



“Where Everybody Is Somebody”



# CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

2022-2023





## **COVID-19 & Student Conduct**

All students who represent the university through affiliation with any Grambling State University® organization, or any university sponsored activity, **are encouraged to always wear a facial covering**, and to be in good standing as a Grambling State University® student. Depending upon the severity of offense(s), and/or decisions rendered by the hearing officer(s) or Student Affairs Conduct Committee, students, student groups, and/or student organizations found responsible for violating the Code of Student Conduct and are sanctioned to student conduct probation may lead to university representation restrictions. Representation includes but is not limited to the following: Student Government Association, athletics, band, clubs, fraternities, sororities, and organizations.

### **COVID-19 related student conduct violations**

**2.60 FAILURE TO COMPLY.** Failure to comply with a proper order or summons when requested by authorized University officials; failure to comply with the directions of University officials (including residence hall staff) acting in the performance of their duties; failure to appear before a student conduct committee upon request; failure to provide student identification upon request; failure to abide by or comply with University policies and procedures, including student leadership, organization, and/or membership requirements; failure to comply with an ordered student conduct sanction.

This includes direct disobedience of a lawful order of a University official, or when otherwise so ordered by a University official, or local law official.

COVID-19 Pandemic requirement: Failure to comply with wearing a mask when mandated in the presence of others while on campus, practicing social distancing/physical distancing, and exceeding campus gathering limits.

**2.80 GUEST'S BEHAVIOR.** Students are responsible for the behavior of their guests whom they invite to the campus or permit to visit on the campus. If a guest is found to be in violation of the Code of Student Conduct while in the company of the student host or with the student host's knowledge, applicable charges will be brought against the guest, as well as against the student host or the host student organization.

COVID-19 Pandemic requirement: Students are responsible for ensuring their guests are in compliance with campus safety rules, including practicing social distancing and wearing facial

coverings when mandated in the presence of others on campus. **Guests are not permitted in the residence hall, when recommended by Campus Housing & Living.**

**TAMPERING with SAFETY** COVID-19 Pandemic requirement: Tampering with items required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the health and safety of all. Stealing, discarding, or purposely tampering with roommate, suitemate, or campus COVID-19 safety items. Deliberate failure to abide by any health or safety standards for any university related function (campus events, classroom operations, etc.).

### **TECHNOLOGY:**

COVID-19 Pandemic Requirement: This policy also applies to student conduct/behavior associated with technology use, as a health and safety measure, throughout the pandemic. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Zoom Bombing (By Students and Non-Affiliated Parties)
- Online Class Disruptions/Virtual Hearing Disruptions
- Classroom/Virtual Events & Program Chat Behavior

### **COVID-19 & Student Conduct Suggested Sanctioning**

Sanctions will be determined based on the level of severity of the violation, repeated offenses, or intent. Reports, along with supporting documentation, would be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct via email ([wimberlyi@gram.edu](mailto:wimberlyi@gram.edu)) or ([sheltonde@gram.edu](mailto:sheltonde@gram.edu)).

- *This does not apply to how faculty operate their classes. Of course, suspension is never the goal. However, the intention or impact would be based on non-compliance.*
- Fine: \$75 plus educational sanctions or possible suspension based on the severity.
- Possible suspension for blatant disregard for policy and health concerns of the campus community.

For more information, please refer to the COVID-19 Pandemic Student/Student Organization Manual.



Dear GSU Student:

This handbook is made available to each student at Grambling State University on the Division of Student Affairs Student Conduct web page at [www.gram.edu](http://www.gram.edu). The information herein has been carefully assembled to address topics of general concern, interest and use the student body. It is important that you become familiar with its contents.

Be informed that the University's policies and procedures are dynamic. We reserve the right to change them as the need arises; however, such changes will be communicated to you via e-mail in a timely manner as they occur. Although this handbook will be an invaluable resource to you, it should not deter your interactions with members of the University's administration, faculty, and staff. While this handbook is not a contract, it does provide guidance as to the conduct expected of students. You are encouraged to ask questions and obtain additional information as needed for clarity and understanding.

Information regarding academic policies is not provided in its entirety in this handbook, but is addressed in the University Catalog or other University policies. Specific academic regulations and information for various colleges can also be found in the University Catalog. Please see additional information when needed.

If you have questions, feel free to visit our office located at 403 Main St. (Across from Brown Hall), call us at 318.274.3169, and/or email at [studentconduct@gram.edu](mailto:studentconduct@gram.edu). We wish you well throughout your collegiate journey at Grambling State University.

With Tiger Pride,  
Director of Student Conduct and Staff

## PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

The primary mission of the Office of Student Conduct is to support the larger mission of both the University and the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Conduct seeks to promote student learning, growth and development by increasing student awareness of the University's expectation(s) of behavior and collaboratively working with other departments in an effort to create a safe, secure, and civil environment conducive to learning. Additionally, the area exists to administer a fair student disciplinary process that adheres to prescribed standards.

It is each student's responsibility to adhere to the policies and standards of conduct prescribed by the University, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, as well as those established by local, state and federal laws. The University publishes rules, regulations and policies concerning acceptable student behavior in the Code of Student Conduct.

The Code of Student Conduct creates an expectation of behavior that the Institution deems acceptable. Its primary purpose is to ensure students will not be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process.

### I. STATEMENT OF POLICIES

The President, as Chief Executive Officer of the University, has the overall responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Student Conduct (*Code*) and the student disciplinary process and has delegated his overall management to the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Director of Judicial Affairs. The Director of Student Conduct is directly responsible for the daily administration of the University's student judicial system. Code Authority is found in Louisiana Revised Statutes, Acts, Concurrent Resolutions, etc. as the following:

Louisiana Revised Statutes—17:10; 17:3101 through 17:3109 (1969); 17:3024 (1969).

