



# Assumption University

Student Handbook  
2025-2026

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## Introduction

We live and learn in community at Assumption University. Our policies and procedures exist to ensure the rights and responsibilities of individuals toward each other and for the betterment of the community.

This handbook provides information about policies, procedures, regulations, and activities at the University with which each Assumption University student should be familiar. In addition to this handbook, students are responsible for understanding the Assumption University Academic Catalog and Advising Guide, as well as other University publications. The policies stated herein are subject to revision, notice of which is made through normal channels of communication.

## The Conduct Code

Assumption University strives to maintain an environment consistent with its mission and respectful of the rights of all individuals within the University community. All members of this community are freely and voluntarily united by this agreement in the pursuit of intellectual growth and discovery. The rules, policies, and regulations of the University, collectively known as the Conduct Code. The University reserves the right to deny the privilege of enrollment or continued enrollment to any student whose conduct or attitude is believed to be detrimental to the welfare of the University.

Students are responsible for their conduct from the time they are notified of their acceptance for admission through the awarding of their degree. If a student withdraws from the University with pending community standards charges, they will remain in place and must be resolved for a student to return to our community.

The Offices of Community Standards and Student Affairs have a responsibility for student accountability to the benefit and welfare of the University community, as well as the individual student. The University reserves the right to dismiss a student for egregious behavior that threatens the well-being of other students or the community.

Assumption University is also aware of its responsibility to the larger Worcester community. Students are expected to observe all local laws and to conduct themselves off-campus in a way that reflects well on their association with the University community. Students involved in off-campus incidents may be subject to University disciplinary procedures.



## Rights and Responsibilities

The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which the Conduct Code is built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student but as a community member.

### **Rights of Assumption University Students**

- Right to a respectful, educational, and safe community that fosters intellectual growth in keeping with the mission of the University.
- Right to an academic environment that is intellectually engaging and challenging. Students have the right to class work that stimulates their minds, provided by professors who take great care and pride in the service they provide to their students. Professors will make themselves available to their students to support each student's successful academic career.
- Right to pursue knowledge and the resources and staff necessary to expand that knowledge and understanding.
- Right to a supportive and knowledgeable staff and faculty to aid them in pursuing academic and personal success.
- Right not to be discriminated against based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information or family medical history, disability, marital or parental status, military or veteran status, immigration status, or any other unique attribute of any individual.
- The right to live without the fear of intimidation, force, threats, or emotional, verbal, or physical abuse of any kind.
- Right to free expression. Community members have the right to express their ideas freely, without fear of censure or retribution.
- Right to a healthy environment. Community members have the right to programs and services that promote and support a healthy lifestyle including the right to well-maintained facilities and a healthy food selection.
- Right to privacy, including the right and protection from unwarranted or unauthorized searches of person, personal spaces, and property in accordance with University policy.
- Right to due process through the Community Standards process. This includes the right to a fair and unbiased hearing.
- Right to appeal. Students have the right to a fair and equitable process in conduct and academic matters.

### **Responsibilities of Assumption University Students**

- All Assumption University students are considered adults and therefore bear full and ultimate responsibility for their actions.
- Responsibility to comply with federal, state, and local laws.
- Responsibility to know and abide by all Assumption University policies.
- Responsibility to respect the rights of the other members of the Assumption University community.

- Responsibility to follow proper institutional protocols when exercising the right to free expression.
- Responsibility to respect and honor the Mission of the University.
- Responsibility to respect the environment, specifically the buildings and grounds of the University.
- Responsibility to regularly and frequently check their Assumption University email account.

## Important Definitions

The following selected terms are defined to facilitate a more thorough understanding of the University's Community Standards process. This list is not intended to be exhaustive of all terms referenced in this document that might require additional clarification.

**Administrative Hearing:** a hearing that consists of a meeting or meetings with a single hearing officer to adjudicate a disciplinary charge.

**Advisor:** a person who may accompany a respondent or complainant for the purpose of providing support and guidance. An advisor may not be a complainant, respondent, witness, or other party involved in the case being discussed. An advisor serves as a support person and is not a participant in the hearing in any way.

**Complainant:** Any person who is alleged to have been subject to another student's misconduct. If the complainant is an Assumption University student, that student will have the same rights as are provided to the respondent. In the absence of a student complainant, the University is the complainant.

**Hearing Officer:** University official authorized to resolve allegations or impose outcomes for students alleged to have violated University policy.

**Possession:** Physically holding or controlling the subject item or owning or controlling a room, vehicle, or other area where the item is present, knowingly, or unknowingly.

**Preponderance of the Evidence Standard:** The burden of proof standard used in determining a violation of the Conduct Code. A preponderance of the evidence standard means that **it is more likely than not** that a violation of University policy occurred.

