

## **UCF-5.008 Rules of Conduct**

The following defined and described actions include, but are not limited to, conduct for which disciplinary action may be taken at the University of Central Florida. Students are responsible for the observation of all University policies and regulations. Each student is expected to abide by these rules of conduct, and administrators are expected to enforce them. These Rules of Conduct should be read broadly and are not designed to define prohibited conduct in exhaustive terms. Additional rules and regulations may be revised during the year; announcements will be made on adoption of the changes or additions. The right of all students to seek knowledge, debate ideas, form opinions, and freely express their ideas is fully recognized by the University of Central Florida. The Rules of Conduct apply to student conduct and will not be used to impose discipline for the lawful expression of ideas. Students are prohibited from engaging in:

### **(1) Academic Misconduct**

- (a) **Unauthorized assistance:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course related material also constitutes cheating.
- (b) **Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means.** The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment or project.
- (c) **Commercial Use of Academic Material:** Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the University and the Instructor. Course materials include but not limited to class notes, Instructor's power points, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, and handouts.
- (d) **Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.**
- (e) **Plagiarism:** Whereby another's work is used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
- (f) **Multiple Submissions:** Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.

- (g) Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.
- (h) Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements. The solicitation of assistance with an assignment, lab, quiz, test, paper, etc., without authorization of the instructor of record or designee is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to asking for answers to a quiz, trading answers, or offering to pay another to complete an assignment. It is considered Academic Misconduct to solicit assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements, even if the solicitation did not yield actual assistance (for example, if there was no response to the solicitation).

(2) Possessing and/or Providing False and Misleading Information and/or Falsification of University Records

- (a) Withholding related information, or furnishing false or misleading information (oral or written) to University officials, university and non-university law enforcement officers, faculty or staff.
- (b) Possession, use or attempted use of any form of fraudulent identification.
- (c) Forgery, alteration or misuse of any University document, material, file, record or instrument of identification.
- (d) Deliberately and purposefully providing false or misleading verbal or written information about another person.
- (e) Falsification, distortion, or misrepresentation of information during an investigation, the Student Conduct Review Process, including knowingly initiating a false complaint.

(3) Disruptive Conduct

- (a) Any act that impairs, interferes with, or obstructs the orderly conduct, processes, and functions of the University or any part thereof or the rights of one or more individuals.
- (b) Any act which deliberately impedes or interferes with the normal flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
- (c) Any act which intentionally interferes with the election processes of any University registered student organization or sponsored student group.
- (d) Misuse of any University safety equipment, firefighting equipment, or fire alarms.
- (e) A false report of an explosive or incendiary device, which constitutes a threat or bomb scare.

- (f) Breach of peace: an act, which aids, abets, or procures another person to breach the peace on the University premises or at University sponsored/related functions.
- (g) Failure to comply with oral or written instruction from duly authorized University officials (i.e. faculty, staff, administration, residence hall staff) acting within the scope of their job duties or law enforcement officers acting in the performance of their duties, including failure to identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so.
- (h) Failure to produce identification upon request by a University official (i.e. faculty, staff, administration, residence hall staff), acting within the scope of their job duties or law enforcement officers acting in the performance of their duties.
- (i) Hindering or interfering with the student conduct review process by failing to obey the notice from a university official to appear for a student conduct meeting or hearing; and/or attempting to discourage an individual's proper participating in, or use of, the student conduct review process.
- (j) Violation of any other University regulation or policy as described in the UCF Regulations, UCF Policies and Procedures, or University department publicized policy.
- (k) Failure to comply with applicable law and University regulations and procedures for solicitation and fundraising activities on campus.