Acts—Act No. 68 (1894), Act No. 529 (1968). Concurrent Resolutions No. 293 (1970) Title 1, OF THE DISTINCTION OF PERSONS, Act 37, Age of Majority (1972). Student Due Process No. 464 (2022)

The **Code of Student Conduct** creates an expectation of behavior that the University deems acceptable. Its primary purpose is to ensure that students will not be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process. Although every student has rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, these freedoms cannot be enjoyed, exercised, or protected in a community which lacks order and stability. It is, therefore, each student's responsibility to adhere to the conduct and standards prescribed by the University, the Board of Trustees for the University of Louisiana System, as well as those established by local, state and federal laws.

Admission to Grambling State University carries with it the presumption that students will conduct themselves as responsible members of the academic community. As a condition of enrollment, all students assume responsibility to observe standards of conduct that will contribute to the educational mission of the University.

The Code of Student Conduct shall be reviewed every two years by the Office of Student Conduct. Recommendations for revisions are to be submitted to the Vice President for Student Affairs and forwarded to the Policy Review Committee for consideration.

#### **A. PREAMBLE**

Grambling State University is a public institution having special responsibility for providing instruction in higher education, for advancing knowledge through scholarship and research, and for providing related services to the community. As a center of learning, Grambling State University also has the obligation to maintain conditions conducive to freedom of inquiry and expression to the maximum degree compatible with the orderly conduct of its functions. For these purposes, Grambling State University is governed by the rules, regulations, procedures, policies, and standards of conduct that safeguard its functions and protect the rights and freedoms of all members of the university community.

#### **B. ARTICLE ONE - DEFINITIONS**

When used in this Code the definitions of the following terms are provided for clarity and understanding.

1. "**Administrative Appeals Board**" refers to the appellate body authorized by the University to consider an appeal from a judicial board determination that a student or organization has violated the Code of Student Conduct.
2. "**Behavioral Standards**" refers to the policies, rules, regulations, directives, resolutions, and standards approved and/or issued by the president of the University and the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System as well as local, state and federal laws.
3. "**Business Days**" refers to those days that faculty and staff are required to work, generally Monday through Friday.
4. "**Code of Student Conduct**" refers to conduct standards set forth in writing in order to give students general notice of prohibited conduct and notice of how the Code shall be enforced.
5. "**Judicial Board**" refers to any person or persons authorized by the Office of the President to determine whether a student has violated the Code of Student Conduct and to recommend imposition of sanctions.
6. "**Student Conduct Specialist**" refers to a University official authorized on a case-by-case basis to impose sanctions upon student(s) or organization(s) found to have violated the Student Code. The Director may serve simultaneously as a student conduct specialist, and the sole member, or one of the members, of a judicial board. Nothing shall prevent the same judicial officer to impose sanctions in all cases.
7. "**May**" is used in the permissive sense.

8. **"Policy"** refers to the written regulations of the University as found in, but not limited to, the Code of Student Conduct, Residential Life Handbook, and the GSU Catalog.
9. **"Sanction"** refers to the penalty or punishment for any violations of the rules and regulations set forth in the Code of Student Conduct Handbook.
10. **"Shall"** is used in the imperative sense.
11. **"Student"** refers to a person taking or auditing courses at the University either on a full or part-time basis or any person on the University premises or University-leased premises; registering as a student, camper, or special awards program attendee (**i.e., auxiliary camps, sports camps, etc.**).
12. **"University"** refers to Grambling State University or any division thereof including extension courses over which the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System has control and responsibility.
13. **"University Community"** refers to any administrator, faculty, staff, or student of the University, including all land, buildings, facilities, adjacent streets, sidewalks, and other property in the possession of or owned, used, or controlled by the University and the physical surroundings within close proximity of the campus.
14. **"University Official"** refers to any person employed by the University (**including students**) performing administrative, teaching, paraprofessional responsibilities (**i.e., administrators, faculty, staff, Graduate Assistants, Resident Assistants in residence halls, etc.**).
15. **"University Premises"** refers to all land, buildings, facilities and other property in the possession of or owned, used, or controlled by the University.

## C. **ARTICLE TWO – STUDENTS’ RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each student has rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, these freedoms cannot be enjoyed exercised, or protected in a community which lacks order and stability. Additionally, it is each student’s obligation to presume responsibility as a mature, civil and intellectual citizen while matriculating at the University. These student rights and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

### **Students’ Rights**

- **Speech and Expression.** Students shall be free to discuss questions of interest and to express opinions. Public expression of students reflects the views of those making the statement and not necessarily the University community. The University retains the right to provide for the safety of students, faculty, and staff, to protect property, and to ensure the continuity of the educational process in maintaining order. Authorization for any speech or demonstration will require identification of the individual and agreement to abide by university regulations. (**See Freedom of Speech Policy**).



- **Assembly and Demonstration.** Students shall be free to organize and associate to promote their common interests. Assembly and demonstration, just as speech and expression within the institution in public places, are permitted subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions for the maintenance of order, safety and security and is applicable to local, state and federal laws.
- **Publication and Distribution.** Students shall be free to publish and to distribute their ideas in the form of newspapers, newsletters, leaflets, and the like, subject to time, place, and manner restrictions so long as such use does not cause a material and substantial disruption to the functions or activities of the University.
- **Expression through Media.** Students shall be free to express opinions through student media as long as they are governed by and adhere to the canons of professional journalism and applicable regulations of the U. S. Constitution and the Federal Communication Commission. Similar rights are afforded oral statements of views on student-run radio and television stations. (See <http://ethics.iit.edu/codes/coe/sigma.delta.chi.new.html>.) Media contact for the University is the Director of Media and Public Relations. Students are prohibited from speaking on behalf of or for Grambling State University with any media organization or publication, or from inviting the media to any University-owned or operated property, facility, or events without the expressed permission of the University Office of Media Relations.
- **Discrimination.** Students have the right to be free from all forms of discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sexual preference, political affiliation, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, or veteran status. The University will not condone any practices or policies that discriminate against anyone.
- **Privacy.** Students have the right to be secure in their possessions against invasions of privacy and unreasonable search and seizure. However, the University reserves the right to enter occupied residence halls with a warrant or under other special circumstances. Conditions for entry by university authorities/officials into occupied rooms in residence halls are divided into three categories: maintenance, emergency, and health and safety standards. (See "GSU-Campus Living and Housing Bulletin")
- **Confidentiality.** Students have the right to confidentiality of official records, transcripts, personnel records, and disciplinary records. Students also have the right to confidentiality of information relating to personal views, beliefs, and political associations acquired by administrators, instructors, counselors, advisors, and officials of the University in the course of their work. (See **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act** -- [www.FERPA.com](http://www.FERPA.com))
- **Redress of Grievances.** Any time a student's rights as outlined herein are contravened, the student shall have the right to petition for redress of such a grievance through procedures as promulgated within this cover.