**Respondent:** Any student alleged to have violated University policy.


**Student:** All persons who have accepted an invitation of admission to the University, who are enrolled in, or taking or auditing University courses, either full or part-time, in-person or remotely. Persons who are not currently enrolled for a particular term, or are between terms, but who have a continuing relationship with the University (e.g., students on a temporary leave with an intent to return) are considered students.

**University Premises/Property:** all land, buildings, facilities, and other property in the possession of or owned, leased, used, operated, or controlled by the University.

## Community Standards Policies

### 1. Alcohol Policies

- a. Alcohol Consumption, Possession, or Purchase by a Minor
  - i. Any person under the age of 21 in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts may not lawfully possess, consume, purchase, attempt to purchase, or transport alcoholic beverages.
- b. Alcohol Provision or Sale
  - i. Students of legal age may not provide alcoholic beverages to individuals not of legal age at any time.
  - ii. Students may not sell alcohol to any other person for any reason.
  - iii. Students of legal age may possess and consume alcoholic beverages at approved University functions and/or when served at a campus facility/event authorized to provide alcoholic beverages.
  - iv. All student organization sponsored events where alcohol may be served must be approved by the appropriate University official and must follow all University policies and regulations. At all times, alcohol use must be consistent with the concept of moderate and responsible consumption. Furnishing alcohol to any person under the age of 21 or enabling underage alcohol consumption is strictly prohibited for student organizations.
- c. Alcohol in a Dry Building, Open Container Policy, or Empty Container Policy
  - i. Open containers are defined as: any container where the original factory seal has been broken (beer cans, wine bottles, liquor bottles, etc.). Additionally, solo cups, clear water bottles, or unsealed bottles are also considered an open container. University officials reserve the right to inspect a student's container upon information or belief that the student is intoxicated or under the influence of drugs.
  - ii. Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages in open containers is prohibited in common areas of residence halls, including hallways, lounges, lobbies, stairwells, and bathrooms.
  - iii. Students may not transport alcohol in common areas of campus or University residence halls in open containers. Students of legal age may transport alcohol in common areas of campus or University residence halls in closed containers and in suitable packaging, consistent with the concept of moderate and responsible consumption.
  - iv. Students of legal age may possess and consume alcoholic beverages only in designated upper-class residential areas including Aubuchon, Authier, Bissonnette, Dion, Dufault, Living/Learning Center, Moquin, Plough, Cesareo, Young, Wachusett, West Hall, and Pierre's Pub.
  - v. Alcoholic beverages are never permitted, regardless of the age of the student, in Alumni, Desautels, Hanrahan, Nault, Salisbury, or Worcester Halls, or in the outside areas, public areas (hallways, lounges, etc.), athletic fields, or other campus buildings unless specifically designated. This includes alcohol containers used for decorative purposes.
- d. Drinking Games, Drinking Paraphernalia, or Forced Alcohol Consumption

- i. Participation in drinking games involving the consumption of alcohol, consuming shots of alcohol, and any type of binge drinking or forced alcohol consumption (e.g. chugging, "shot-gunning," etc.) is prohibited in residence halls and on University property.
  - ii. Possession or use of binge drinking paraphernalia or any instrument of alcohol abuse (e.g. funnels, beer pong tables, etc.) is prohibited in residence halls and on University property.
- e. Alcohol Intoxication
  - i. Regardless of age, the abusive or dangerous use of alcohol is prohibited on and off campus, including but not limited to disruptive, disorderly, or dangerous conduct related to the consumption of alcohol.
- f. Alcohol in Bulk Containers
  - i. Common source containers of alcoholic beverages, including beer kegs and alcoholic punch are prohibited in residence halls and on University property without authorization from appropriate University officials. 
- g. Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol
  - i. Driving on or off campus while under the influence of alcohol is prohibited.
- h. Transport Due to Alcohol Intoxication
  - i. Students acting in a manner that appears to impair their ability to function due to alcohol intoxication may be assessed for intoxication by Campus Police. Students who are determined to need medical care by Campus Police may be transported to an area hospital or urgent care for further evaluation.
- i. Assessment Due to Alcohol Intoxication
  - i. Students acting in a manner that appears to impair their ability to function due to alcohol intoxication may be assessed for intoxication by Campus Police.
- j. Protective Custody for Alcohol Intoxication
  - i. Students acting in a manner that appears to impair their ability to function due to alcohol intoxication may be assessed for intoxication by Campus Police. Students that become belligerent and/or disorderly with Campus Police or other University staff may be placed into Protective Custody by Campus Police.

## 2. Drug Policies

- a. Drug Possession and/or Use
  - i. Possession or use of marijuana or related paraphernalia is prohibited. While individuals 21 years or older in the State of Massachusetts may purchase and possess marijuana at authorized dispensaries, Federal law, including the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act prohibits marijuana; therefore marijuana is not permitted on the Assumption campus. This includes but is not limited to edibles, concentrates, tinctures, oils, and any plant matter. Please refer to [Massachusetts State Law](#) for more information.
  - ii. Possession or use of illicit drugs, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia is

prohibited.

