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Frequently Asked Questions for The Office of Student Conduct

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What is the Office of Student Conduct?

The office of Student Conduct is part of the Division of Student Affairs and Institutional Relations at Prairie View A&M University. Our Mission is to create an effective living and learning environment by designing policies such as the Student Conduct Code, providing a disciplinary process and conducting programs that foster ethical development, personal accountability and civility toward other.

What are the services offered to students?

For the convenience of students, The Office of Student Conduct provides:

- Workshops for students and student organizations on issues such as hazing, sexual assault, drug and alcohol use and other at-risk behaviors
- Advice to students on issues and about student related policies Including the Student Conduct Code
- Handouts that help clarify prohibited behaviors under the Student Conduct Code

Can a parent or guardian be given any information about his/her daughter or son?

According to federal regulations, the son or daughter must sign a release of information before it is legal to share information about the case in question with a parent or guardian.

Are criminal charges the same as Student Conduct Code charges?

No. The Student Conduct office relies on the standard of "preponderance of the evidence" and the Student Conduct Code. Criminal charges rely on the standard of "beyond a reasonable doubt" and statues created by law.

What takes place if the student does not show up for his or her hearing?

The hearing proceeds without the student. The Student Conduct Hearing Board reviews the charges decides whether the student was in violation of the Student Conduct Code, and issues sanctions, if appropriate.

What if the student does not agree with the sanction?

He or she can appeal the decision in writing within five days after receiving notification of the Student Conduct Board decision. See the Student Conduct Code for rules of appeal.

Why does the Office of Student Conduct sanction students?

It is the goal of the Office of Student Conduct to turn infractions of the Code into an educational experience and to promote positive behavior and personal responsibility.

How can I make a complaint?

Any person may file a complaint against a student or organization for misconduct. The complaint must be prepared in writing, signed, and directed to the Office of Student Conduct. All complaints should be submitted as soon as possible after the event takes place.

What are my rights as a student?

As a public institution of higher education, Prairie View A&M University seeks to advance knowledge, promote scholarship, and create an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth and development of all of its students. In keeping with these aims, the University recognizes student rights detailed in the Student Conduct Code.

What if I was not aware of a rule and I didn't know I was breaking it?

Lack of knowledge of a rule is not an excuse for misconduct. Every student is responsible for knowing the rules and regulations of the university, so it is important for you to read your Student Handbook. If you are unsure about any policies, ask for clarification.

Is it acceptable for a lawyer to represent me?

An accused student has the right to consult an advisor of his/her choice before and during any conference or hearing. Advisors are not permitted to speak or to participate directly in any hearing or conference.

What will happen if I don't complete my sanctions?

If a student is found responsible for violating the Student Conduct Code and fails to respond to directions from the Student Conduct Officer relative to completing a sanction(s), a \$25.00 non-compliance fine will be imposed, a hold will be placed upon the student's university record, and he or she may face additional disciplinary action.

Who can I talk to if I have questions about the Student Conduct Code?

For procedural information and general advice, talk to Mr. Tim Albert, interim Student Conduct Officer. He is located in Evans Hall, room 307 or call the Office of Student Conduct at (936) 261-3561.

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