

The University's return to campus experience during the COVID-19 pandemic is grounded in the promotion of the health and safety of everyone in our community. Community is an action; taking care of ourselves, each other, and this place requires the full attention and daily dedication of everyone. The University is following guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and the Virginia Department of Health, and the strength of our community, the Web, depends on every Spider to cooperate with these guidelines. This cooperation is essential to the continuation of the Fall Semester as well as the overall health of the Web and all Spiders.

This document describes the interim student conduct policies that are being implemented to promote the health and safety of the community. These interim policies are covered under the [*Standards of Student Conduct*](#), Article III, Section B (6) (g): Failure to comply with directions of a University official acting in the authorized performance of duty. These policies apply to students who are taking classes on campus and either living in University housing or at an off campus location. These interim policies apply to conduct that occurs on or off campus, as stated in Article III, Section (A) of the *Standards*.

A. Resolution of Alleged Violations

Under the authority of the Vice President for Student Development as described in Article II (A) of the *Standards*, all alleged violations of these interim COVID policies will be resolved administratively. Decisions on responsibility and, if the student is found responsible, sanctions will be determined by the Conduct Officer with no option for a Student Conduct Board.

B. Appeals

If a student is found responsible, they will have the right to appeal the decision. Appeals shall be directed to the appropriate Appellate Administrator by 5:00pm on the fifth business day following the decision of the Conduct Officer.

1. If a student is found responsible for a violation which occurs within the residential communities (residence halls, University Forest Apartments, and Gateway Village Apartments), the Appellate Administrator shall be the Director of Residence Life & Housing.
2. If a student is found responsible for a violation which occurs outside the residential communities, the Appellate Administrator shall be the students' College Dean.

The Appellate Administrator shall make a decision on the appeal within two (2) business days of the receipt of the appeal, unless there is good cause for a reasonable extension of this time period. The decision of the Appellate Administrator is final.

C. Immediate Interim Action

Immediate interim actions, such as quarantine, isolation, or revocation of campus privileges, may be imposed until formal conduct proceedings are initiated if it is determined that there is a health and safety risk to the community.

1. Immediate interim actions may be continued at the discretion of the Conduct Officer.
2. Immediate interim actions are not subject to appeal.

D. Conduct Policies and Sanctions

1. The following outlines the specific conduct that is covered under these interim policies, as well as the sanction that will likely be imposed if a student is found responsible for a violation of an interim policy.
 - a. Repeated violations shall carry a more severe sanction than listed.
 - b. A student's prior conduct history may impact sanctioning (e.g. a student who is currently on conduct probation may face a more severe sanction than described below).
2. Suspension: The following policies carry a sanction of suspension from the University. The time period of a suspension is typically a semester or full academic year, but can be set for any duration.
 - a. Hosting large gatherings or parties at an off campus location.
 - i. If a gathering or party occurs at an off-campus residence, all students who own, lease, or rent the property shall be held accountable regardless of their attendance at the gathering or party.
 - b. Failure to follow directives from University officials to stay in quarantine or isolation.
3. Housing Eviction: The following policies carry a sanction of removal from University housing. A student who is evicted from housing may also have their status changed to that of a remote student. The period of eviction shall be for the remainder of the academic year. Students who are evicted from housing may also be given an additional sanction of Conduct Probation.
 - a. Hosting large gatherings or parties in an on campus residence.
 - i. All students who are assigned to the residence shall be held accountable regardless of their attendance at the gathering or party.
 - b. Hosting visitors in a campus residence area while the University is in RED or ORANGE stages of the University's [Physical Distancing Framework](#).
4. Conduct Probation: The following policies carry a sanction of conduct probation, which permits the student to remain at the University on a probationary status. During the period of probation, if the student is found responsible for further violations, the student may be subject to suspension or permanent separation from the University. Students are prohibited from studying abroad in any semester for which they are on conduct probation for all or part of the semester. The time period of probation is typically a semester or full academic year.
 - a. Attending a large gathering or party, whether on or off campus.
 - b. Failure to fully and truthfully cooperate with all contact tracing efforts.
 - i. Students are required to keep a daily lists of their close contacts, defined any anyone with whom a student has been within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes and to share these lists with authorized contact tracers upon request.
 - ii. Students are required to respond promptly to any call, text, or email from a contact tracer.
 - iii. Students are required to truthfully share information about close contacts as requested by a contact tracer.
 - c. Failure to promptly disclose the results of any positive COVID-19 test conducted at an off-campus location to the Student Health Center.

5. Disciplinary Warning: The following policies carry a sanction of disciplinary warning, which is a written notice that a continuation or repetition of prohibited conduct will be grounds for more serious sanctions.
- a. Failure to read and sign the Healthy Web Compact.
 - b. Failure to monitor health symptoms and temperature daily and to complete the online health monitoring form.
 - c. Failure to wear a face covering in accordance with the University's policy on [Face Coverings on Campus](#). Face coverings are required in outdoor settings where physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain, and in all buildings including classrooms, common areas within residence halls, and dining facilities.
 - i. Students are prohibited from removing face coverings to eat or drink while in class. Students with a specific documented medical accommodations from Disability Services are permitted to leave the class for a short period in order to eat or drink.
 - ii. Faculty or course instructors may require a student to leave the classroom for non-compliance with face covering requirement.
 - iii. Students are not required to wear a face covering while eating or drinking in a dining facility.
 - d. Failure to comply with the University's [Physical Distancing Framework](#) restrictions on travel.
 - i. With the exception of University-approved travel, students are strongly encourage to remain in the Richmond area until the Thanksgiving break.
 - ii. Students living on campus should remain on campus unless required to travel off campus (*e.g.*, for a doctor's appointment, off-campus employment, picking up prescriptions, etc.)
 - iii. Students who travel off campus must wear a cloth face covering and remain at least six feet away from others to the fullest extent possible.

E. Exceptions Related to Possible Violations of the University's Sexual Misconduct Policy

If a student is charged with an alleged violation of the interim conduct policies outlined in section D above, the University will not pursue a conduct charge against the student if they are rendering assistance to someone who may have experienced sexual misconduct, students reporting possible sexual misconduct, the Complainant, witnesses, and other individuals participating in an investigation or hearing.