- b. Drug Sale and/or Distribution
  - i. Sale, distribution, or manufacture of any controlled drug, substance, or drug paraphernalia including marijuana is prohibited.
- c. Operating Under the Influence of Drugs
  - i. Operating a vehicle under the influence is prohibited.
- d. Transport Due to Drug Use
  - i. Students acting in a manner that appears to impair their ability to function due to drug impairment may be assessed for intoxication by Campus Police. Students who are determined to need medical care by Campus Police may be transported to an area hospital or urgent care for further evaluation.

### **3. Property Policies**

- a. Property Damage
  - i. Damage to University property or another person's property
  - ii. Possession, sale, or distribution of stolen University property or another person's property.
- b. Property Theft
  - i. Theft or possession, sale, or distribution of stolen property.
- c. Property Misuse
  - i. Misuse of University property, facilities, or another person's property without authorization
- d. Littering and Graffiti
  - i. Destruction of property including but not limited to failing to remove trash, spraying graffiti, intentional destruction of buildings or facilities.
- e. Unauthorized Entry
  - i. Entering any University premises (building, room, residence hall, residential room, facilities, bathroom, use of keys and/or ID cards) without authorization.

### **4. Violent or Endangering Behavior Policies**

- a. Threatening Conduct
  - i. Acts of intimidation or coercion, whether stated or implied.
- b. Violent or Endangering Behavior
  - i. Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of themselves or others.
  - ii. Violent behavior including but not limited to fighting, verbal, or physical abuse, or contributing to the violence of others.
- c. Creating a fire hazard or situation that endangers others such as false reports of fire or bombs, possession of fireworks, failing to evacuate, or tampering with, damaging, or removing fire safety equipment
- d. Sexual Misconduct
  - i. Sexual assault, sexual exploitation, or sexual harassment.
  - ii. Relationship violence.



- iii. Stalking (electronic, physical, by proxy, or other).
- iv. Creation of a hostile and/or harassing environment related to sexuality.
- v. Bias related conduct regarding another person's sexuality, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression.

## 5. Verbal Abuse and Harassment Policies

- a. Verbal Abuse
  - i. Verbal abuse or willful damage to the reputation or psychological well-being of another, regardless of intent.
- b. Bullying
  - i. Systematic bullying over time by any means, including but not limited to verbal, physical, emotional, exploitative functions, electronic media, social media.
- c. Harassment
  - i. Harassment of another in any manner including written correspondence, electronic mail/media, phone, or by proxy.
  - ii. Bias related harassment
- d. Inappropriate Expression
  - i. Conduct that is lewd, indecent, obscene, or degrading or demeaning to others, including, but not limited to, expression based on gender, race, religion, cultural background, ability, sexuality, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression. Expression may be but is not limited to verbal, social, electronic, in-person, online, direct, or by proxy.
- e. Social Media Misuse
  - i. Posting social media content that is considered, including, but not limited to, a threat of violence, harmful to self or others, or a violation of any other University policy through social media or other electronic means

## 6. Civility Policies

- a. Conduct Unbecoming of a University Student
  - i. Including but not limited to inappropriate statements made to students, University officials, non-compliance with University officials, or avoidance of University officials.
- b. Disorderly Conduct
  - i. Conduct that creates a community-based incident. This includes but is not limited to property damage, physical altercations, promoting violence, inciting disorderly groups of students or other individuals, verbal abuse of students or other individuals.
  - ii. Retaliation. Retaliation is defined as any adverse action related to participation in an education program taken against a person because a person has filed a report or participated in any in the filing of an incident report or complaint, investigation or hearing process related to community standards.
- c. Failure to Comply

- i. Failure to comply with the directions of University officials or individuals working in conjunction with the University who are acting in performance of their duties.
- d. Violating Privacy
  - i. Use of devices, electronic or other, to violate the privacy of another person. For this reason, personal recording devices are prohibited.
- e. Failure to Adhere to University Sanctions
  - i. Failure to adhere to, or complete any disciplinary sanction imposed by the Hearing Officer or other University official.
- f. Public Urination
  - i. Any form of urination or defecation outside of restroom facilities.

## **7. Honor Code Policies**

- a. Honor Code
  - i. Any form of dishonesty, including but not limited to theft, falsification of information, fraud, willful deception, falsification of identification, improper use, or disclosure of information.

## **8. Hazing Policies**

- a. Any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person.
- b. Any violation of [Massachusetts State Law](#) regarding hazing.

