to its campus partners, community members, and governing entities.

1. Violation of Auraria Campus Policies

Violating any Auraria Campus policy, rule, or regulation published in print or electronically on the MSU Denver or Auraria Campus websites.

2. Violation of Law

Violating any federal, state, or local law while participating in MSU Denver activities, on MSU Denver controlled property, or when such conduct affects the MSU Denver community.

3. Obstruction of Officials

Obstructing, interfering with, or delaying a law enforcement officer, first responder, security officer, or MSU Denver official in the performance of their duties.

4. Violation of Housing Policies

Violating MSU Denver or CU Denver housing policies, rules, or regulations as published or available online.

Section F. Behaviors Impacting the Conduct Process

The following behaviors are prohibited as they interfere with or undermine the integrity and effectiveness of the MSU Denver Student Conduct Process as outlined in Article V.

1. Failure to Comply with Officials

Failing to comply with a reasonable request from a MSU Denver official or sworn law enforcement officer acting within the scope of their duties or failing to identify oneself when requested to do so.

2. Misuse or Interference with the Conduct Process

Participating in or facilitating behavior that disrupts, manipulates, causes undue delay or abuses the Conduct Process, including but not limited to falsifying information, discouraging another person's participation, attempting to influence the Conduct Administrator, or attempting to influence another person to commit a violation of the Conduct Process.

3. Submitting False Information

Knowingly providing malicious, frivolous, or fraudulent information or charges against a faculty, staff, or student without cause.

4. Retaliation

Engaging in any form of intimidation, threats, or harassment by an individual accused of misconduct, or by someone acting on their behalf, against an individual involved in a conduct or grievance process.

Section G. Behaviors Impacting Title IX

The following behaviors are subject to review by the MSU Denver's Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). Depending on the nature of the allegation, these matters may be reviewed and resolved under applicable Title IX procedures through OEO or may be referred back to the Dean of Students Office for processing through the MSU Denver Student Conduct Process.

1. **Bias-Motivated Conduct**

Behavior, speech, or expression motivated by bias or prejudice based on perceived or actual characteristics such as race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender identity, gender expression, disability, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, political affiliation, or philosophy, and that has a negative impact a reasonable person would find intimidating, hostile, or offensive.

2. **Stalking**

Engaging in a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. Stalking behaviors include, but are not limited to, non-consensual communication (e.g., in-person, phone calls, voice messages, emails, social media, letters, gifts), surveillance, following, or any other unwanted contact that causes fear.

3. **Sexual Misconduct**

As defined within the University's Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Title IX Violations, and Retaliation Policy.

4. **Non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct**

Engaging in sexual misconduct that does not fall within the jurisdiction of Title IX but is nonetheless prohibited under MSU Denver policy. Typically such cases involve conduct that either: 1) occurs off the MSU Denver campus; and/or 2) does not occur within a University educational program or activity. Such behavior may include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates a hostile or offensive environment.





Article V. Conduct Process

This article explains the procedures MSU Denver follows when addressing potential violations of the Conduct Standards. The Conduct Process is designed to ensure fairness, transparency, and educational opportunities for all students involved. It outlines the steps taken from the initial report through resolution, emphasizing due process, accountability, and the promotion of respect and collaboration.

The Conduct Process applies to behavioral conduct cases, academic misconduct, and student organization conduct. Article VII: Academic Misconduct Process provides additional procedures that apply specifically to alleged academic misconduct. Incidents involving student organizations will be responded to collaboratively between the Dean of Students Office and Center for Multicultural Engagement & Inclusion (CMEI).

Section A. Standard of Proof

MSU Denver views the Conduct Process as an educational opportunity that supports student growth and promotes an understanding of individual responsibility within the University community. The Conduct Process is not a replacement for civil or criminal legal proceedings; rather, it is designed to provide a fair and equitable evaluation of whether a student has violated University policies. Formal legal rules of evidence do not apply. MSU Denver uses the “preponderance of evidence” standard when determining responsibility. This means it must be more likely than not that the alleged conduct occurred. This standard applies to all conduct proceedings under this Student Code of Conduct, with the exception of conflict resolution or restorative justice processes.

