

GWU Student Conduct Process Outline

Conflict Education & Student Accountability (CESA) and those who resolve conduct cases evaluate each case individually. This chart provides a summary of the ways in which cases are typically processed under the Code of Student Conduct. We encourage students to read the Code in its entirety. In the event this guide is inconsistent or in conflict with the Code, the Code will apply.

Last updated 7/2024

**Report received and referred to student conduct formal policy adjudication following initial review.
A preliminary investigation may occur to clarify and inform the review of the report.**

INTERIM ACTION is a possible step
If the respondent poses a threat, the university may temporarily remove them or limit their access while the case proceeds.

CESA refers the case to a Conference or a Panel Process

STUDENT CONDUCT CONFERENCE

- Occurs if outcome is not likely to include removal from housing, suspension, or expulsion.
- Consists of an informal meeting between the respondent and a university administrator or a member of the University Integrity & Conduct Council.

STUDENT CONDUCT AGREEMENT

- An option for respondents who accept an in violation finding for all charges and agree to specific sanctions.
- Includes waiving the right to appeal and concludes the process.

STUDENT CONDUCT PANEL

- Occurs if the outcome could reasonably include removal from housing, suspension, or expulsion.
- Consist of 3-5 students, a faculty member or administrator (absence of faculty member/administrator does not prevent a hearing).

Option for Respondent

Option for Respondent

Finding is made based on "more likely than not standard."

Option for Respondent

OUTCOMES

PANEL LEVEL CONFERENCE

- Resolves the case in a conference format, with a single administrator serving as the hearing body.
- Maintains the full range of available sanctions.

IN VIOLATION (some or all charges)

- The respondent will receive an outcome letter including rationale and sanctions/outcomes.

NOT IN VIOLATION (all charges)

- Respondent will receive an outcome letter, including rationale.

Option for Respondent, except in agreement.

APPEALS

- Submitted in writing within 5 business days after receipt of outcome letter.
- Grounds for appeal: 1.) material deviation from procedures, 2.) new and relevant information that was unavailable, 3.) sanction was inappropriate or disproportionate to the prohibited conduct.
- If the designee of the Vice Provost for Student Affairs finds that grounds are presented, the appeal will be forwarded to an Appeals Panel.
- The Appeals Panel may: 1.) affirm the finding of the original hearing body, 2.) remand the case to the original hearing body, 3.) request that a new hearing body hear the case, or (4) recommend revised sanctions (if that is the grounds for appeal).
- The decision of the Appeals Panel or outcome of the remanded or requested hearing body will be final.
- During the appeal period, (implementation of) sanctions will be deferred, unless concern for campus safety necessitates immediate implementation of sanctions.

Basic rights of respondents in university student conduct proceedings

- Notice of charges and date of conduct proceeding, reasonable access to case file at least three days before proceeding; question and respond to information to be used to make decision in a case; right to witnesses; right not to be sanctioned unless the hearing body finds a preponderance of the evidence that the respondent is in violation; right to appeal decisions.
- A support person may be present (not legal representation).

For cases involving a complainant, the process will vary to incorporate the options relevant to that party.