## **9. Smoking Policies**

- a. Smoking of any type in any building or prohibited area. This includes cigarettes, cigars, pipes, e-cigarettes, juuls, dab pens, or vaporizers. Only tobacco products are permitted on the Assumption campus and must be used outside and at least 100 feet away from any building.

## **10. Weapons Policies**

- a. Weapons are not permitted on the University campus other than by use of Campus Police officers. Possessing explosives, dangerous chemicals, and weapons including, but not limited to, firearms, bows and arrows, slingshots, hunting and other knives, blowguns, BB guns, pellet guns, air-soft guns, etc.

## **11. Gambling Policies**

- a. The University fully supports the prohibition of gaming as defined under [Massachusetts State Law](#) regarding gambling.
- b. Gambling is prohibited on campus in all forms.

## **12. Guest Policies**

- a. Anyone on campus after 6:00 PM that is a non-student, faculty or staff must be registered through the on-line guest Visitor Pass system. Guests must be with their host at all times, have a valid form of ID at all times, and have their Visitor Pass

### **13. Identification Policies**

- a. Failure to be in possession of/or present Assumption University ID.

### **14. Discriminatory and/or Bias Related Policies**

- a. The verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility toward an individual on the basis of race, color, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, religion, age, ability, or sexual orientation.
- b. Any member of the University community may report an incident of discrimination and/or bias through the [Bias Incident Reporting Form](#).

### **15. Other University Policies**

- a. Quiet Hours Policy
  - i. Quiet hours begin at 12:00 AM on Sunday - Thursday of each week. Quiet hours begin at 2:00 AM on Friday and Saturday. Quiet hours are 24 hours during study periods and final exams.
- b. Consideration Hours Policy
  - i. At all times, students are asked to respect the right to privacy and a reasonable volume within the residence halls.
- c. Gathering Policy
  - i. Double room, triple room, and suite-based residence halls are permitted gatherings that is double the occupancy of the room, plus two. Apartment-based residence halls are permitted gatherings that are five times the occupancy of the room, plus five.

### **16. Federal, State, or Local Law Policies**

- a. Violations of any federal, state or local law.

### **17. Sexual Misconduct**

- a. Aiding and Facilitating
  - i. Promoting or encouraging the commission of any behavior prohibited outlined in the Sexual Misconduct policy.
- b. Exploitation
  - i. Any person taking non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another.
- c. Gender Discrimination
  - i. Discriminating another member of the University community on the basis of their gender, gender identity, and/or gender expression.
- d. Hostile Environment
  - i. Conduct that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's learning, working, or living environment, or limiting or depriving an individual of the ability to participate in or benefit from the University's employment or educational programs and/or activities.
- e. Inducing Incapacitation
  - i. Providing alcohol or drugs to an individual, with or without the

individual's knowledge, with the purpose or intent of taking advantage of that individual's impairment or intoxication.

- f. Relationship Violence
  - i. Violent and/or endangering behavior that is verbal, physical, or psychological between partners in a romantic relationship.
- g. Retaliation
  - i. Seeking retribution against a reporting party, responding party, or any individual for exercising their rights under the Sexual Misconduct policy or making a report or complaint, testifying, assisting, conducting, participating or refusing to participate in an investigation, hearing, or other proceeding under this policy.
- h. Sexual Assault
  - i. Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the other person, including instances where the other person is incapable of giving consent.
- i. Sexual Discrimination
  - i. Treating any person unfavorably because of that person's sex, including the person's sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression or pregnancy.
- j. Sexual Harassment
  - i. Any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, or other unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal, nonverbal, graphic, physical, or otherwise.
- k. Non-Consensual Sexual Touching.
  - i. Sexual touching without consent of another person including instances where the other person is incapable of giving consent.
- l. Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse
  - i. Sexual intercourse without consent of another person including instances where the other person is incapable of giving consent.
- m. Sexual Misconduct
  - i. Having or attempting to have sexual contact with another individual without affirmative consent.
- n. Stalking
  - i. Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific individual that would cause a reasonable person to: (a) fear for the individual's safety or the safety of others; or (b) suffer substantial emotional distress.

## **18. Residential Life Policies**

- a. Violation of Residential Life policies. Each Fall, an updated list of Residential Life policies will be published by the Director of Residential Life to the Residential Life  website

# The Community Standards Process

When University policy is not observed, the University reserves the right to take disciplinary action through the Community Standards process. The Division of Student Affairs oversees and administers this process.

The Community Standards process is initiated when an alleged incident of misconduct is reported. The Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students or their designee will review any reports submitted to determine appropriate follow-up. One or more of the following steps may be taken:

- Notice of Hearing (Administrative Hearing or Conduct Board Hearing).
- Initiation of Investigation
- Implementation of interim measure(s) to remain in place until final resolution of the case.

