

Section II - Student Code of Conduct

1. Abusive Conduct

Any words or acts that cause physical injury, or threaten any individual, or interfere with any individual's rightful actions, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Assault Words or actions that would cause an individual reason to fear for his or her immediate safety. Words can constitute assault when they are accompanied by the ability to inflict immediate harm.
- b. Battery The use of physical force against an individual.
- c. Sexual Harassment Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, under certain circumstances. (See Section V.n. for additional information about Sexual Harassment.)
- d. Sexual Misconduct Sexual contact without consent. (See Section V.o. for additional information about Sexual Misconduct.)
- e. Stalking Repeatedly contacting another person when the contact is unwanted. Additionally the conduct may cause the other person reasonable apprehension of imminent physical harm or cause substantial impairment of the other person's ability to perform the activities of daily life. Contact includes but is not limited to communicating with (either in person, by phone or computer) or remaining in the physical presence of the other person.

2. Actions Leading to the Conviction of Criminal Offenses

Any student convicted of a criminal offense is subject to university disciplinary action.

3. Alcoholic Beverage Policy

Each student is expected to comply with the alcohol regulations of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the university.

Virginia Tech recognizes that the misuse and abuse of alcohol is a persistent social and health problem of major proportion in our society and that it interferes with the goals and objectives of any educational institution. Accordingly, Virginia Tech does not encourage the use of alcoholic beverages and strongly discourages illegal or otherwise irresponsible use of alcohol. Members of the university community are accountable for their decisions regarding use of alcohol as well as behavior that occurs as a result of these decisions. Virginia Tech fully complies with the alcohol regulations of the Commonwealth of Virginia. All state laws apply to Virginia Tech students.

See Section V.D. for additional information about Alcoholic Beverages.

4. Climbing

Unauthorized climbing inside or outside campus buildings or structures.

5. Damage or Destruction

Damage or destruction of property belonging to the university or to any member of the university community.

6. Disorderly Conduct

Behavior that disrupts or interferes with the orderly functioning of the university, disturbs the peace, or interferes with the performance of the duties of university personnel.

7. Drugs

Possession, use, manufacture (synthesis or growth), possession with intent to manufacture, sale, dispensation, or distribution of any illegal drug or substance controlled under state or federal law.

Refer to Section V.D. for additional information about Controlled Substances.

8. Failure to Comply with a University Official

Failure to comply with a request by an authorized university official, including failure of a student to present his/her university identification card when requested by an authorized university official. Upon the request of the student questioned, the university official must show identification and state the source of his/her authority. Among those officials who may request a student's identification card are staff members from the: Athletic Association, bookstore, dining halls, and security, cadet officers or members of the cadet guard, faculty members, and residence hall staff members or house supervisors, as well as any staff member within the Division of Student Affairs.

9. Failure to Observe Rules and Regulations

Failure to observe rules and regulations issued by the university, including all publications and notices pertaining to student life and student services. (Publications for which all students are accountable include University Policies for Student Life, Parking and Traffic Regulations, and any written policies distributed to affected students by the university administration. Residence hall students are accountable for the housing contract and information outlined in **Room and Board...and So Much More!**, cadets are accountable for cadet regulations, directives, and policies, and affected fraternities/sororities are responsible for the Fraternity and Sorority Life Manual.)

10. Fireworks/Explosives/Hazardous Chemicals/Weapons

Unauthorized possession or use of fireworks, explosives, or weapons is prohibited. Hazardous chemicals that could pose a health risk are also prohibited from the campus, including chemicals that, when combined with other substances, could be hazardous or present a danger to others.

Unauthorized possession, storage (in vehicles on campus as well as in the residence halls), or control of firearms and weapons on university property is prohibited. (NOTE: Organizational weapons of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, approved by the commandant, are not prohibited by this policy.) Firearms are defined as any gun, rifle, pistol, or handgun designed to fire bullets, BBs, pellets, or shots (including paint balls), regardless of the propellant used. Other weapons are defined as any instrument of combat or any object not designed as an instrument of combat but carried for the purpose of inflicting or threatening bodily injury. Examples include (but are not limited to) knives with fixed blades or pocketknives with blades longer than four inches, razors, metal knuckles, blackjacks, hatchets, bows and arrows, nun chahkas, foils, or any explosive or incendiary device. Possession of realistic replicas of weapons on campus is prohibited. Students who store weapons in residence hall rooms, who brandish weapons, or who use a weapon in a reckless manner may face disciplinary action that may include suspension or dismissal from the university. Refer to Section V.W. for additional information about Weapons.