## **A. Student Rights**

### **The University affirms the following student rights and privileges in disciplinary proceedings:**

1. To be informed of the Student Code of Conduct, its corresponding procedures, and all of the rights enumerated herein;
2. To petition for redress of a grievance arising from an incident that violates University policy and/or the Student Code of Conduct. Any member of the University community may file a charge or complaint against a student when that person believes the student has violated any University policy;
3. To receive notice of any alleged violations of University policy and/or breaches of the Student Code of Conduct;
4. To have the benefit of an opportunity to be heard by an impartial Hearing Board or Hearing Officer in addressing an allegation/s of a violation of University policy;
5. To have an attorney or non-attorney advisor fully participate in all proceedings;
6. To examine evidence to be used against him or her at the administrative discipline conference or prior to a formal hearing;
7. To view the list of witnesses and/or statements that are provided by witnesses at the administrative discipline conference or prior to a formal hearing;
8. To receive written notice within 72 hours of interim measures;
9. To have the right to waive your participation in an interim measure hearing;
10. To have a Confidential Advisor present at all proceedings;
11. To be informed of available accommodations both on and off campus (i.e. notified of available counseling, changing academic and living arrangements);
12. To have a campus no contact order;
13. To have a hearing board comprised of diverse representatives;
14. To have unrelated past behavior excluded from the hearing (i.e. irrelevant prior sexual history);
15. To participate with special accommodations (i.e. by phone, behind a screen, video, etc.);
16. To have no direct contact with the accused or reporting student during the hearing (i.e. questions from the accused student would be posed through the Board Chairperson and then relayed to the complainant or an appointed advisor may speak on the student's behalf);
17. To provide questions to the Board Chairperson prior to or during the hearing that they may incorporate those into questioning the accused or reporting student;
18. To be informed of the names of all witnesses who will be called to give testimony;
19. To request a recess during the hearing;
20. To be informed of the outcome of the disciplinary process, simultaneously with the reporting or responding party; and
21. To appeal the Hearing Board's decision.

## **Students' Responsibilities**

- To obtain, read, and adhere to the conduct and standards published by the University, Board of Trustees for the University of Louisiana System, as well as those established by local, state and federal laws. **Failure to read this document will not excuse any student from responsibility for abiding by policies and procedures described herein.**
- To respect the rights of others regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious or public beliefs.
- To respect all property owned, operated, housed and/or leased by the University.
- To maintain the highest ethical standards in preparing and submitting course work.
- To comply with all financial obligations as published in University documents and websites.
- To seek the help of faculty, other professionals and resources provided as you complete your degree requirements.
- To report in good faith, and without fear of retaliation, violation(s) of the Code of Student Conduct and other policies of the University to appropriate academic and/or administrative personnel.
- To maintain a level of behavior consistent with the mission of the University.
- To read, become familiar with, and adhere to University policies.
- To respect the personal and property rights of others.
- To stay informed by reading communications from the University.
- To keep their advisor, confidential advisor, and other members of their party informed of communications from the university.

## **D. ARTICLE THREE - JUDICIAL AUTHORITY**

1. There shall be a Judicial Board consisting of eight (8) members. All members, including the chairperson, shall be appointed by the President. The President may authorize the Director of the **Office of Student Conduct** to serve simultaneously as a chairperson. The Board shall be divided into two panels designated as A and B respectively A chairperson, one (1) faculty and (1) staff

representative and one (1) student representative shall compose each panel. The Director may appoint a special panel when necessary.

2. The Director of Student Conduct shall determine which judicial panel shall be authorized to hear each case.
3. The Director of Student Conduct shall develop policies for the administration of the judicial program and procedural rules for the conduct of hearings which are consistent with provisions of the Student Code.
4. The Judicial Board has **RECOMMENDING** authority in terms of sanctions. Each board has the responsibility of determining if a student is responsible or not responsible for violating the Code of Student Conduct. The board's recommendations are made to the Director of Student Conduct.
5. The Judicial Board is the primary judicial body of the University. It has original jurisdiction over all student cases involving alleged violation(s) of the Code of Student Conduct referred to it by appropriate University officials. It also has jurisdiction over all student cases from immediate interim suspension.
6. The presence of a majority of panel members shall constitute a quorum; and with a quorum present, the board may hear the case. The chairperson may accept substitute representatives for regular members when it is necessary for regular members to be absent. The chairperson shall vote in the case of a tie vote. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.
7. When any board member is involved in or associated with a case, that person must be excused from participation in the hearing procedures.
8. Decisions made by the Director of Student Conduct shall be final, pending the normal appeal process.
9. The technical rules of evidence applicable to civil and criminal cases shall not apply.