The University may impose **interim measures**. These measures are implemented prior to a hearing and remain in effect until a decision is made in the conduct process, and the alleged student has been formally notified of a change in their status. Interim sanctions may include but are not limited to; a “no contact” order, ban from a particular residence and/or area of campus, suspension from residence, and/or suspension from the University.

A hearing (Administrative or Conduct Board) may take place to determine a student’s role in an alleged violation of the Conduct Code. The Vice President for Student Affairs or designee will determine the type of hearing. Hearings will be held in person. In the rare case that a hearing needs to take place on Zoom or other remote platforms, cameras must be on unless an accommodation is given.

- Administrative Hearings take place between a hearing officer(s) and the student(s) alleged to have potentially violated policy. In cases involving multiple students, the hearing officer(s) decides whether to meet with students individually or in groups.
- Board Hearings may be convened at the discretion of the Vice President for Student Affairs, or their designee. Boards consist of members of the University community and are advised by Vice President for Student Affairs, or their designee, who may also serve as a board member.

Students found in violation of University policy will be subject to sanctions. Notification of hearing decisions will be communicated in writing to the charged student(s) via email within five (5) business days of the completion of all investigations and hearings. When appropriate, parties such as parents, coaches, and/or complainants may also be informed of the outcome of the hearing.

Generally, the University notifies students’ parents/guardians when an alcohol and/or drug violation occurs. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) allows the University to do so when students are under 21 years of age or are considered financial dependents. FERPA prohibits notifying a student’s parents/guardians if these criteria do not apply.

- Students are presumed not in violation of the Conduct Code until determined otherwise. However, the University may impose interim measures, to remain in place until final resolution of the case, depending on the nature and/or severity of the incident or in situations that may impact the safety of the University community.
- Students will be notified of their hearing date, time, and location at least two (2) business days in advance. The University may conduct a hearing in the absence of students charged if the students charged do not attend the hearing.
- Students have the right to review the Incident Report(s) containing their name prior to the hearing. Students can contact their Hearing Officer to read a copy of the Incident Report(s) in the office of the Hearing Officer. Incident Report(s) may be redacted for the student(s) should it contain names or other identifying information. Incident Reports cannot be taken out of the Hearing Officer's office, nor can they be sent over email or any other digital distribution.
- Students have the right to a hearing in which they may present information and bring witnesses. However, the names and relevance of each witness a student plans to bring must be submitted to the hearing officer no less than 24 hours prior to the hearing for approval. Witnesses should be able to provide direct information related to the alleged violations being reviewed and as such, character witnesses are not permitted. The university reserves the right to supplement the registered witness list or elect not to hear from witnesses if the adjudicator deems their participation unnecessary to make an informed determination. Witnesses must attend in person unless an accommodation is made by the Hearing Officer.
- Students may request an individual hearing but must do so in writing at least 24 hours prior to their scheduled hearing. Student wishing to pursue this option should email [communitystandards@assumption.edu](mailto:communitystandards@assumption.edu). The hearing officer (or chair of the hearing board as it may be) will consider the request and communicate the decision to the student prior to the hearing.
- Students that may need special accommodations during the Conduct Process should contact Student Accessibility Services.
- Students who do not attend their hearing forfeit the right to appeal.
- If information regarding additional violations is received prior to or during the hearing, the hearing officer will determine if addressed during the hearing or in a separate hearing.
- The Community Standards process uses preponderance of evidence to determine students' responsibility. Hearing officers and boards will examine whether it is more likely than not that a violation occurred and decide accordingly.
- Hearings will be closed to the public unless the Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students or designee determines otherwise.
- Students may bring an advisor of choice to their hearing. An advisor may not be a complainant, respondent, witness, or other party involved in the case being discussed. An advisor may not directly address the hearing officers, board members, witnesses, or otherwise participate in the student conduct process.
- Any recordings of the hearing are the sole property of Assumption University.
- In the absence of a formally specified procedure or policy, the directives of the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee will have the full force of procedure/policy.

- The University reserves the right to assign responsibility for violations on one or more individuals or groups (room, pod, floor, townhouse, residence hall, or residential area) in situations where:
  - It is difficult to accurately determine degrees of responsibility or Responsible parties cannot be identified.
  - A student, while not actively involved in the incident, possesses knowledge of violation(s).

## Appeal Process

Students who participate in their hearing may appeal the outcome of their case. Appeals are considered by the Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students, their designee, or an Appeal Board. Appeal Boards consist of members of the University community and are advised by the Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students or designee.

Students have five (5) business days from the date of their decision letter to submit a formal letter of appeal to the Office of Student Affairs unless the safety of the University requires greater expediency. Appeal letters should state the grounds for appeal and provide a rationale to support the stated grounds.

The following are the only grounds upon which appeals may be sought:

- A material procedural error that impacted the outcome.
- Previously unavailable relevant evidence that would affect the outcome; and/or
- The sanction being disproportionate to the violation.