Section B. Filing a Report

Any person can file a report concerning an MSU Denver student or an MSU Denver recognized student organization. Reports should be submitted through MSU Denver’s virtual Incident Report system. Reporting parties are encouraged to file an Incident Report as soon as possible. Once an Incident Report is submitted, a staff

member from the Dean of Students Office will be assigned as the Conduct Administrator to review the report and begin the investigation process.

Section C. Preliminary Information Gathering

The Dean of Students Office reviews all Incident Reports that are submitted. If the Incident Report includes the reporting party's name and contact information, the Dean of Students Office will confirm receipt of the report and may schedule a meeting to gather additional information. The Dean of Students Office may also contact relevant witnesses. Once sufficient information has been collected to warrant an investigation, the Dean of Students Office will contact the alleged ("responding") student(s) to initiate the next steps in the Conduct Process.

Section D. Notification

If the Dean of Students Office determines that a formal Conduct Process is appropriate, the responding student(s) will receive an official notification letter sent to their MSU Denver student email. This notification will outline the allegation(s) and provide instructions for scheduling a Conduct Hearing.

The notification will include:

1. The name of the assigned Conduct Administrator
2. An approximate date and location of the alleged incident
3. The specific Conduct Standards that may have been violated
4. A detailed summary of the alleged incident
5. Information about the date, time, and location of the meeting
6. Any additional information that is relevant to share

Upon receiving the notification, the responding student(s) may submit their own evidence or witnesses for the Conduct Administrator to review prior to the meeting. The Conduct Administrator may schedule meetings with witnesses identified by the responding student(s).

Section E. Conduct Hearing

This section outlines the structure of the Conduct Hearing to provide transparency about what to expect during the meeting with the Conduct Administrator and to

help the responding student(s) prepare effectively. Conduct Hearings are typically held in person and are private. If anyone other than the responding student and Conduct Administrator needs to be in attendance, the student will be informed prior to the Conduct Hearing.

During the Conduct Hearing, the responding student can expect the following:

1. The Conduct Administrator will present the allegation(s) and evidence.
2. The responding student will have the opportunity to share their perspective and provide additional evidence or information.
3. The Conduct Administrator will ask questions that are tailored to the allegation and aimed to gather a full understanding of the situation.
4. The Conduct Hearing will conclude with a conversation about next steps, including potential resolution(s).

Additional details about Conduct Hearings will be shared with students in their meeting request letter and Conduct Administrators are available to answer questions prior to the Conduct Hearing.

Students should prepare for a Conduct Hearing by:

1. Identifying a Support Person, if needed

Anyone participating in the Conduct Process has the right to have a support person present during any part of the Conduct Process. A support person can be anyone they choose, including an attorney at their own expense. Students are responsible for speaking for themselves during the hearing. This ensures that the student's voice remains a priority. A support person serves as a supportive presence during the Conduct Process and may provide comfort and familiarity for the student throughout the hearing. A support person cannot be a witness, a Dean of Students Office staff member, or anyone with a conflict of interest as determined by the Dean of Students Office staff.

2. Preparing Evidence

Because the notification letter includes all relevant information available at the time, the responding student(s) may prepare for their Conduct Hearing by gathering and organizing any evidence that supports their perspective or clarifies what occurred.

3. Minimizing Contact with Involved Parties

While the Conduct Process is active, healthy boundaries must be maintained to protect the well-being of all individuals involved. The responding student(s), impacted person(s), and witnesses should refrain from, or minimize to the extent possible, contact with one another to avoid behavior that could be perceived as retaliatory, harassing, intimidating, or otherwise inappropriate in a way that could impact the Conduct Process.

Section F. Determination

After the Conduct Hearing, the Conduct Administrator will determine whether the responding student(s) violated the Conduct Standards. This determination is based on the preponderance of evidence.