#### (4) Harmful Behavior

- (a) Physical harm or threat of physical harm to any person. This harmful behavior policy may not apply in those instances where it is found that a student is acting in self-defense.
- (b) Verbal, digital, or written abuse, threats, intimidation, coercion and/or other conduct that endangers the health, safety, or wellbeing of others, or which would place a reasonable person in fear of bodily injury or death. This definition, however, shall not be interpreted to abridge the rights of the University community to freedom of expression protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and any other applicable law.
- (c) Discriminatory Harassment: defined as verbal, physical, electronic, or other conduct based on a protected category (such as race, color, religion, national origin, gender equity, et al.), which, due to the severity and pervasiveness of the conduct and its targeted nature on the basis of a protected category, (i) has the purpose or effect of creating an objectively intimidating, hostile or offensive educational or work

environment; and (ii) has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's employment, schooling, or business with the University. Harassment under this provision is conduct that would constitute harassment under federal or state civil rights laws or under University Policy 2-004.1 Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Related Interpersonal Violence.

- (d) **Bullying:** Defined as behavior of any sort (including communicative behavior) directed at another, that is severe, pervasive, or persistent, and is of a nature that would cause a reasonable person or group in the target's position substantial emotional distress and undermine his or her ability to work, study, or participate in University life or regular activities, or which would place a reasonable person in fear of injury or death.
- (e) **Stalking:** defined as conduct not of a sexual nature that is repeated, unwanted conduct toward or contact with another person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others, or to experience substantial emotional distress. Such conduct is direct, indirect, or through a third party using any type of action, method, or means. Cyber stalking is also included in this definition.
- (f) **Invasion of Privacy and Unauthorized Recording.**
  1. Making, using, disclosing or distributing a recording of a person in a location or situation in which that person has a reasonable expectation of privacy and is unaware of the recording or does not consent to it; and any other conduct that constitutes an invasion of the privacy of another person under applicable laws and regulations. Such conduct includes, without limitation, unauthorized recording of personal conversations, images, meetings or activities.
  2. Unauthorized recording of a class or of organizational or University meetings, where there exists a legal expectation of privacy, and any use, disclosure, or distribution of any such recording.
  3. Engaging in acts of voyeurism, including but not limited to peeping or surreptitiously recording another in a bathroom.
  4. Any notice, consent or other requirement under applicable laws and regulations must be fulfilled in connection with authorizing, making, using, disclosing or distributing any recording, where there is a legal expectation of privacy.

- (g) Retaliation against or harassment of complainant(s), other person(s) alleging misconduct, or anyone who participates in an investigation.
- (h) Condoning or encouraging acts of harmful behavior as defined above or failing to intervene during an act of harmful behavior while it is occurring.

(5) Sexual Misconduct and/or Interpersonal Violence

- (a) Sexual Assault: Any nonconsensual sexual contact which occurs on or off the UCF campus.

1. Consent is an understandable exchange of affirmative words or actions, which indicate a willingness to participate in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Consent cannot be obtained by force, threat, coercion, manipulation, reasonable fear of injury, intimidation, use of position of influence, or through the use of one's mental or physical helplessness or incapacity. The lack of a negative response, lack of protest or resistance, silence and passivity are not consent. Consent to one form of sexual activity does not imply consent to other forms of sexual activity. Past consent to sexual activity does not imply ongoing future consent.
  - a. Responsibilities - It is the responsibility of the initiator to obtain clear and affirmative responses at each stage of sexual involvement.
  - b. Standard - A determination of whether consent exists will be based on the information the initiator of the sexual act knew or should have known as a sober, reasonable person. Being impaired by alcohol or other drugs does not relieve an initiator of a sexual act from obtaining consent.
  - c. Incapacitation – Incapacitation is a state where an individual cannot make rational, reasonable decisions because of age, mental or physical helplessness, sleep, unconsciousness, or lack of awareness that sexual activity is taking place. A person may be incapacitated due to the consumption of alcohol or other drugs, or due to a temporary or permanent physical or mental health condition. A person who is incapacitated lacks the capacity to give consent because they cannot understand the facts, nature, or extent of the sexual interaction.

