

Capital University
Office of Student Rights and Standards

Disruptive Behavior

Student behavior, actions, and/or activities that interfere with teaching, studying, research, and administration, or other University activities are a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Examples of Disruptive Behavior

- Behavior that distracts the class from the subject matter or discussion
- Making loud and distracting noises, including repeatedly answering cellular phones or allowing pagers to “beep”
- Exhibiting erratic, irrational behavior
- Persisting in speaking without being recognized
- Intimidation and harassment of faculty and/or students
- Conduct that is disorderly, lewd or indecent
- Refusal to comply with faculty direction
- Repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom during class without authorization
- Belligerent behaviors: aggressive, argumentative, quarrelsome, loud-mouthed, confrontational, cantankerous, threatening remarks or gestures; and/or foul and/or abusive language directed at University officials acting in the performance of their duties
- Making physical or verbal threats to the faculty member or fellow classmates

Addressing Disruptive Behavior in Class or Other University Facilities

It is often a mistake to assume that disruptive behavior will stop on its own. Steps should be taken to immediately address the behavior. Faculty may take the following courses of action:

- During class, if you observe disruptive behavior, you may first make a general statement such as, “*Let’s discontinue any behavior that is distracting our focus on the topic.*”
- If the disruptive behavior does not cease, you may ask a particular student to refrain from the disruptive behavior and ask that the student see you after class or during your office hours so that you may address the issue in private. When you meet with the student explain why you found the behavior to be inappropriate, stress your behavioral expectations and warn the student that further occurrences may result in disciplinary action.
- You may also ask disruptive students to leave the classroom or other academic site. A student cannot be permanently removed from a class in which he/she is enrolled without a formal charge for disruptive behavior. A student who has been charged with a violation of the Student Code of Conduct must be advised of his/her rights as well as offered the opportunity for a hearing. The matter may be resolved by mediation or negotiated settlement with the Office of Student Rights and Standards or through a hearing before the appropriate student conduct hearing board.

Immediate Threats

- If a student is posing an immediate threat to the safety of him or herself and/or others, and/or becomes physically or verbally abusive, faculty should immediately contact the Public Safety Department to address the incident. Public Safety will document the incident and forward all incident reports to the Office of Student Rights and Standards for immediate follow-up with the faculty, staff and students involved in the incident to determine if a violation of the Student Code of Conduct has occurred.
- Save and forward any threatening or offensive e-mails or voice mails to Student Rights and Standards and/or Public Safety as appropriate. Please include the headers from the original e-mail when forwarding so that the sender may be identified.

Support Services for Faculty & Staff

All students, including those with or without identified disabilities, must meet the same standards of conduct. You are encouraged to consult with Office of Student Rights and Standards, Department Chair, and/or Disability Services to address/identify behaviors and determine the best course of action:

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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| Dean of College | 236-6204 |
| Disability Services | 236-6327 or ext. 6327 |
| Public Safety | 236-6666 or ext. 6666 |
| Counseling and Assistance Program for Students (C.A.P.S.) | 546-3322 |
| Office of Student Rights and Standards | 236-6611 or ext. 6611 |