The appeal officer or board will:

- Uphold the decision and sanction of the hearing officer or board.
- Reverse the decision of the hearing officer or board and remove all sanctions.
- Modify the decision of the hearing officer or board and/or modify the sanctions given.

The appeal officer or board may choose to meet with the student submitting the appeal to discuss the matter in person. The appeals process is intended to foster checks and balances in the conduct process rather than rehear the case. The decision of the appeal officer or board is final.

## Outcomes

Outcomes will be designed to promote accountability, address the misconduct's effect on the impacted parties and the community. Outcomes are commensurate with the severity of the violation, at the sole discretion of the University.

As a result of engaging in the Community Standards process, students will be able to:

- Recognize how their actions impacted the Assumption University community.
- Articulate connections between their values and decision making.
- Identify resources, strategies and skills that will promote holistic development and avoid future violations.
- Evaluate positive and negative courses of action critically and proficiently.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the community standards process and what outcomes would be advanced if they were to engage in future violations.

**Restorative Justice** is the key operational philosophy of the Community Standards process. This process seeks to examine the harmful impact of the alleged behavior and then determines what can be done to repair that harm while holding the student who caused it accountable for their actions. Accountability for the responsible student means accepting responsibility and acting to repair the harm done. While the Community Standards process is educational in nature, certain behaviors or patterns of behavior may be so harmful to the University community that it may require serious sanctions, such as removal from University housing, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

To evaluate each incident with the appropriate context, outcomes will be determined on a case-by-case basis in light of all the circumstances. All outcomes are issued at the discretion of the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee. Determining factors might include:

- Nature and severity of the violation
- Multiple policy violations in a single incident
- Individual history of policy violations
- Individual mitigating or aggravating circumstances
- Timeframe over which the violations occurred
- Harm incurred by the impacted party or parties
- Demeanor or behavior demonstrated throughout the incident and Community Standards process

### Status-Based Outcomes

**Disciplinary Warning:** serves as an official warning to the student that subsequent violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in higher-level sanctions.

**Disciplinary Probation:** a status for a determined period which indicates that similar or more severe violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in suspension, or dismissal from the University.



**Weekend Suspension:** Suspension from campus residence and/or from the entire campus grounds for one or more weekends.

**Conditional Housing:** A status for a determined period which indicates that similar or more severe violations may result in removal from Housing or more severe sanctions.

**Area Ban:** Student is not allowed to visit certain buildings or areas on campus.

**Change of Residency:** Students are assigned to a different residential room or area.

**Loss of Privileges:** Specific privileges are revoked from students (e.g., visitation to a certain part of campus, guest privileges, Senior Week, etc.).

**Removal from Housing:** a limitation on or loss of a student's ability to live in University housing. Revocation of housing privileges may include loss of University housing temporarily or permanently, restriction from certain buildings or areas of housing, and other housing-related restrictions.

**Suspension from the University:** Students are not permitted to be enrolled in the University or on University grounds for a specific period. Violating this sanction may result in arrest for trespassing and/or more severe sanctions.

**Expulsion:** Students are permanently barred from enrollment and banned from entering campus grounds. To be found on campus property may result in one's arrest from trespassing.

## **Education-based outcomes**

**Creative Sanction:** Outcome determined by the student and the Hearing Officer that will help the student to repair harm caused by their behavior.

**Reflective Assignment:** Written assignment on a student's behavior and how they will seek to improve their behavior in the future.

**Substance Use Referral:** Formal assessment of the student's substance use.

**Fire Safety Review:** Research and written reflection on the importance of fire safety.

**University Partner Referral:** Meeting with another faculty, staff, or student to restore community and repair harm done from the incident.

**Financial Restitution:** Students must pay designated amount for cost of repairs, replacements, and reimburseme

# Outcome Guidelines

Outcome guidelines are intended to alert students and other members of the University community to the seriousness of the violations below and what one might typically expect because of being found responsible for a particular violation. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of violations and outcomes may be assessed for any violation of University Policy. Determination of appropriate outcomes remains at the discretion of the Office of Community Standards.

The chairperson of a Conduct Board may consider sanctions recommended by the Conduct Board or impose others.