- d. Duration of Consent - Consent must be ongoing throughout sexual activity, for each sexual act, and can be withdrawn at any time.
    - i. Within each sexual encounter, there may be separate individual sexual acts involved. Consent to one act by itself does not constitute consent to another act. If verbal consent is not given, ongoing active participation is required for consent.
    - ii. The existence of a dating or sexual relationship between the persons involved, or the fact of past sexual relations have occurred between the parties, is not an indicator of consent for any current or future sexual encounter.
    - iii. An individual who seeks to withdraw consent must communicate, through clear words or actions, a decision to cease the sexual activity. Once consent is withdrawn, the sexual activity must cease immediately.
  - e. Scope of Consent - Consent to engage in sexual activity with one person does not imply consent to engage in sexual activity with another.
2. Sexual Contact – includes but is not limited to the following behaviors:
- a. Touching, kissing, fondling (whether over or under clothing) of an individual for the purpose of sexual gratification; and/or
  - b. contact, however slight, between the mouth, anus or sex organ of one individual with either the anus or sex organ of another individual; and/or
  - c. contact, however slight, between the anus or sex organ of one individual and any other object.
- (b) Sex Harassment: Sexual harassment is any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, or other unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal, non-verbal, graphic, physical, or otherwise, when the conditions for Discriminatory Harassment as defined in Section (4)(c), are present. This is conduct that would constitute sexual harassment under federal or state civil rights laws or under University Policy 2-004.1 Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment and Related Interpersonal Violence. Sexual Harassment may include inappropriate touching, acts of sexual violence, suggestive comments and public display of pornographic or suggestive calendars, posters, or signs

where such images are not connected to any academic purpose. A single incident of nonconsensual sexual contact (as defined above) may be sufficiently severe to constitute sexual harassment.

- (c) **Gender-Based Harassment:** Discriminatory harassment that is based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, which may include acts of aggression, intimidation, or hostility, whether verbal or non-verbal, graphic, physical, or otherwise, even if the acts do not involve conduct of a sexual nature, when the conditions for Discriminatory Harassment as defined in Section (4)(c) are present.
- (d) **Obscene or Indecent Behavior:** Exposure of one's body in such a manner that another party reasonably could be offended or to display sexual behavior which another person reasonably finds offensive.
- (e) **Voyeurism:** Trespass, spying, or eavesdropping for the purpose of sexual gratification.
- (f) **Solicitation of a Minor:** soliciting sexual acts from a minor by oral, written, or electronic means.
- (g) **Child Pornography:** possessing, producing or the dissemination of child pornography
- (h) **Relationship Violence:** Relationship Violence includes any act of violence or threatened act of violence that occurs between individuals who are involved or have been involved in a sexual, dating, spousal, domestic, or other intimate relationship. Relationship Violence may include sexual assault, stalking, and physical assault. Relationship Violence may involve a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation or may involve one-time conduct. A pattern of behavior is typically determined based on the repeated use of words and/or actions and inactions in order to demean, intimidate, and/or control another person. This behavior can be verbal, emotional, and/or physical and may be directed towards the former partner, their property, or other individuals. Examples of Relationship Violence may include, but are not limited to: slapping; pulling hair; punching; damaging another person's property; driving recklessly to scare someone; name calling; humiliating another person in public; harassment directed toward a current or former partner or spouse; and/or threats of abuse, such as threatening to hit, harm, or use a weapon on another (whether Complainant or acquaintance, friend, or family member of the Complainant), or other forms of verbal threats.