## **E. ARTICLE FOUR - PROSCRIBED CONDUCT**

- A. Jurisdiction of the University.** Generally, University jurisdiction and discipline shall be limited to conduct which occurs on university premises or conduct which occurs at a University sponsored function or event whether on or off-campus. However, the University will take disciplinary action against a student for an off-campus offense only when it is required by law to do so or when the nature of the offense is such that in the judgment of the Director of Student Conduct, the continued presence of the student on campus is likely to interfere with the educational process or the orderly operation of the University; or the continued presence of the student on campus is likely to endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the University community, or is intimidating or threatening to another individual within the University community; or the offense committed by the student is of such a serious nature as to adversely affect the student's suitability as a member of the University community. The action of the University with respect to any such off-campus conduct shall be

taken independently of any off-campus authority. **The prospect of criminal charges does not preclude the possibility of the University judicial hearing.**

- B. Amnesty.** Student health and safety are primary concerns at the University. In certain cases, the Office of Student Conduct will grant amnesty. Students who take reasonable action to prevent, stop or report violations of the Student Code of Conduct may be protected by amnesty. Office of Student Conduct will grant amnesty to Students who proactively seek medical help for themselves or others where the help-seeking Student may have been involved in underage drinking or other improper use of alcohol or drugs (illegal, OTC, or prescribed) at the time of the incident; however, amnesty will not be granted for more severe alcohol or drugs policy violations and/or other policy violations that may have occurred during the incident (e.g. drug distribution, arson, theft, etc.). Amnesty does not prevent any actions that may be taken by any law enforcement agency, including Grambling State University Police.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT – RULES AND REGULATION**

Any student(s) engaging in behavior that interferes with the safety and well-being of any member of the University and/or that interferes with the mission, purpose, function and process of the University will be subject to disciplinary sanctions outlined in Article VI:

**Abduction or Kidnapping.** The enticing, persuading or forcible seizing and carrying of any student, faculty, staff, or University official from one place to another without that person's consent.

**Arson.** The malicious, fraudulent or intentional burning of property on the University premises. Such acts include, but are not limited to, creating fires, setting persons afire, open flames and/or igniting flammable materials.

**Assault.** The intentional harassment, degradation, threat or intimidation of another in an attempt to commit a battery, or the intentional placing of another in reasonable apprehension of receiving a battery. **Physical contact is not required.** This includes engaging in, attempting or intending to engage in any form of verbal or mental abuse, or coercion which is directed toward another person or group of people which creates an intimidating, fearful or offensive environment in the classrooms, offices, dormitories, and the University premises in general.

**Battery.** The intentional use of force or violence upon another, or the intentional administration of a poison or other noxious liquid or substance to another for the purpose of physical abuse, or violence involving physical contact. Any form of physical contact that is directed to another which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person, except when such response constitutes self-defense. This

includes slapping, pushing, and contact using a weapon or other instrument. **Physical contact is required.**

**Contempt.** Willful disobedience to, or displaying open disrespect for a University judicial body such as: failure to obey a written notice from the **Office of Student Conduct** or University Police to appear for a meeting or hearing as a part of the judicial process; falsification, distortion, or misrepresentation of information before a hearing officer or board; disruption or interference with the orderly conduct of a judicial proceeding; institution of a judicial proceeding in bad faith; attempting to discourage an individual's proper participation in or use of the judicial process; attempting to influence the impartiality of a member of a judicial board prior to and/or during the course of the judicial proceeding; failure to adhere to or comply with disciplinary conditions and sanctions imposed by a judicial body or administrative officer.

**Cyber Bullying.** The purpose of this policy is to communicate with all supervisors, employees, and students, that Grambling State University will not tolerate bullying behavior. Should it be determined that there is a violation of this policy, the individual in question faces possible disciplinary action(s), which can range from a letter of reprimand up to and including suspension. Students found in violation of this policy will be disciplined under applicable procedures established under the

Code of [Student Conduct](#).

Bullying may be intentional or unintentional. However, it must be noted where an allegation of bullying is made, the intention of the alleged bullying is irrelevant and will not be given consideration when appropriate Disciplinary action is needed. Grambling State University considers the following types of behavior examples of bullying when they are part of a pattern of conduct that rises to the standard set forth above:

- Verbal Bullying: slandering, ridiculing, or maligning a person or his/her family; persistent name calling which is hurtful, insulting, or humiliating;

using a person as the butt of jokes; remarks that would be viewed by others in the community as abusive and offensive; persistently interrupting another person or otherwise preventing another person's legitimate attempts to speak; use of nicknames after being warned that the nickname is considered by the victim to be offensive; constant criticism on matters unrelated to a person's job performance or description or on matters that cannot be documented;

- Physical Bullying: pushing; shoving; kicking; poking; tripping; assault, or threat of physical assault; damage to a person's work area or property.
- Gesture Bullying: non-verbal threatening gestures such as, but not limited to, the following: approaching another person with fists clinched or with one or more other fighting gestures which could reasonably be interpreted as threatening; brandishing a weapon; making gestures that would reasonably be interpreted as amorous or sexual in nature.
- Social Bullying (which may include cyberbullying): engaging in verbal bullying via mail, email, text message, phone, or voicemail; deliberately interfering with mail, email, text messages, phone, voicemail, or other communication; spreading malicious rumors or gossip about another person; manipulating the workload of another person in a manner designed to cause that person to fail to perform his or her legitimate functions; inflicting menial tasks on an employee not in keeping with the employee's normal responsibilities.
- Cyber Bullying is any activity that deliberately threatens, harasses, intimidates an individual, places an individual in reasonable fear of harm to the individual or damage to the individual's property; or has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the individual's daily life via the use of electronic information and communication devices, to include but not be limited to:
  - e-mail messages,
  - instant messaging,
  - text messaging,
  - cellular telephone communications,
  - internet blogs,

- social media sites,
- internet chat rooms,
- and internet postings.

**Dangerous, Threatening, Unsafe Behavior.** Any conduct or behavior which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person in the University environment. This includes but is not limited to, verbal threats to injure or harm another, horse playing, practical jokes, abductions, and kidnapping.

**Dangerous Weapons and Explosives.** The use, possession, or storage of dangerous weapons, explosives and chemicals are strictly prohibited, even if legally possessed in a manner that harms, threatens or causes fear to others. These include but are not limited to firearms, shotguns, B.B. guns, taser guns, paint guns, sling shots, bows, air pistols/rifles, pistols, rifles, gasoline, ammunition, gunpowder, firecrackers, fireworks, bombs, and other incendiary devices except as required for classroom instruction and only with the express written authority of the President or Vice President for Student Affairs.

**Destruction or Damage to Property.** Willful negligent or malicious destruction and/or damage to university property or to the property of another. This includes acts of vandalism.

