

## **Introduction to Student Rights and Responsibilities**

Morehead State University is committed to providing a supportive learning environment for our students. MSU students are expected to reflect a commitment to obtaining an education, and meet the standards of conduct promulgated by federal, state, and local laws and University policies, rules, and regulations.

Students, faculty, and staff constitute our University community. Membership carries with it the responsibility to abide by our community's behavioral expectations and hold others accountable for their behavior. We expect our members to treat each other with integrity, dignity, and respect. While the University does not regard itself as the arbiter of morals, we do reserve the right to make members aware of the expectations of the larger society and the University community, and to take action when individual behavior fails to meet community standards. In order to maintain the educational process, each member of the University community must be prepared to accept the consequences of their actions regardless of intent or circumstance.

If you believe our expectations fail to reflect our community values or protect student rights, we encourage you to responsibly and respectfully work for constructive change through the appropriate university channels. In many cases, the Dean of Students can assist students in understanding their options.

## **Student Responsibilities**

Students are expected to abide by University policies, rules, and regulations published in official publications of the University including, but not limited to, the Undergraduate Catalog, the Graduate Catalog, University Administrative Regulations, and the Eagle Student Handbook (which includes the Student Conduct Code). The Student Conduct Code provides students general notice of expected and prohibited behavior. The scope of the Student Conduct Code and additional notices of University expectations are detailed in this document.

## **Scope of the Student Conduct Code**

The Student Conduct Code applies to the behavior of students on University property or facilities owned, operated, controlled, or being used by the University. The Student Conduct Code also applies to the behavior of students off campus when such behavior impairs University functioning, impacts another member of the University community, has a negative impact upon the reputation of the University, and/or endangers the safety of the University community.

The code is not written with the specificity of a criminal statute, and similarities in vocabulary between criminal statutes and the Student Conduct Code are unintentional. Students found responsible for misconduct are subject to sanctions which are intended to provide education and accountability while also reducing the likelihood of continued prohibited conduct.

Federal, state, and local laws apply to students whether on or off the campus. Students are not immune to prosecution by local, state, or federal law irrespective of whether the University initiates

conduct proceedings in a given situation. Violations of the law may be subject to the penalties imposed by law as well as the sanctions issued by the University.

### **Academic Integrity**

All students at Morehead State University are required to abide by accepted standards of academic honesty. Academic honesty includes doing one's own work, giving credit for the work of others, and using resources appropriately.

### **Alcohol and Drugs**

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act mandates that universities adopt and implement programs to prevent the unlawful possession, use, dispensation, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol. The Student Conduct Code defines prohibited behaviors involving alcohol and drugs, and violations of the prohibited behavior shall result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or termination. In general, the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on University property or while participating in University related activities is strictly prohibited unless approved by the MSU President. The unlawful use, possession, or distribution of drugs and/or drug paraphernalia on University property or while participating in University related activities is also strictly prohibited

### **Dress Code**

Morehead State University does not maintain a formal dress code, however it is expected that students dress appropriately when attending public functions and classes.

### **Noise**

In keeping with our academic mission, and to maintain an environment that is conducive to learning, the University maintains reasonable expectations regarding excessive noise. Sustained noise (including boisterous behavior, loud music, etc.) is generally prohibited in and around academic buildings during the times when academic instruction is taking place. Sustained noise (including boisterous behavior, loud music, etc.) is generally prohibited in and around residence halls during the periods of 10pm and 7am, which are the same hours specified by the local city ordinance. The use of noise amplification devices are generally prohibited at any time and location on University property. Exceptions may be approved by the Dean of Students, a University Vice President, or the MSU President.

Nothing contained in the University policies, rules, or regulations is intended to limit the rights of free speech and peaceful assembly. These rights must be exercised in a peaceful, reasonable, and orderly manner, and may not violate the rights of other members of the University community or interfere with the academic mission of the University.

### **Official University Communications**

Students are held responsible for any official information the University sends via email. There will be several occasions when faculty, staff, and other members of the University community will need

to contact students with important information. Therefore, students are encouraged to check their University email on a daily basis.

### **Recording, Downloading and File Sharing**

Recording, downloading and sharing materials has become commonplace within our society. Although there are legitimate reasons to leverage today's technology, it is essential that members of the MSU community have a clear understanding of copyright requirements, regulations, guidelines, and laws before recording, downloading or sharing any information. Violations of the law may be subject to the penalties imposed by law as well as the sanctions issued by the University.

### **Tobacco**

Tobacco and electronic nicotine delivery system (e.g. vaporizers, e-cigarettes) use is prohibited on all University owned, leased, or controlled property and vehicles. This includes privately owned vehicles parked on, or in transit across, University property and in the interior of all buildings and residence halls. Exceptions to this policy are only allowed in designated outside smoking areas approved by the MSU President. Approved smoking areas are clearly marked with signage and equipped with appropriate containers for the disposal of ash, butts and other waste from tobacco use.

### **Student Rights**

Students have the right to enjoy the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Nothing contained in the University policies, rules, or regulations is intended to limit these rights.

### **Due Process**

Students who are alleged to have violated the Student Conduct Code are entitled to certain procedural rights to ensure a fair and impartial resolution of the allegation. Students charged with violations of the Student Conduct Code are presumed not to be responsible for the violations until the standards of evidence are met. These rights also apply to those students representing student organizations charged with violations of the Student Conduct Code.

### **Freedom of Speech**

Morehead State University ensures the right to free speech and expression, and encourages the timely and rational discussion of topics whereby the ethical and intellectual development of students and general welfare of the public may be promoted. The generally accessible, open, outdoor areas of the campus are maintained as traditional public forums for students to express their views. In this regard, the University grants students the broadest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, learn, and discuss any issue; including ideas considered by some or most members of the University's community to be offensive, unwise, disagreeable, conservative, liberal, traditional or radical. However, these rights shall not be construed to grant students the right to engage in conduct that intentionally, materially, and substantially disrupts another's expressive activity if that activity is occurring in a campus space previously scheduled or reserved for that activity or under the exclusive use or control of a particular group. Students shall not substantially obstruct or otherwise

substantially interfere with the freedom of others to express views they reject so that a lively and fearless freedom of debate and deliberation is promoted and protected.

In all circumstances regarding free speech, the University reserves the right to regulate the time, place and manner. Any regulation by the University will be reasonable, justified without reference to the content of the regulated speech, narrowly tailored to serve a compelling governmental interest, and limited to provide ample alternative options for the communication of the message.

### **Nondiscrimination**

Morehead State University is committed to providing equal educational opportunities to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disabled veterans, recently separated veterans, other protected veterans, and armed forces service medal veterans, or disability. Furthermore, the expression of a student's religious or political viewpoint in the classroom, homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments is free from discrimination or penalty based on the religious or political content of the submission.

### **Student Records**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) afford students certain rights with respect to their education records. Students wishing to review their records, request amendments, restrict the disclosure of information, or better understand their FERPA rights are encouraged to visit the Registrar's office or website to learn more.