11. Forgery or Fraud

Forgery or fraud, including attempts to obtain any item of value under false pretenses, or falsification of official university documents is prohibited.

12. Gambling

Participation in any form of illegal gambling is prohibited.

13. Hazing

Hazing is a criminal offense in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Hazing is considered a serious violation of university policy and is prohibited in all forms.

Specifically, hazing is defined as subjecting a person to any mental or physical requirement, request, or obligation that could cause discomfort, pain, fright, disgrace, injury, that is personally degrading, or that violates any federal, state, or local statute or university policy, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding. Concurrently, the National Interfraternity Conference, the National Panhellenic Conference, and National Pan-Hellenic Council state unequivocally that hazing has no place in the collegiate fraternity and sorority system. In addition, the members of the Corps of Cadets are subject to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Regulations Manual. In determining whether a specific behavior violates the hazing policy, consideration will be given to the behavior's relationship to the university's mission and purpose.

Refer to Section V.I. for additional information about Hazing.

14. Involvement in a University Violation

Presence during any violation of University Policies for Student Life in such a way as to condone, support, or encourage that violation is prohibited. (Note: Students who anticipate or observe a violation of university policy are expected to remove themselves from participation and are encouraged to report the violation.)

15. Misuse of Fire-Fighting Equipment/Arson/Disregard of Fire Alarm Signals/Tampering

- a. Misuse of fire-fighting equipment, including tampering, removing, or discharging a fire extinguisher or any other fire emergency equipment except when there is a real need for such equipment is prohibited.
- b. Unauthorized burning of any material in any university building or on university property, including arson is prohibited.
- c. The disregard of a fire alarm signal or refusal to evacuate a building or a section of a building when a fire alarm is sounding is prohibited.
- d. Tampering with detection or suppression equipment, including deliberately initiating false alarm or creating conditions that results in a false alarm, or any tampering that would cause a malfunction or nonfunction is prohibited.

16. Identification Cards

The possession or manufacture of any false or altered form of identification, the improper use of any identification card, including knowingly altering or mutilating a university student identification card, or using the identification card of another, or allowing one's own card to be used by another is prohibited.

17. Perjury/Furnishing False Information

- a. Knowingly giving false testimony in a university judicial investigation or hearing is prohibited.
- b. Knowingly giving false information to a university official who is performing his/her official duties is prohibited. (Note: Lying to a faculty member with respect to academic work is covered under the honor system.)

18. Public Nudity

Any act of public nudity, including but not limited to streaking, mooning, and urinating in public is prohibited.

19. Tampering With University Equipment

Tampering with any elevator, wiring, plumbing, or other university equipment without prior authority from the appropriate university official is prohibited. Tampering with equipment so as to endanger oneself or others may result in serious disciplinary action for a first offense.

20. Theft

- a. Theft, including shoplifting or possession of stolen property is prohibited. Theft of property having substantial value may result in serious disciplinary action for a first offense.

b. Unauthorized use of a computer or the unauthorized use of a telephone authorization code is prohibited.

21. Throwing Objects from Windows

Throwing or dropping any object or material from a university building is prohibited.

22. Unauthorized Entry

Entering or being present in university buildings, rooms, or other areas without proper authority is prohibited.

(Note: Closing hours will be published as necessary. For convenience, closing hours will be posted at main entrances to buildings, but the absence of such posted notices is not to be treated as excusing a violation of this policy.)

23. Unregistered Motor Vehicle

Keeping an unregistered motor vehicle on university property is prohibited.

24. Visitation/Guest

Unauthorized persons are not allowed in residence halls. A student/organization must be escorted when visiting in a residence area for the opposite sex. Visitation options vary among residence halls. Students are expected to know the visitation policy that applies to their residence and to that of the person(s) they are visiting.

A guest is any person, other than authorized university officials, who does not live in the specific residence hall. Students/Organizations will be held responsible for the conduct of their guests. Students/Organizations who invite guests to campus and the residence halls are expected to inform them of all university rules and regulations. Overnight lodging of members of the opposite sex is not permitted. Refer to **Room and Board...and So Much More!** for additional information regarding residence hall visitation rules and regulations.