**Dishonesty, Forgery and Fraud.** Acts of Dishonesty, Forgery and Fraud include but are not limited to: furnishing false information to any University official and on any University document; alteration of materials, or misuse of University documents, records, instrument of identification, or any documents and records belonging to another; cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty, tampering with the election of any University recognized student election; malfeasance or misuse of elective or appointive office in a student organization, its members, or the welfare of the University community; and issuing worthless checks to the University. Unauthorized use of university logo, seal, etc., without written permission of the University General Council.

**Insubordination and/or Disrespect for Authority.** Not complying with reasonable and lawful requests or directives by members of the faculty or staff.

**Obstruction, Disruption or Disorderly Conduct.** The intentional obstruction, interruption, hindrance, or disruption of teaching, research, administration, ceremonies, disciplinary proceedings, other University tasks and activities; interfering with the duties of a student, faculty/staff member or University official; withholding information vital to any investigation carried out by an authorized agent of the University; creating excessive noise which can be heard in other areas of the campus and which interferes with the normal operations of the University, and the University community; interfering with an approved campus demonstration; and



leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled and/or ordinary activities within the University premises.

**Unauthorized Entry.** Entry without proper permission into residential halls, buildings, or structures within the University premises, or the aiding and assisting of such unauthorized entry.

**Aiding or Inciting.** Aiding, abetting, or procuring another person to breach the peace on university premises or at functions sponsored by the University, assisting or persuading others to commit any act of misconduct in the University community or environment.

**Alcoholic Beverages.** Violation of the University Alcohol and Controlled Substance Policy, including but not limited to the use, consumption, possession, purchase, sale, and/or distribution of alcoholic beverages on University property, or at any of its activities (**whether on or off-campus**) are prohibited, except as expressly permitted by University regulations and local, state and federal law. Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstances, be used by, possessed by or distributed to any person under twenty-one (21) years of age. (**Refer to Alcohol and Illegal Controlled Substances Policy.**)

**Dangerous Drugs.** Violation of the University Alcohol and Controlled Substance Policy, including but not limited to the use, consumption, possession, manufacturing, purchase, sale and/or distribution of illicit drugs, narcotics or other controlled dangerous substances and drug paraphernalia are strictly prohibited; all local, state, and federal laws apply. (**Refer to Alcohol and Illegal Controlled Substances Policy.**)

**Dogs, Cats and Other Animals.** Bringing animals and pets onto the University premises is prohibited. Seeing-eye dogs, when accompanied by their owners, are permitted. (See **EMOTIONAL SUPPORT & SERVICE ASSISTANCE ANIMALS(ESSA)Policy**)<https://www.gram.edu/student-life/services/counseling-center/accessibility.php>)

**Drunkenness.** Appearing in public on the University premises while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs is strictly prohibited. This includes any disorderly conduct regardless of whether such conduct results in injury to persons or property.

**False Reporting of Emergencies.** These include but are not limited to activating a fire alarm or falsely reporting a bomb.

**Gambling.** Illegal gambling on University premises is strictly prohibited.

**Information Disclosure.** Failure to provide personal identification and/or furnishing false information to any University official, faculty/staff member, or office is prohibited. For example, failure to present a driver's license or identification card when requested by a University police officer.

**Indecent, Obscene, Immoral Behavior, or Profanity.** This includes conduct which is disorderly, lewd, or indecent. Such acts include but are not

limited to: improper body exposures, or other acts directed toward any faculty, staff, student, or University official. This also includes but is not limited to any unauthorized use of electronic or other devices to make an audio or video recording of any person or student without his/her knowledge, or without his/her effective consent when such a recording is unlawful.

**Selling or Soliciting.** Trading or exchanging any goods or services on University premises for monetary considerations without prior and appropriate authorization.

**Traffic or Parking Violations.** Failure to obey traffic and parking regulations is punishable by the University Police Department and/or the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. This includes, but is not limited to, operating or attempting to operate a motor vehicle on campus while under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs, reckless driving, obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic on University property or at University sponsored or supervised functions, and parking in improper zones. Moreover, applicable local, state, and federal traffic laws are enforced.

**Trespassing.** Unauthorized presence on, in, or within any building or property owned or operated by the University (**including residence halls**), or the unauthorized entry into or remaining in a facility or office under the control of another after having been asked to leave.

**Unauthorized Use of Property.** Unauthorized use of university premises; unauthorized possession, duplication, or use of keys to any University premises; and the unauthorized use of university property, such as telephones, vehicles, and office equipment.

**Violation of Housing Rules.** Any violation of Campus Living and Housing rules.

**Disorderly Assembly.** Participating in an on-campus or off-campus demonstration, riot, or an activity that disrupts the normal operations of the University and/or infringes on the rights of other members of the University community; leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled and/or normal activities within any campus building or area. It is strictly forbidden for any group to gather in such a manner as to disturb the public peace, to do violence to any person or property, to interfere with its faculty or staff in the performance of their duties. This includes surprise attacks by a group of students on University premises. Any student who violates the law or university policy is subject to **discipline** from the University. **CAVEAT: Students involved in group violations will be treated as though the act occurred on an individual basis.** Refer to Article two: Students' Rights

and Responsibilities (**Speech and Expression and Assembly and Demonstration**).

**Student Dress Code.** The University still maintains the traditional notion that students (**males/females**) are prohibited from wearing hats, caps, sagging pants (*exposing undergarments*) and/or other headgear in classrooms, offices, assemblies, dining facilities, any building, or other places where hats are not expected to be worn. Students must adhere to any special dress standard set by groups presenting social programs such as lyceum events, or pageants. (**Refer to Dress Code Policy**).

**Theft.** Stealing in the University environment and/or the attempted or actual theft, or unauthorized possession of property. This includes knowingly possessing stolen property.