The student will receive the decision in an official letter sent to their MSU Denver student email. The decision letter will include:

1. A finding of responsible or not responsible for each alleged violation
2. Any applicable status outcome, as defined in Article VIII: Outcomes
3. Any applicable educational outcome(s) to be completed
4. Information about the appeal process, as defined in Article X: Appeals
5. Any applicable resources or referrals

Copies of all notification and decision letters are stored in a database and maintained by the Dean of Students Office. Information about student conduct is not noted on student transcripts, but can be disclosed to third parties with student consent.





Article VI. Removals

Section A. Interim Suspension or Restrictions

In certain circumstances, the Associate Vice President of Student Engagement & Well-being/Dean of Students, or designee, may impose an interim suspension or restrictions prior to a conduct meeting. Interim suspension or restrictions may be imposed for one or more of the following reasons:

1. To protect the safety and well-being of members of the campus community or to preserve MSU Denver property.
2. To support the student's own physical or emotional safety and well-being.
3. If the student poses a clear threat of disruption or interference with the normal operation of MSU Denver.

During an interim suspension, the student may be denied access to campus, including classes, events, and any MSU Denver activities or privileges for which the student would otherwise be eligible. Restrictions may also limit access to specific locations, services, or classes, depending on the circumstances of the case.

A hold may be placed on the student's account to prevent course registration. In certain situations, the student may be required to complete an evaluation before the interim suspension or restrictions can be lifted.

If a student believes the criteria for a restriction has not been met, they can submit additional information or documentation to the Conduct Administrator for review. The Conduct Administrator will review the information and determine whether adjustments are appropriate.

Interim suspensions or restrictions will remain in effect until the student is notified otherwise. The student will be notified in writing of any changes.

Section B. Removal from Campus

Students or student organizations displaying behavior that is disruptive, unsafe, or otherwise unacceptable on campus or on MSU Denver property may be directed to leave the area by authorized law enforcement or staff. Any interim or permanent removal from a class, area, or department will be addressed through the Conduct Process.



Article VII. Academic Misconduct Process

The overall Conduct Process listed in Article V will be followed with some exceptions and additional procedures outlined in this article to address potential violations of academic misconduct.

Section A. Notification

Reports regarding academic misconduct are generally submitted by MSU Denver faculty. They can request that the report be filed as an FYI, or that the Dean of Students Office move forward with the formal Conduct Process. The notification letter will state if the faculty member will be participating in the Conduct Hearing. An FYI is used to notify the Dean of Students Office that a faculty suspects academic misconduct but does not want to proceed with an investigation and will not assign a grade penalty. An FYI allows the concern to be documented so that, if the student is alleged to have committed academic misconduct again, either in the same course or in the future, a pattern can be identified. Students will be notified when an FYI report has been filed regarding them.

Section B. Determination

Upon completion of the investigation, the Conduct Administrator and the faculty will collaborate to determine whether the alleged violation meets the criteria for a conduct violation.

If a student is found responsible for academic misconduct, the faculty will determine the grade penalty. The Conduct Administrator will assign an appropriate status and educational outcome as outlined in Article VIII: Outcomes. All outcomes will be listed in the decision letter



Article VIII. Outcomes

If a student or registered student organization is found responsible for violating any part of the Student Code of Conduct, they may receive both a status outcome and/or an educational outcome. These outcomes are not mutually exclusive and are determined based on the specific circumstances of the case. A single case may result in multiple outcomes. Outcomes are not recorded on a student's academic transcript but will be documented in the student's conduct file.

Section A. Status Outcome

Status outcomes are designed to reflect the seriousness of a violation and may result in a student being suspended or expelled from MSU Denver. These outcomes are not part of a strictly tiered system, and a student may receive a suspension or expulsion for a first-time violation, depending on the context and severity of the behavior.

1. Warning

A written notice to the student indicating that they have violated the Student Code of Conduct. A conduct warning remains in the student's conduct file indefinitely. A warning may result in more serious outcomes should the same or similar policies be violated again.