- (i) Stalking: Stalking under this provision occurs where a person engages in a course of conduct of a sexual nature that is directed at a specific person under circumstances that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others, or to experience substantial emotional distress. A "course of conduct" is two or more acts, including but not limited to acts in which a person directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about another person, or interferes with another person's property. Stalking includes "cyber-stalking," a particular form of stalking in which a person uses electronic media, such as the internet, social networks, blogs, phones, texts, or other similar devices or forms of contact. Stalking may include, but is not limited to: non-consensual communications (face to face, telephone, e-mail); threatening or obscene gestures; surveillance/following/pursuit; showing up outside the targeted individual's classroom or workplace; sending gifts and/or notes (romantic, bizarre, sinister, or perverted); and/or making threats.
- (j) Sexual Exploitation: Sexual Exploitation is purposely or knowingly doing or attempting to do any of the following:
1. Recording or photographing private sexual activity and/or a person's intimate parts (including genitalia, groin, breasts or buttocks) without consent;
  2. Disseminating or posting images of private sexual activity and/or a person's intimate parts (including genitalia, groin, breasts or buttocks) without consent;
  3. Allowing third parties to observe private sexual activity from a hidden location (e.g., closet) or through electronic means (e.g., Skype or livestreaming of images);
  4. Subjecting another person to human trafficking; or
  5. Exposing another person to a sexually transmitted infection or virus without the other's knowledge.
- (k) Complicity: Complicity is any act taken with the purpose of aiding, facilitating, promoting or encouraging the commission of an act prohibited by the Rules of Conduct Section (5).
- (l) Any attempted acts of sexual misconduct and/or interpersonal violence defined above are also violations of this policy.



(6) Larceny/Property Damage

- (a) Unauthorized use, possession, or theft of property or service. Such property may be personal or public.
- (b) Damaging or defacing of University property or the property of another person whether or not it is on University premises.
- (c) Tampering with or damaging fire safety equipment.

(7) Hazing

- (a) Hazing is any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health and/or safety of a student for purposes including but not limited to: initiation or admission into, association or affiliation with, any registered student organization or other group whether or not officially recognized by the University operating under registration with the University or any student group operating with official sanction of the University. Hazing in violation of Florida Statutes may result in felony charges. A student can be found to have committed an act of hazing whether the student is a prospective, current, or former member of the organization or group. The actions of active, associate, new and/or prospective members, former members, or alumni of a student organization or group may be considered hazing under this rule.
- (b) Hazing includes brutality of a physical nature such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food, liquid, liquor, drug, or other substances; or other forced elements; or other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental or physical health or safety of the individual.
- (c) Hazing includes any activity which could subject the individual to extreme mental stress such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.
- (d) Hazing includes forcing, pressuring, or coercing, the student into violation of University policies or federal, state, or local law.
- (e) Hazing includes soliciting a person to commit or being actively involved in the planning of any act of hazing as defined above where the act of hazing creates a substantial risk of physical injury or death to the person(s) hazed.
- (f) It is not defense to an allegation of hazing that:

1. the consent of the victim had been obtained;
2. the conduct or activity that resulted in the death or injury of a person was not part of any official organizational event or otherwise sanctioned or approved by the student organization; or
3. the conduct or activity that resulted in the death or injury of a person was not done as a condition of membership into a student organization.

(g) Hazing does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions or any activity or conduct that furthers a legal and legitimate objective.

(8) Misuse or Unauthorized Use of Facilities and Grounds

- (a) Misuse or unauthorized use of classroom or laboratory facilities, or University property (as defined by University Regulation UCF-4.036).
- (b) Abusing grounds or building structures including, but not limited to ramps, rails, stair sets and entryways by means of recreational cycling, skating, scootering, or other recreational activities or devices as outlined in University Regulation UCF-4.036.
- (c) Unauthorized entry or attempted entry to any University property (as defined by University Regulation UCF-4.036).
- (d) Unauthorized possession, duplication or use of keys to any University property (as defined by University Regulation UCF-4.036).

(9) Misconduct at University Sponsored/Related Activities

- (a) Violation of UCF rules of conduct at UCF sponsored related activities shall also be a violation of the golden rule.
- (b) Violations of a regulation(s) of a host institution sponsored/related activity shall be a violation of the golden rule.

(10) Controlled Substance and Drug Violations

- (a) Possessing, consuming, or attempting to possess cannabis in any amount.
- (b) Cultivating, manufacturing, or attempting to obtain cannabis in any amount.
- (c) Possessing, consuming, cultivating, manufacturing, or attempting to possess any controlled substances other than cannabis, except as expressly permitted by law.
- (d) Selling or distributing cannabis or any other controlled substances other than alcohol.
- (e) Possessing or attempting to possess any drug related paraphernalia.