**Hazing.** Participation in any act which is degrading or injurious, or in which another is held against his/her will, or which endangers the mental or physical health or safety of another, or which destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization. Such acts may include, but are not limited to, striking, beating, bruising, manning, or other abusive and humiliating treatment or threats of such treatment. The express or implied consent of the victim will not be a defense. Apathy or acquiescence in the presence of hazing are not neutral acts, they are violations of this rule. (**Refer to Hazing Policy**)

**Misuse of Computer Resources.** The unauthorized entry into a file to use, read, or alter the contents thereof, or transfer a file for any purpose. These include, but not limited to, use of another's identification and password without authorization, use of computing facilities to interfere with the work of another, to transmit obscene harassing or unlawful messages, to interfere with the normal operations of the University computer system, network, or services. (**Refer to Information Technology Center Policy and Procedures**)

**Tampering with Safety Equipment and Hindering Evacuation.** Tampering with safety and fire equipment (**e.g., fire alarms, smoke detectors, exit signs, fire hoses, fire extinguishers, or emergency lighting equipment**) is prohibited. This also includes failing to leave a building or area, or otherwise hindering an evacuation or investigation of the emergency.

**Scholastic Dishonesty.** Scholastic Dishonesty shall include, but is not limited to, scholastic dishonesty: (a) **Acquiring Information:** Acquiring answers for any assigned work or examination from any unauthorized source; working with another person(s) on any assignment or examination when not specifically permitted by the instructor; observing the work of other students during any examination; (b) **Providing Information:** Providing answers of any assigned work or examination prior to the time the examination is given; (c) **Plagiarism:** Failing to credit sources used in work product in an attempt to pass off the work as one's own; attempting to receive credit for work performed by another, including papers obtained in

whole or in part from individuals or other sources; (d) **Conspiracy:** Agreeing with one or more persons to commit any act of scholastic dishonesty; (e) **Fabrication of Information:** The falsification of the results obtained from the research or laboratory experiment; the written or oral presentation of results of research or laboratory experiments without the research or laboratory experiment having been performed; (f) **Violation of Departmental or College Policies:** Violation of any announced departmental or college policy relating to academic matters, including, but not limited to, abuse or misuse of computer access of information. This listing is not exclusive of any other acts that may be said to constitute scholastic dishonesty; (g) **Academic Misconduct:** Any student suspected of academic misconduct on tests, examination papers, or any other assigned work for which he/she is responsible will be reported, by the faculty person in charge, to the Dean of the division of the student's major.

**Off-Campus Violations.** Students whether residing on or off campus, must behave at all times as responsible students in the community in which they reside, shop, and/or otherwise socialize. In keeping with the traditional spirit of Grambling State University, students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is becoming of a student at Grambling State University. Accordingly, students may be brought before a university judicial body for any off-campus conduct that is deemed violative of this code, and for any conduct and/or behavior that reflects negatively on the image or reputation of the University. The specific action or behavior will be described in all charges levied against the student.

**Cell Phone Usage.** The use of cell phones inside the classroom, official testing sites and during an official assembly period is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to, placing and/or receiving calls and/or text messages as well as conversing on cell phones. (**Official University emergency notification messages are excluded/refer to Electronic Devices Policy**)

**Tobacco.** Smoking and the use of tobacco products (**including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, e-cigarettes, and other tobacco products**) by students, faculty, staff, and visitors are prohibited on all Grambling State University property.

**University Policy Violation.** Violation of any University policy, rule or regulation published in hard copy or available electronically on the University website.

**Violation of any federal, state or local law.** On or Off-Campus actions or activities that violate federal, state, or local law, also violate the Code of Student Conduct.

## **F. ARTICLE FIVE - JUDICIAL PROCEDURES**

1. Any member of the University community may file charges against any student for misconduct. Charges shall be prepared in writing and directed to the Office of Student Conduct which is responsible for the administration of the University

judicial system. Any charge should be submitted as soon as possible after the event takes place.

2. A Student Conduct Specialist may conduct **an investigation to determine if the charges have merit and/or if they can be disposed of informally by mutual consent of the parties involved on a basis acceptable to the Student Conduct Specialist. Such disposition shall be final and there shall be no subsequent proceedings. Additionally, all sanctions rendered shall be final and binding upon all involved.** If the charges cannot be disposed of by mutual consent, the Student Conduct Specialist will forward to Director to recommend a formal hearing.
3. A University registration flag may be imposed on a student's record. The flag will be removed once all sanctions have been rendered. When a student(s) is reported for violations of university rules and regulations that require appearance before a judicial board, hearings are scheduled. The student will be given at least a ten (10) business-day notice (**excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays**) to appear for the hearing. In the notice to appear, the following information will be provided:

**Virtual Hearings.**

Virtual Hearings will be conducted remotely by the Student Conduct Hearing Board.

- a. the University regulation(s) that was allegedly violated;
  - b. the statement of the specific charges against the student;
  - c. the date, time and place of the hearing;
  - d. the names of witnesses against the student;
  - e. the statement explaining that the student is entitled to present his/her own witnesses and to cross-examine the witnesses against him/her (give 24-hour notice);
  - f. a statement explaining that the student is entitled to a hearing that will be recorded by the University; and
  - g. a statement indicating that if the student brings an attorney to the hearing, the attorney will be allowed to attend only as an advisor to his client. ( see Student Due Process Policy No. 464)
2. Charged student(s) who fail to appear before a informal/formal judicial board without just cause shall be found responsible for the charge(s) based only on input from the charging party, and disciplinary sanctions shall be imposed. If the judicial board finds that unavoidable circumstances prevented the appearance of the student(s) before the judicial board, the hearing shall be rescheduled. (Within 24 hours' notice)
3. Hearings shall be conducted by a judicial board according to the following guidelines:
  - a. Hearings normally shall be conducted in private. At the request of the accused student and subject to the discretion of the chairperson, a representative of the student press may be admitted but shall not have the privilege of participating in the hearing;