2. Probation

Probation periods will vary depending on the context of the individual situation. At minimum, probation will last for one (1) semester after the alleged incident. Probation carries the expectation that more severe disciplinary actions may result if the student is found to violate any MSU Denver regulations or the Student Code of Conduct while on probation.

3. MSU Denver Suspension

A temporary separation from MSU Denver for a specified period, after which the student may be eligible to return. Students on suspension may not attend classes, participate in MSU Denver events, or be physically present on campus. Specific conditions for re-enrollment will be outlined at the time of the

suspension. A temporary ban from any MSU Denver campus and the Auraria Campus may also be imposed as part of the suspension. For students not yet enrolled in classes, admission may be rescinded.

4. MSU Denver Expulsion

Permanent separation of the student from MSU Denver. Expulsion may include a permanent ban from all MSU Denver campus locations, including all of Auraria Campus, enforceable by the Auraria Campus Police Department.

Note: MSU Denver will also honor suspensions and expulsions issued by the Community College of Denver or University of Colorado Denver for conduct offenses related to those institutions. Suspension or expulsion from Auraria Campus institutions may have broader implications for a student's ability to transfer schools within the CU or community college system.

Section B. Additional Outcomes

There are a variety of outcomes that can be identified during the Conduct Process that are intended to support a student's learning, growth, development, and reflect accountability. These outcomes are context specific and are generally connected to the behaviors demonstrated in a particular case. All outcomes will include specific instructions and a timeline for completion. Examples include, but are not limited to:

1. Educational Outcomes

Completion of reflection papers, participation in educational exercises or workshops, or other activities that promote learning and personal growth. This can include required sessions with campus resources such as the Writing Center, Tutoring Center, Library, etc.

2. Restorative/Conflict Resolutions

Referral to Student Conflict Resolution Services for intake and services such as mediation, Restorative Processes, dialogue, conflict coaching, apology letters, or other activities aimed at addressing harm.

3. Loss of Privileges

Denial of specified privileges for a designated period or, in some cases, indefinitely. This may include restrictions from accessing specific areas, buildings, or offices on campus. Long-term restrictions, upon request, can be

reviewed one time per semester.

4. **Restitution**

Compensation for loss, damage, or injury. Restitution may take the form of service, monetary reimbursement, or replacement of damaged or lost property.





Article IX. Restorative Justice and Conflict Resolution

Section A. Restorative Outcomes

Certain incidents may be referred to Restorative Justice & Conflict Resolution as an alternative process focused on resolution, repair, and dialogue between all involved. Any involved party, including students, faculty, or staff, may request information regarding alternative resolution options at any stage of the process. Individuals may also indicate interest in these options when submitting an Incident Report or when speaking with the Dean of Students Office. Restorative justice and conflict resolution options may include:

1. Conflict Coaching

Conflict Coaching consists of individualized, one-on-one sessions focused on developing strategies for navigating challenging situations or conversations.

2. Restorative Process

A Restorative Process, often referred to as a restorative conference or circle, focuses on addressing the harms or impacts that occurred during a conflict or incident of wrongdoing. This process brings participants together for open and constructive dialogue aimed at repair. Facilitators guide participants in discussing what occurred, identifying the needs of all involved, and collaboratively defining what actions can help make things right. The process typically concludes with a mutually developed restorative agreement.

3. Mediation

Mediation is a facilitated conflict resolution process in which a mediator guides the involved people through identifying issues, expressing perspectives, and reaching a mutually determined resolution.

Section B. Restorative Process

A Restorative Process does not determine responsibility; instead, it focuses on identifying and repairing harm caused by an incident. The process may result in a written agreement among all participating. The Dean of Students Office will review the agreement and support the student(s) in completing outlined commitments.

