Non-Academic Student Code of Conduct

The Wake Forest University School of Divinity expects good citizenship and responsible behavior from students. When these expectations are not met, the non-academic misconduct process may be used to redirect students into more acceptable patterns of behavior. This process encourages students to take responsibility for their choices and actions, while also allowing the University to determine an appropriate disciplinary response.

Misconduct cases may result in the sanction of a formal reprimand and the imposition of an educational condition, or a more severe level of sanction, including disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion. Students need to be aware that certain types of behaviors may be deemed incompatible with membership in the School’s community, and that choices they make can compromise their education and future.

The list below, while not exhaustive, includes examples of the types of prohibited conduct for which students are subject to disciplinary action:

a. Actual or threatened physical injury to any person on University owned or controlled property or at a University-sponsored or supervised function, or conduct that endangers the health or safety of a person.

b. Engaging in individual or group conduct that is violent, abusive, indecent, unreasonably loud, or similar disorderly conduct that infringes upon the privacy, rights, or privileges of others or disturbs the peace or the orderly process of education on campus. Alleged sexual misconduct will be governed under the University’s sexual misconduct policy.

c. In violation of University policy, unauthorized use, possession, or storage of any weapon or explosive (including fireworks) on University premises or at University sponsored activities.

d. Forgery, counterfeiting, alteration, or misuse of any University record, document, or identification card.

e. Unauthorized entry into or alteration of, any University computer records, or violation of University computer use policies.

f. Sending threatening or obscene messages to another student or individual via e-mail, phone or voice-mail.

g. Knowingly filing a false police, honor code or non-academic honor code report.

h. Misrepresentation in seeking financial aid or University benefits.

i. Unlawful possession, use, distribution, or sale of any narcotic or dangerous drug as defined by the statutes of the State of North Carolina and/or University policies.

j. Theft of, or unwarranted damage to, University property or property of any member of the University community.

k. Failure to comply with Housing regulations.

l. Failure to comply with the lawful directives of University employ-

ees acting within the scope of their duties; including those directives issued by a University administrator to ensure the safety and well-being of students.

m. Entry into, or use of, any building, facility, or room or other University property or grounds without authorized approval. This also includes the unauthorized possession or use of University keys, lock combinations, or other access codes.

n. Participation in illegal gambling activities on University-owned or controlled property or at a function identified with the University.

o. Possession, or consumption, of alcoholic beverages in contradiction of state law and/or University policy.

p. Entering or attempting to enter any event without proper credentials for admission (e.g., ticket, identification card, or invitation).

q. Failure to make satisfactory settlement for any debts to the University.

r. Failure to comply with University traffic rules and regulations.

The School shall have the authority to hold students accountable under this Code of Conduct for certain off-campus behaviors (i.e., behavior that does not occur on University premises or in the context of a University, School, or student organization sponsored event or activity) that adversely affects a substantial University or School interest. In determining whether the conduct adversely affects a substantial University or School interest, the following shall be considered:

a. Whether the conduct constitutes or would constitute a serious criminal offense, regardless of the existence of any criminal proceedings.

b. Whether the conduct indicates that the student presented or may present a danger or threat to the health or safety of himself, herself or others.

c. Whether the conduct demonstrates a pattern of behavior that impairs the University’s or School’s ability to fulfill its mission.

Professional Integrity

Professional integrity for divinity students is defined by the standards of integrity common to all professions and is further specified by those virtues of character required by Christian ministry. A person of integrity acts in a way that is congruent with what is professed in words and intended in thought, displays especially the virtues of truth and fairness, exhibits a consistent character over time, and takes responsibility for his or her actions.

Procedures for Adjudicating Student Conduct Code Violations

Alleged breaches in non-academic student conduct and/or professional integrity should be reported in a timely manner to the
associate dean of admissions and student services, who will conduct a preliminary investigation. Failure to report alleged breaches in a timely manner could impede the school's ability to investigate or substantiate the allegations. The associate dean of admissions and student services may consult with the academic dean. If further investigation is required, the associate dean of admissions and student services, in collaboration with the academic dean, may then appoint an ad hoc committee consisting of two faculty members and chaired by an additional faculty member. If such a committee is appointed, the associate dean of admissions and student services will inform the accused person in writing of the allegations against him/her, the name(s) of those who reported the charges, and the date, time, and place of the hearing on these charges. If further investigation is not required, the person reporting the alleged breach will be notified of that fact in writing.

The accused will be allowed a reasonable time to prepare a response and will be granted the privilege of an adviser to be chosen by the student from the School of Divinity faculty. The adviser shall assist the student in the process. In all hearings, the accused will have the right to be present at all times during the hearing except when the committee retires to deliberate and makes its decision. Evidence shall be admitted without regard to the rules of evidence in courts of law. The accused student may present evidence to the committee.

All materials and information related to the case should be confidentially submitted to the associate dean of admissions and student services. Any verbal reports related to the case will be documented in writing by the associate dean of admissions and student services. A written summary report of the findings will be provided by the associate dean of admissions and student services to the accused student, ad hoc faculty committee, academic dean, and the dean.

After thorough review of the case, the committee will decide whether the accused has violated the code of conduct. A majority vote of the committee will suffice for a finding of responsibility. If the person is found to have violated the student code of conduct, the committee may decide on one or more of the following actions or such other action as the committee deems appropriate:

(a) A written reprimand.
(b) Denial of specified University privileges.
(c) Payment of restitution.
(d) Educational or service sanctions, including community service.
(e) Disciplinary probation.
(f) Imposition of reasonable terms and conditions on continued student status.
(g) Removal from a course in progress.
(h) Enrollment restrictions on a course or program.
(i) Suspension.
(j) Expulsion.