- b. Admission of any person to the hearing shall be at the discretion of the judicial board and/or its judicial chairperson; (See Due Process Policy Act No. 464)
  - c. In hearings involving more than one accused student, the chairperson of the judicial board, at his or her discretion, may permit the hearings concerning each student to be conducted separately;
  - d. The complainant and the accused have the right to be assisted by any advisor they choose, at their own expense. The advisor may be an attorney. The complainant and/or the accused is responsible for presenting his or her own case and, therefore, advisors are not permitted to speak or to participate directly in any hearing before a judicial board. Any advisor(s) who fails to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct guidelines the hearing would be terminated immediately, and the student(s) would be found responsible for all charges; (see Student Due Process Policy No. 464)
  - e. The complainant, the accused and the judicial board shall have the privilege of presenting witnesses, subject to the right of cross examination by the judicial board;
  - f. Pertinent records, exhibits and written statements may be accepted as evidence for consideration by a judicial board at the discretion of the chairperson;
  - g. All procedural questions are subject to the final decision of the chairperson of the judicial board;
  - h. After the hearing, the judicial board shall determine (by majority vote if the judicial board consists of more than one person) whether the student has violated each section of the Student Code which the student is charged with violating; and
  - i. The judicial board's determination shall be made on the basis of whether it is more likely than not that the accused student violated the Code of Student Conduct.
6. There shall be a single verbatim record, such as a tape recording, of all hearings (Informal/Formal) before the judicial board. The record shall be the property of the University.
7. The University may implement an emergency procedure to allow hearings to be set forth and held prior to the end of the respective semester or term in which the violation occurs.

## **G. ARTICLE SIX – DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS**

Sanctioning is intended to accomplish six aims:

- 1. To make sure the student(s) sanctioned has learned from the experience.
- 2. To educate the student(s) so he/she does not commit the violation again.
- 3. To offer the student(s) the opportunity to make good on a mistake.
- 4. To ensure that University expectations regarding appropriate behavior are clear.
- 5. To educate the student(s) concerning how his/her behavior impacts others in the community.

6. To protect the University community from people who may harm others in the community or who may substantially interfere with the educational mission of the University.

## II. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

**University officials authorized by the President to impose sanctions upon students, either prior to (pending scheduled judicial hearing date) or after a judicial hearing, may impose or recommend one or more of the following penalties for a student(s).**

**Any student withdrawing with disciplinary action pending or those being suspended for disciplinary reasons are not eligible for refunds after the 14<sup>th</sup> class day for Fall and Spring semesters and the 7<sup>th</sup> class day for Summer sessions.**

**Expulsion**- Permanent dismissal from the University.

**Suspension** - Dismissal from the University for a specified period of time.

**Indefinite Suspension** - Dismissal from the University for an unspecified time period. After one year, a student may request a review of his file for readmission consideration.

**Interim Suspension** - Temporary suspension with a hearing to follow.

**Revoked Suspension** - A suspension is revoked if a student agrees to remain at the University under certain conditions or as long as the student does not violate certain prescribed conditions.

**Hold on Registration/Hold on Transcript** - A sanction used until all monies, fines and such owed to the University have been paid.

**Fine** - A student may be assessed a reasonable monetary sanction for violating certain Code of Student Conduct rules.

**Campus/Community Service**- A student(s) may be required to provide services on the campus/off campus, without pay, for a specific period of time for violating the Code of Student Conduct rules.

**Probation** - A student(s) is subjected to a time period of restrictions or conditions, after which the University authorities will determine if his/her behavior has improved.

**Restitution** - A student(s) or organization(s) is held accountable for public or private damage that he/she has damaged or destroyed.

**Counseling/Educational Assignment** - A student(s) is given behavioral counseling, either on a regular basis or by appointment. An educational assignment may include but is not limited to, attendance and/or

participation in alcohol/drug education programs, workshops, panel discussions, letters of apology, and reflective essays.

**Restraining Order** - An order by the President or the President's designee prohibiting a student from entering the University premises except public streets or roadways.

**Verbal/Written Reprimand** - A student is warned, verbally and/or in writing, that further misconduct may result in more severe disciplinary action.

**Loss of Privilege** - The withdrawal of a privilege, use of a service, or participation in an activity for a specific period of time consistent with the offense committed and the rehabilitation of the student.

**Extracurricular Activity Suspension** - The suspension of participation in official extracurricular activities. This includes but is not limited to prohibiting the student from joining a registered student organization and/or attending its meetings or functions and/or from participating in official athletic or non-athletic extracurricular activities.

**Mandatory Off-campus Housing** – A student is suspended from on-campus housing privileges for a specific period of time.

**Administrative Withdrawal** – A student is officially withdrawn from the University for Various Reasons. In such cases as the student posing a significant threat to self or others of the University community; failing to pay all financial obligations to the University by a designated date; failing to answer University summons or to address allegations of violations; failing to perform assigned University community service; failing to complete mandatory counseling; and/or failing to abide by the Code of Student Conduct. A student administratively withdrawn after the census date shall be assigned the grade of “W” in all courses. Students who withdraw on an involuntary basis are subject to the same refund policies as other students.

**University Ban** – A student is banned permanently or for a specific period of time from an individual building(s) or event.

### **SPECIAL NOTE: Interim Suspension**

Whenever students are disruptive or dangerous to themselves, including threatening or attempting suicide and are dangerous to others, to property, or to the stability and continuance of normal University functions, the President or the President’s designee may suspend students immediately on an interim basis without providing the **NORMAL HEARING NOTICE**. The letter from the Director of Student Conduct will constitute Normal Hearing Notice.

If the facts and evidence suggest that the student’s continued presence on University premises constitute imminent or clear and present danger to themselves, to others, to property, or to the



stability and continuance of normal University functions, the President or the President's designee may issue a Restraining Order against the students restricting them from the University premises prior to the **NORMAL JUDICIAL HEARING** and **AFTERWARDS**, if he/she deems it necessary.

Whenever the interim suspension rule is invoked, the student shall be given the opportunity to **DISCUSS** the incident with a University official **PRIOR TO THE INTERIM SUSPENSION**. Any student so suspended shall have the right to a post-suspension hearing on the merits of the case within ten business days of the suspension.