## Alcohol-Related Violations

Category	First Violation	Second Violation	Third Violation	Fourth Violation
Consumption or possession of alcohol under prohibited circumstances	Disciplinary Warning and active outcome	Disciplinary Probation and active outcome	Weekend Suspensions and/or privilege removal	Removal from Housing / Suspension
Assessment or transport for alcohol intoxication	Disciplinary Warning and substance assessment	Disciplinary Probation, substance assessment, and active outcome	Removal from Housing/ Suspension	Suspension or expulsion
Empty containers	Educational Resolution	Disciplinary Warning and active outcome	Disciplinary Probation and active outcome	Weekend Suspensions
Drinking games and /or paraphernalia	Educational Resolution	Disciplinary Warning and active outcome	Disciplinary Probation and active outcome	Weekend Suspensions
Driving under the influence of alcohol	Suspension or Expulsion	Expulsion		

## Drug-Related Violations

Category	First Violation	Second Violation	Third Violation
Possession or use of marijuana and/or paraphernalia	Disciplinary Warning or Disciplinary Probation and active sanction	Disciplinary Probation, substance assessment and active outcome	Removal from Housing/Suspension
Possession or use of other illicit drugs	Disciplinary Probation, substance assessment	Weekend Suspension	Suspension or Expulsion
Sale, manufacture, or distribution of drugs	Suspension or Expulsion	Expulsion	

## Civility-Related Violations

Category	First Violation	Second Violation	Third Violation
Bias Related Violation	Disciplinary Probation/ Weekend Suspension and active outcome	Suspension or Expulsion	Expulsion
Guest Policy Violation	Educational Resolution	Disciplinary Warning and active sanction	Disciplinary Probation and loss of guest/gathering privileges
Quiet Hours Violation	Educational Resolution	Disciplinary Warning and active sanction	Disciplinary Probation and loss of guest/gathering privileges
Disrespect or non-compliance with staff directives	Educational Resolution or Disciplinary Warning and active outcome	Disciplinary Probation and active outcome	Weekend Suspension or Area Ban
Presence of opposite sex in bathroom	Educational Resolution	Disciplinary Warning	Disciplinary Probation

Uncivil or Disorderly Conduct	Disciplinary Probation and active outcome	Weekend Suspensions and active outcome	Removal from Housing
Theft	Disciplinary Warning or Probation, Service and/or Restitution, active outcome	Weekend Suspensions and active outcome	Suspension or Expulsion
Vandalism or Property Damage	Disciplinary Warning or Educational Resolution and Restitution	Removal of Privileges and/or Weekend Suspensions	Removal from Housing or Suspension

## Fire Safety Violations

Category	First Violation	Second Violation	Third Violation
Gathering Policy Violation	Educational Resolution	Disciplinary Warning	Disciplinary Probation or Removal from Housing
Possessing an unlit candle or incense	Educational Resolution and Fire Safety Review	Disciplinary Warning or Disciplinary Probation	Removal from Housing
Possession of Vaporizers	Educational Resolution	Disciplinary Warning	Disciplinary Probation
Tampering with fire safety equipment	Disciplinary Warning and Fire Safety Review	Disciplinary Probation and active outcome	Removal from Housing
Smoking indoors or open flame	Disciplinary Probation and Fire Safety Review	Removal from Housing	Suspension or expulsion

## Violence-Related Violations

Category	First Violation	Second Violation
Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person	Disciplinary Probation or Suspension and active outcome	Suspension or Expulsion
Possession of a weapon	Disciplinary Probation or Suspension and active outcome; Expulsion.	Suspension or Expulsion
Physical violence: pushing, punching, fighting etc.	Disciplinary Probation or Suspension and active outcome; Expulsion.	Suspension or Expulsion

## Additional Community Standards Protocols and Procedures

### **Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy**

Complete information is available on the University's Title IX webpage:

<https://www.assumption.edu/people-and-departments/organization-listing/office-title-ix>

Sexual Misconduct is antithetical to the mission and values of the University and will not be tolerated. The University prohibits all forms of Sexual Misconduct and will take prompt action to eliminate such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects. Assumption University is committed to maintaining a safe and respectful learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community free from gender-based discrimination and violence, including, but not limited to: Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, Relationship Violence, and Stalking.

In keeping with the University's commitment, outcomes may be enacted that are proportionate to the misconduct given the facts and circumstances of each report, the impact of the conduct on the impacted party and larger community, and accountability of the responding party.

### **Previously Adjudicated Cases**

Students that attended Assumption University prior to the 2024-2025 Academic Year may have been found responsible for a Community Standards violation or violations. As outlined in sanctioning policies at the time, these students may have "points" associated with these violations. Students found responsible for violations will maintain these violations on their record and are subject to the reporting guidelines detailed in our Record Retention Policy. Previous violations will be considered when sanctioning students in accordance with the 2024-2025 Student Handbook. For example, a student may have incurred 6 points for a marijuana-related incident. If this student is found responsible for a second marijuana-related incident, they can typically expect to receive the sanction outlined under the "second violation" category. Students with status-based sanctions can typically expect to maintain that status as detailed in their initial outcome. Students are expected to complete any outstanding outcomes related to violations that occurred prior to the 2024-2025 policy updates.