- (f) Misconduct under the influence of controlled substance(s) and/or drugs other than alcohol.

NOTE: Students who receive medical attention due to drug related emergencies and/or students who call for help on behalf of another student who may be experiencing a drug related emergency may be exempt from disciplinary action. Information regarding exemptions under this rule for drug related emergencies can be found in University Regulation UCF-5.007 and the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website:

<http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/medicalemergencies>.

(11) Alcoholic Beverages Violation

- (a) Possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages, or possessing or using alcohol-related paraphernalia, except as expressly permitted by the law and University Regulations and/or Policies.
- (b) Selling or distributing alcoholic beverages or alcohol-related paraphernalia, except as expressly permitted by law and University Regulations and/or Policies.
- (c) Misconduct under the influence of alcohol.

NOTE: Students who receive medical attention due to alcohol related emergencies and/or students who call for help on behalf of another student who may be experiencing a drug related emergency may be exempt from disciplinary action. Information regarding exemptions under this rule for drug related emergencies can be found in University Regulation UCF-5.007 and the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website:

<http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/medicalemergencies>.

(12) Possession of Weapons and/or Dangerous Material

- (a) The possession, use, or storage of weapons on property owned or controlled by the University or at events sponsored and/or supported by the University is prohibited, except as specifically outlined in University Policy 3-119.1 (Weapons on University Property and at University Events).
- (b) Possession or use of fireworks of any description, explosives, or chemicals which are disruptive, explosive, or corrosive are prohibited on University premises or at University sponsored/related activities.

(13) Instigation or Participation in Group Disturbances during Demonstrations, Parades, or Picketing

- (a) Participation in a demonstration(s), parade(s), or picketing which invades the rights of others, which interferes with the educational function of the University, or which jeopardizes public order and safety.
- (b) Leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled and/or normal activities within any campus building or area.

(14) Misuse of Computing and Telecommunications Resources

- (a) Theft or other abuse of computer facilities and resources
- (b) Unauthorized entry into a file, to use, read, or change the contents, or for any other purpose.
- (c) Unauthorized transfer of a file.
- (d) Use of another individual's identification and/or password.
- (e) Use of computing facilities and telecommunications resources to interfere with the work of another student, faculty member or University Official.
- (f) Use of computing facilities and telecommunications resources to send obscene or abusive messages.
- (g) Use of computing facilities and telecommunications resources to interfere with normal operation of the University computing system.
- (h) Use of computing facilities and telecommunications resources in violation of copyright laws.
- (i) Any violation of the University of Central Florida Use of Information Technology and Resources Policy.
- (j) Any violation of the University of Central Florida ResNet Acceptable Use Policy.

(15) Gambling

- (a) Play in an unlawful game of chance for money or for anything of value on University premises or at any affair sponsored by a student or student organization.
- (b) Unlawfully sell, barter or dispose of a voucher or any item for participation in a scheme of chance by whatever name on University premises or at any affair sponsored by a student or registered student organization.
- (c) Wager on a University team or organization in a competition, with a direct influence in the success of the competition.

(16) University Student Residence Violations. Violation(s) of any Department of Housing and Residence Life policy, rule or regulation published in hard copy or available electronically via Department of Housing and Residence Life website. A charge under this provision must include a specific citation of which Housing policy or policies the charged student has violated.

(17) University Wordmark Violations. Unauthorized use of the official University wordmark, Pegasus, monogram, seal, or other graphic identity symbol.

(18) Violation of Local, State, and/or Federal Laws. Violation of any local, state and/or federal law that may result in a felony or misdemeanor.

*Authority: BOG Regulations 1.001 and 6.0105. History – Formerly 6C7-5.0042, New 6-18-09, Amended 7-19-12, 9-5-13, 11-20-14, 10-29-15, 7-28-16, 7-20-17, 1-18-18, 7-19-18, 7-18-19, 6-18-20.*