

## School of Legal Studies Professional Standards

### **Professionalism**

Individuals who choose careers in the Legal Professions are highly respected in their communities and expected to adhere to high ethical standards. Students preparing for such careers must demonstrate professional and ethical behavior and expect such behavior from other students. The School of Legal Studies has an obligation to ensure its graduates have consistently demonstrated the high ethical standards expected in their professions.

### **Personal Conduct**

Personal conduct on the University Campus or at University or School sponsored events is subject to disciplinary action by the School of Legal Studies. The School of Legal Studies may also enforce its own disciplinary policy and procedures when personal/professional conduct, regardless of where it occurs, is deemed to be incompatible with accepted standards of the School. Any action that is a violation of civil or criminal laws may be dealt with by the appropriate agency in accordance with their polices and regulations. Such action by non-university authorities shall not preclude the School of Legal Studies from taking action.

The following are examples of conduct for which disciplinary action may be taken. These are merely examples and are not to be considered all-inclusive.

- Alcoholic beverages –illegal possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on University or University-affiliated sites or functions.
- Drugs - illegal use, possession, sale, or distribution of any drug, chemical compound, or controlled substance or paraphernalia. Students found guilty of violating this section will be subject to immediate expulsion from the School of Legal Studies.
- Weapons and dangerous items - illegal use or possession of weapons, firearms, ammunition, fireworks, explosives, noxious materials, incendiary devices or other dangerous substances.
- Theft or damage - theft of, or damage to, property of the University or University-affiliate, other students, other members of the University community, or of campus visitors. Possession of property known to be stolen.
- Disorderly conduct – hostile behavior, disorderly conduct, indecent conduct, harassment, inappropriate intimidation, excessive pressure, humiliation, coercion, stalking, hazing, overtly reckless behavior, false alarms, failure to comply with lawful directions of University officials, unauthorized entry or use of University or University-affiliated property, unauthorized use of University name, logo, or symbols.
- Unprofessional conduct – conduct falling below the standard expectations of the faculty and fellow classmates, including noncompliance with reasonable requests of the faculty, staff, and administrators.

- Failure to respond to notification - failure by a student to respond to notification to appear before the Director or Dean during any stage of a disciplinary proceeding. Failure to appear will not prevent proceeding with disciplinary action in the absence of the candidate.
- Misuse or abuse of University equipment, programs, or data, or unauthorized access to or copying or distributing of data, records, or programs; or attempting to alter or modify records, data, or programs.

### **Academic Conduct**

All students enrolled in the School of Legal Studies implicitly subscribe to the Academic Integrity Policy of the University. Each student is responsible for his/her own integrity, and is likewise responsible for reporting possible violation of the Policy by others.

The following are examples of conduct for which disciplinary action may be taken. These are merely examples and are not to be considered all-inclusive.

- Dishonesty which includes, but is not limited to, gaining unauthorized access to an examination or to obtain unfair advantage, using unauthorized sources of information during an examination, assisting a fellow student in committing an act of cheating, collaborating on assignments without explicit permission of the instructor, entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage, taking an examination for another candidate, or altering grade reports.
- Plagiarism, which is using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own, an idea, expression, or product of another without the proper credit to its source. As defined by Webster, plagiarism is "an act or instance of stealing or passing off the ideas or words of another as one's own, using a created production without crediting the source, or presenting as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source." (*Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*). A direct quotation should be cited and placed in quotation marks. However, the student should also know that if the ideas of others are used, these must be referenced or the student is guilty of an act of plagiarism.
- A student who witnesses any of the above or who is approached with an offer to gain unfair advantage is expected to report that violation to the appropriate authority. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

It is the policy of the School that acts of plagiarism or any other acts of academic dishonesty, on any assignment, quiz, or examination, may result in a grade of zero (0) and the potential for other sanctions. The failing grade and incident of cheating will be reported to the Director for possible additional sanctions.

### **Progression of Disciplinary Action**

The School of Legal Studies may take the following actions when a student violates expected standards:

- A first violation not considered serious enough for immediate dismissal from the school will result in a written first warning that will become part of the student's permanent record. This first warning will be administered in person either by the student's advisor or by the Director.

- A second violation will result in the student receiving a written dismissal from the School of Legal Studies and will be administered by the Director.
- In the case of an initial violation that is deemed to warrant immediate dismissal from the School, such action may be taken.

All disciplinary actions will be coordinated with the Dean of the College of Business. Determination as to the severity of a violation, and decision as to appropriate sanctions, will be made exclusively by the Director of the School of Legal Studies and the Dean of the College of Business. The actions of the School of Legal Studies do not preclude other actions by the University.