### **Record Retention**

When a student is found responsible for violations of the Code of Conduct, a record will be established and maintained within the Office of Community Standards. Disciplinary records are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and are not released to parents/guardians/family members, employers, or graduate schools without the written consent of the student. Student records, with some exceptions, will be maintained for seven years after the date of incident. Exceptions include but are not limited to: cases where a student has been suspended or expelled from University housing, suspended, or expelled from the University, and/or qualify under Title IX. The Office of Community Standards may also maintain records for any pending or unresolved conduct matters. The Office of Community Standards may provide the following information to the requesting party: date of violation(s), specific policy that was breached, status-based outcomes.

## The Call for Help Policy

Students who seek medical assistance on behalf of themselves or others during an alcohol or other drug related emergency will not be held accountable through the University's Community Standards process for possession or use of alcohol or other drugs. Students may be held accountable for violations regarding behavior or assault. This policy also applies to student organizations and their members. The recipient of medical attention will not be held accountable through the University's Community Standards process but will be required meet with a member of Community Standards to discuss substance use and possible resources. Recommendation for additional follow-up may be made based upon the needs of the student.

The Call for Help Policy does not apply to individuals experiencing an alcohol or drug-related medical emergency found by University officials.

The University strongly encourages students to seek help by reaching out to University officials (Resident Assistants, Resident Directors, Campus Police Officers) when medical assistance may be necessary. Students are asked to remain with the individual who needs help until emergency personnel have arrived. This protocol is not intended to address possible violations of criminal laws or their consequences outside the University.

In any emergency involving alcohol or other drugs, call Campus Police at 508-767-7777, at extension 7777, or 508-767-7225 immediately for medical assistance.

### **Off-Campus Violations**

The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action against Assumption University students who are involved in any off-campus incidents of criminal activity or otherwise non-criminal behavior that the University deems inappropriate, particularly when such incidents have implications for campus safety and/or an effect on the reputation or operation of the University.

## Criminal Charges



When the University is aware that criminal charges have been brought against an Assumption University student by local, Commonwealth, or federal authorities, the University reserves the right to suspend/expel that student from the University, and/or from residence, and/or take any other action which is deemed appropriate, pending the outcome of the conduct process.

## Double Jeopardy

The University may adjudicate matters that are being dealt with in a court of law; this does not constitute double jeopardy. University officials may, at their discretion, consider the actions taken by civil authorities.

## Search and Seizure

One of the basic student rights is the right to privacy. The right to be secured and protected against unreasonable searches and seizures is part of this right to privacy.

- **Cursory Search** - When University authorities have reason to suspect that a violation of University policy is occurring or has occurred, they reserve the right to investigate the situation and confiscate evidence of such violations. In addition, they may make a cursory search of the student's room, motor vehicle, and person, including refrigerators, closets, wardrobes, desks, and large bags or boxes. Material evidence such as alcoholic beverages and containers, drug paraphernalia, suspicious odors, disruptive behavior, or behavior which is suspect, will generally be considered the basis for such a search.
- **Routine Entry and Inspection of Premises** - University authorities reserve the right to enter all campus premises on a regular basis to examine them or to make such repairs, additions, or alterations, as they deem necessary. In addition, the University reserves the right to enter the premises to take those precautions that might be found necessary to protect the health and safety of the occupants, other persons therein, or others in the residence hall/building. The University may take disciplinary action against any violators of University policy, even if the violation is observed as part of a routine operation.
- **Search** - When University authorities have reasonable suspicion that serious violations of federal, State, local laws, or University policy are occurring or have occurred, they may, with the approval from either the President of the University, the Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students or their designee, or a lawfully issued search warrant, thoroughly search a student's person, room, common living space, motor vehicle, and belongings. Evidence obtained will be confiscated and used in criminal and/or University procedures.
- **Federal, State, and Local Authority** - It should be noted that federal, State, and local officials may exercise their legitimate authority in conducting search and seizure procedures without the consent of the University.

Students need not be present when inspection occurs.



## Bystander Information

Students, faculty or staff who witness or have knowledge of verbal or physical harassment, conflicts that may escalate into assault or battery potential volatile situations or are concerned about the immediate health or well-being of another should contact Campus Police at 508-767-7225. If the situation requires immediate intervention, contact the Campus Police emergency number at extension 7777.

All members of the Assumption University community are strongly encouraged to download the [RAVE Guardian app](#), as this is an additional resource to report any possible issue/concern and is a direct link to Public Safety/Campus Police.

Students, faculty or staff who have information about students in need of assistance should contact the Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students at 508-767-7325 or submit a [CARE Team Reporting Form](#).

Designated campus authorities will keep the bystander's name confidential when possible. Since a suspected person's rights are a fundamental and legitimate concern, campus authorities will act in a way that takes bystander reports seriously, while respecting a suspected person's free speech, presumption of innocence, search-and-seizure, and privacy rights. All persons' behaviors are bound by the Conduct Code and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts