

Student Conduct Program

Student Conduct Mission:

The Student Conduct program at Grinnell College supports the Division of Student Affairs and College missions by helping to create and sustain a culture of respect and responsibility – the undergirding tenets of our self-governing community – as well as by providing a holistic and transformative learning experience for students. We strive to resolve allegations of misconduct in a fair, timely, and socially-just manner that balances the needs of the individual student and the College community at large. We achieve our mission by embracing our core values of integrity, honesty, and personal responsibility.

Student Conduct Core Values:

- **Integrity**

It is important to foster a student conduct system that adheres to our core values of integrity, honesty, and personal responsibility. By living up to these espoused values – as well as being held accountable to the high expectations articulated in the student conduct program mission – the integrity and legitimacy of our process is ensured.

- **Honesty**

Honesty is the essential building block of all healthy relationships – with one’s self, each other, our campus community, and society at large. By being truthful, sincere, and candid with each other, we can resolve community disputes and mediate allegations of misconduct in a respectful and socially-just manner.

- **Personal Responsibility**

Self-governance and personal responsibility are hallmarks of our residential liberal arts community. As such, it is important that we take responsibility for our actions that affect not only ourselves but our community as well. By owning our decisions and accepting the consequences of them, we can achieve our mission to create and sustain a culture of respect and responsibility.

During the 2009-10 academic year, the Committee on Student Life reviewed all of the “Campus Life” and “Residence Life” policies found in the *Student Handbook* and provided written rationales for each policy and connected them to one or more of the Self-Governance tenets. In addition, the author(s) of each policy was/were identified so that students who have suggestions, comments, or concerns could speak to individuals directly.

You can find this information by visiting the online *Student Handbook* at:

www.grinnell.edu/studenthandbook

In an effort to increase transparency in the student conduct process, the Dean of Students Office periodically provides an overview of the types of student conduct-related issues that are adjudicated on our campus. As a residential community, where self-governance and personal responsibility are hallmarks, it is appropriate to share this information with the Grinnell College community. Of course, the confidentiality of those involved in these incidents remains of paramount concern. Therefore, all information listed in provided in non-identifiable manner.

You can find this information by visiting the Student Conduct web site at:

www.grinnell.edu/offices/studentaffairs/conduct

Strengthening our culture of respect and personal responsibility



GRINNELL COLLEGE

*An overview of Self-Governance, Statement of
Values, Community Standards, and the
Student Conduct Program*

The Concept of Self-Governance

Those engaged in a liberal arts education create a community based on freedom of choice. By making individual choices, students meet the challenges of a rigorous academic and rich out-of-classroom experience. Self-governance encourages students to become responsible, respectful, and accountable members of the campus, town, and global community.

Principles of Self-Governance

- You are **responsible for your community**. This means engaging in a variety of levels to build, maintain, and contribute to the campus, local, and global community.
- You are **accountable for your choices**. Accountability means taking ownership for your actions, opinions, and beliefs.
- You are **accountable for preventing your actions from infringing** or violating others' rights.
- You are **responsible for speaking and listening** to others to reach shared understandings.
- You are **responsible for addressing situations** and **communicating concerns** about issues that undermine community or individual rights – whether it be your own or others.

These principles of self-governance are supported through:

- an administrative structure intentionally designed to challenge and support students to govern themselves.
- an academic structure encouraging choice through an individually advised curriculum.
- a campus community committed to social consciousness and community involvement.

Statement of Values

Community

- Grinnell is our home and community is our foundation.
- We believe in a respectful community where everyone works towards creating a safe environment.
- To create a safe environment we will treat each other with respect, in times of disagreement.
- We strive to support each other in our growth as individuals.

Individuality

- Everyone is unique. Our perspectives, background, and experiences create a diverse atmosphere to be embraced and celebrated.
- We strive for a community where all students feel safe being and expressing themselves.
- In order for us to accept each other we must recognize that acceptance of individuality is a process requiring communication.

Communication

- Civil communication is necessary to create an atmosphere for constructive dialogue.
- We must all continually work towards open and honest communication while respecting the opinions of others.
- Every member of our community must hold themselves responsible for encouraging an open atmosphere by supporting honest and respectful communication.

Passed by Student Initiative, Spring 2011

Community Standards

Grinnell College is a residential community where self-governance and personal responsibility are hallmarks. As such, the following community standards build upon the *Statement of Values* and explicate how students act with integrity, honesty, and in a socially-just manner.

Standard One: Grinnellians act with integrity and consider how their actions will impact others.

Self-governance is grounded in responsibility and respect for others. As such, it is important for Grinnell College community members to act with integrity. This means students will not commit academic dishonesty, or engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct on College premises or at College-sponsored activities that interferes with the activities of others – including but not limited to studying, teaching, research, and College administration. Furthermore, intentionally furnishing false information or reports to the College, making, possessing, or using any forged, altered, or falsified instrument of identification or College document is contrary to this Standard.

Violating published College regulations, rules, or policies is dishonorable and unacceptable behavior. Such regulations or policies may include the residence hall agreement form, alcohol agreement form, or the smoking policy.

Knowingly violating the terms of any educational outcome (sanction) imposed in accordance with the Student Handbook, and/or abusing the student conduct process – including but not limited to harassing or intimidating a member of a conduct review board or any participant prior to, during, or after a student conduct proceeding – is prohibited as these acts do not uphold this Standard.

Standard Two: Grinnellians value the personal safety of themselves and other members of the Grinnell community.

This includes harassment, sexual misconduct, domestic/dating partner violence, physical assault, threatening behavior, hazing, or any related activities aimed at any member of the College community – including one's self – that harms someone physically or psychologically, or causes others to fear being harmed. Also prohibited are hate crimes and/or bias-motivated incidents – including but not limited to racial, ethnic, religious, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or sexual discrimination, threatening remarks or gestures that are directly and specifically intended for another individual – that interfere with or limits one's ability to attain his/her/hir educational goals. Reckless or intentional acts or destructive behavior which undermines another's basic dignity or self-esteem are contrary to this Standard.

The illegal or unauthorized use, possession, or storage of firearms, explosives, fireworks or other weapons in violation of College policy is not allowed in our community. Intentionally or recklessly misusing or damaging fire safety equipment, intentionally or recklessly setting a fire, activating a false fire alarm, and/or failing to comply with the directions of College officials, including Campus Safety & Security, who are acting in performance of their duties jeopardizes the safety of one's self and others and is prohibited.

Standard Three: Grinnellians respect personal and College property and role model good citizenship by abiding by local, state, and federal laws and accept the consequences for not adhering to them.

Destroying, damaging, misusing, or illegally possessing the property of the College, its members, or others – regardless of intent – is contrary to this Standard. This includes but is not limited to College-controlled keys, academic materials or instructional equipment (such as laboratory equipment, computers, electronic devices, or library materials), and personal belongings. Attempts to gain access to any portion of the College's premises (including College-owned or College-leased property) without authorization are a violation of this Standard.

The College enforces all relevant local, state, and federal laws regarding alcohol and illicit drugs and certifies itself to the federal government as a drug-free campus. It is the College's commitment to provide a living and learning environment that is free from the use, sale, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia, or the improper or abusive use of legal drugs or alcohol on Grinnell College premises. For further details, refer to the Alcohol and Illicit Drugs policy.

Approved by Committee on Student Life and Joint Board Resolution, Spring 2011