

UCF-5.011 Scope; Authority; Principles of Group Responsibility; Violations of Law and Rule of Conduct Violations; Definitions; Student Organizational Conduct

Records

(1) Scope

(a) The organizational conduct regulations (UCF-5.011, 5.012, and 5.013) shall apply to all student organizations of the University, including those at its regional campuses and/or at off campus instructional sites, and shall be deemed a part of the terms and conditions of student organization registration.

(b) The Organizational Rules of Conduct apply to all student organizations for conduct that occurs:

1. on or off University premises; or
2. while participating in University and/or organization sponsored or related activities; or
3. during school sessions, holidays, breaks, and university closures; or
4. against students or non-students.

(c) The University reserves the right to pursue any violation of the Organizational Rules of Conduct when the alleged conduct adversely affects the interest(s) of any part of the University community.

(2) Authority

(a) The Florida Board of Governors Regulation 6.0105 requires each university to establish a Student Disciplinary System, including a code of conduct, to apply to student disciplinary proceedings.

(b) These regulations shall ensure a fair and impartial process in student organizational disciplinary proceedings and guarantee the integrity of the university.

(c) Generally, authority necessary to enforce the organizational student conduct regulations is vested in the Vice President for Student Development and Enrollment Services or designee. Selected functions of this authority are shared with faculty, staff and students. Some functions of student conduct administration are assisted through review boards.

(3) Principles of Group Responsibility

(a) Any student organization can be held responsible for its actions or the actions of one or more of its members (active or inactive). There is no minimum number of group members who must be involved in an incident before disciplinary action may be taken against the organization. In some instances, the conduct of a single member may provide sufficient grounds for action against the entire organization. Misconduct on the part of the organization may be addressed when:

1. Members of the organization act together to violate University standards of conduct;
2. One or more members, alumni, or guests allegedly violate an Organizational Rule of Conduct at an organization-sponsored, financed, or otherwise supported activity;
3. One or more members of an organization or its officers has knowledge of the incident, behavior, etc. and fails to take corrective or prohibitive action before such incident, behavior, etc. occurs or fails to stop such incident, behavior, etc. while it is occurring;
4. A violation occurs on premises and/or transportation owned, operated, or rented exclusively by the student organization;

5. A pattern of individual violations has occurred and/or continues to occur without adequate control, response, or sanction on the part of the student organization or its leaders;

6. The student organization or related activities provided the context for the violation; or

7. The student organization chooses to protect one or more individual offenders who are members, alumni, former members, or guests of the student organization from official actions.

(4) Violations of Law and Rule of Conduct Violations

(a) Members of the University community who commit offenses against the laws of municipalities, states, or the United States are subject to prosecution by those authorities and may be subject to disciplinary action by the University when their conduct violates institutional standards. Students shall not be forced to present self-incriminating evidence; however, the University is not required to postpone disciplinary proceedings pending the outcome of any civil or criminal case.

(5) Definitions

(a) The term “Advisor” refers to the one person of the charged student organization’s choice who may assist and/or accompany the charged student organization throughout the Student Organization Conduct Review Process. An Advisor shall not speak for or present the case on behalf of the charged student organization.

(b) The term “Charged student organization” means any student organization that is charged with a violation of the Organizational Rules of Conduct.

(c) The term “Director of the OSRR” refers to the Director of the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

(d) The term “Member of the University community” refers to any person who is a student, faculty member, staff member, University official or other employee or agent of the University.

(e) The term “Off campus” refers to any location not defined as University premises.

(f) The term “Preponderance of evidence” means that evidence, considered as a whole, shows that the fact sought to be proved is more probable than not. This is the standard used in resolving all disciplinary cases within the Student Conduct Review Process.

(g) The term “Sanction” refers to outcome(s) imposed on student organizations found in violation of the Organizational Rules of Conduct.

(h) The term “Student” means any person continuously enrolled in one or more classes at the University, either full time or part time, including study abroad, pursuing undergraduate, graduate or professional studies.

(i) The term “Student Conduct Board” means any person or persons authorized by the Director of the OSRR or designee to determine whether a student organization has violated the Organizational Rules of Conduct and, if so, to recommend sanctions that may be imposed. Board members are selected through an annual application and interview process with the exception of the justices from the Student Government Association Judicial Council. All Student Conduct Board members, including justices, receive extensive training from the Office of Student Conduct.

(j) The term “University” means the University of Central Florida.

(k) The term “University official” is any person employed by the University (i.e. faculty, staff, administration, and residence hall staff) acting within the scope of their job duties.

(l) The term “University premises” includes all land, buildings, facilities, and other properties in the possession of or owned, used, or controlled by the University.

(m) The term “VP of SDES” refers to the Vice President of Student Development and Enrollment Services.

(6) Student Organizational Conduct Records

(a) Maintenance of Records. A student organizations conduct case record will be maintained in the Office of Student Conduct. The case record of a student organization found responsible for charge(s) against them, with sanctions less than suspension or revocation, will generally be maintained in the Office of Student Conduct for seven years from the calendar year of record, after which they are destroyed. The case record of a student organization that has been suspended or whose registration has been revoked will be permanently maintained by the Office of Student Conduct.

(b) Release of Records. The release of student organization disciplinary records will be governed by applicable federal and state laws regarding the privacy of educational records.

Authority: BOG Regulations 1.001 and 6.0105. History - New 10-16-09.