The Restorative Process follows these principles:

1. Prior to a restorative conference or circle, all participants must complete an individual intake meetings to prepare for participation and confirm eligibility.
2. Participation is voluntary, and any individual may pause or withdraw from the process at any time.
3. Restorative Justice & Conflict Resolution staff will assess eligibility during the intake process.
4. The responsible student must accept responsibility for their actions and be willing to engage in repair, which may include completing a restorative agreement or other mutually defined outcomes.
5. Individuals directly affected by the incident should be invited to participate and may determine their preferred level of involvement.
6. Outcomes or restorative agreements should focus on addressing harms, meeting identified needs, and supporting meaningful repair.
7. Any agreement must be mutually approved by all participating in the Restorative Process.
8. Restorative agreements must promote accountability, be achievable, and represent an appropriate response to the incident.

If the Restorative Process results in a collaborative agreement, the matter will be considered resolved and no further conduct action will be taken. If the participants do not reach an agreement, the responsible student withdraws participation, or the agreement is not fulfilled, the matter will be referred back to the Conduct Process.





Article X. Appeal

Students who are found responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct have the right to appeal the decision.

Section A. Process

1. An appeal request must be submitted within ten (10) business days from when the student received the decision letter.
2. Appeals can be submitted via a form on the Dean of Students Office website.
3. When the Dean of Students Office receives the form, it will be submitted to an Appeals Administrator with the case file.
4. The student will be notified in writing once the appeal review has been completed.

Section B. Review

The Appeals Administrator will assemble an Appeals Board, comprised of trained students, staff, and faculty, to review the appeal form. The Appeals Board will receive all case materials that were previously available to the Conduct Administrator. The appeal submitted by the student must meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. The Conduct Process was not conducted fairly, did not follow MSU Denver procedures, and/or did not give the responding student(s) a reasonable opportunity to prepare and respond to all allegations.
2. The standard of proof was not met.
3. The outcome(s) outlined in the decision were not appropriate for the nature of the violation.
4. New information about the case is available that was not available during the original Conduct Hearing and this information may sufficiently alter the outcome.

Section C. Determination

If the Appeals Board determines that the appeal submitted meets one of the

four (4) criteria noted above, they will make a recommendation on an appeal outcome. The outcome may include reconsidering the responsibility finding, reconsidering the outcome/sanctions, or both. This recommendation will be sent to the Dean of Students, who will provide final approval or denial of the appeal. A letter containing information about the appeal outcome will be sent to the student.

The appeal outcome will be considered final, and no further opportunity to appeal will be available. Similarly, if an appeal is denied by the Appeals Administrator and Board, the case will be considered resolved, and the original determination will remain final.





Article XI. Release of Conduct Records

Educational records are comprehensive records maintained for all students and are protected under federal laws, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). A student's conduct file is considered part of the student's educational record and can only be accessed by the Dean of Students Office, a proxy, or an MSU Denver employee who has a specific educational need to know. A [Proxy Management \(FERPA Release\) form](#) can be filled out by a student at any time to release disciplinary records to third parties of their choosing. Students must specifically note release of conduct records on the FERPA release form. Access to a student's disciplinary file is governed by FERPA and the Campus Security Act (Clery Act), as amended. A written waiver signed by the student is required to release disciplinary records to third parties unless otherwise permitted or required by law.

Students may be required to authorize a review of their conduct record when applying for scholarships, study abroad programs, student organization leadership roles, or other institutional opportunities. In these requests, a student's eligibility to participate in or apply for opportunities may be impacted dependent on their conduct history.



Article XII. Interpretation and Revision

Any question regarding the interpretation of the Student Code of Conduct shall be referred to the Associate Vice President of Student Engagement & Well-being/Dean of Students, or designee, for final determination.

The Associate Dean of Students or designee will be charged to create and lead a Student Code of Conduct Review Committee every two years to formally review the Student Code of Conduct.

The Dean of Students Office is responsible for maintaining, developing, and updating the Student Code of Conduct based on national best practices, community feedback, and compliance with local, state, and federal law. It is at the discretion of the Associate Dean of Students or designee to make these changes if they fall outside the formal review period.



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