**Students who endanger their own physical well-being shall be required to provide the Director of Office of Student Conduct with a Psychiatric Evaluation signed by a licensed mental health professional indicating that the student is not a threat to him/herself or the campus community. Additionally, the parents, legal guardian, and/or student are advised that threatening and/or attempting suicide is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct and may result in disciplinary action by the University.**

### **NOTATION OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS**

In severe cases of misconduct, a student may be suspended or expelled. System universities shall note such on the student's academic transcript as follows:

- "Student is ineligible to enroll"

This will be noted when a student is permanently dismissed from the university for disciplinary reasons.

- "Student is eligible to return (semester) (year)"

This will be noted when a student is "suspended for disciplinary reasons" for a specified period of time. The transcript indicates which semester the student will be eligible to return. In the case where the student is not suspended academically but is suspended for disciplinary reasons, the transcript note indicates that the student cannot return until some future semester.

All system universities shall employ the notations above on student academic transcripts beginning with the Spring semester, 2007.

Notation of disciplinary action on academic transcripts may or may not affect eligibility to enroll at other higher education institutions.

### **MANDATORY ALCOHOL/SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM**

As an educational component of the University's discipline process, students involved in alcohol and/or drug violations are required to participate in the Student Counseling Center's Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program or any Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program of your choice.

Attendance at all sessions/workshops or other activities as assigned is mandatory for students required to participate in the program as a result of university disciplinary action, in addition to any fine or other disciplinary actions that may have been imposed. Failure to comply with the

mandatory requirement by the stated deadline may result in additional disciplinary action imposed by the University, including disciplinary suspension.

## **H. ARTICLE SEVEN - APPEALS**

1. A decision reached by the Judicial Hearing Board, or a sanction imposed by the Director of Student Conduct may be appealed by the accused student within ten (10) business days of the decision. Such appeals shall be in writing, addressed to the Chairperson, Administrative Appeals Board and submitted to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. The board shall consist of a chairperson, one (1) faculty, (1) staff representative, and one (1) student representative appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs.
2. Criteria for filing an appeal are limited to:
  - The students' rights were violated in the hearing process or if there were procedural hearing errors.
  - There is new material evidence which could not have been discovered at the time of the hearing.
  - The evidence did not support the decision.
  - The sanctions imposed were not appropriate for the violation(s) or were not made in an arbitrary or capricious manner

All appeals shall be limited to review of the verbatim record of the initial hearing. Based upon the merits of written justification, the chairperson of the Administrative Appeals Board may accept or reject the student's request for an appeal.

3. If the request for an appeal is granted, the Chairperson of the Administrative Appeals Board, within reasonable time, shall set a date, time, and place for the board to review the findings, decision, and recommendation of the disciplinary hearing board. The complete record of the hearing and evidence presented before the Judicial Hearing Board panel shall be made available to the Administrative Appeals Board. The Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee shall be present at this hearing.
4. If an appeal is upheld by the Administrative Appeals Board, the matter shall be returned to the original Judicial Hearing Board for re-opening to allow reconsideration of the original determination and/or sanction(s).
5. If an appeal is not granted by the Chairperson of the Administrative Hearing Board, then, the sanction imposed shall be considered final and binding upon all involved.
6. Students have the right to appeal the finding, decision, and recommendation of the Administrative Appeals Board if the reasons are based on the criteria listed in #2 of this article. To do so, a student must give written notification to the Office of the President of his/her intent to appeal and reasons for appealing within ten (10) business days after notice of the finding, decision, and recommendation of the Administrative Appeals Board. Late notification of intent to appeal to the Office of the President will be accepted or rejected after hearing the student's reasons for failure to comply with above statement.

7. If the request for an appeal is granted, the President or President's designee shall set a date, time, and place to review the findings, decision, and recommendation of the Administrative Appeals Board.
8. The President or his/her designee may, at his/her discretion, make any of the following sanctions:
  - Approve the recommendation of the Administrative Appeals Board
  - Amend and approve the recommendation; or
  - Return the recommendation to the original Judicial Hearing Board for re-opening to allow for reconsideration of the original determination and/or sanction(s).

**Note: As the Chief Executive Officer of the University, the President holds the ultimate authority in matters of student discipline.**

**Additionally, it will be the discretion of the President or his/her designee as to whether or not a student remains under suspension pending the outcome of the appeal. Factors that will be considered include the nature of the violation, interference with the University's educational mission and the safety and welfare of other members of the University community.**

9. Each institution is authorized to establish policies and regulations governing student conduct. Students shall have due process in disciplinary matters, and any student who exhausted all due process procedures at the institutional level may appeal his/her grievance to the Board of Supervisors if the sanction is one of suspension from the university for a period of one academic year, or if the sanction is of greater severity. Within thirty (30) days after all due process procedures have been exhausted at the institutional level, the student must present his appeal to the System President of the University of Louisiana System. The staff shall review the due process proceedings from the institution and submit recommendations to the Board of Trustees for the University of Louisiana System. If the request for appeal is granted, the System President or his designee shall, within a reasonable time, set a date, time, and place to review the findings, decision, and recommendation of the President of Grambling State University. The complete records of this case shall be made available for use by the System staff and Board of Trustees. The System Office may request the presence of an individual, administrator or student involved in the case.

**Note: If the decision of the Judicial Hearing Board and/or the Administrative Appeals Board is upheld, then the sanction will be imposed as of the original date unless the President affixes a different sanction or date. Students who are suspended or expelled from the University are not eligible for refunds after the 14<sup>th</sup> class day for Fall and Spring semesters and the 7<sup>th</sup> class day for Summer sessions.**

## **I. ARTICLE EIGHT**

## **Records**

- a. Records shall be created for all reported cases of student misconduct.
- b. Disciplinary records are considered academic records and are protected by the **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**. Records may be released to University officials on a need-to-know basis only.
- c. All disciplinary records are the property of Grambling State University and are maintained in the Office of Student Conduct. The University reserves the right to maintain these records for any time depending on the severity of the infraction. Major offenses involving criminal charges or suspensions and expulsions shall be maintained indefinitely.
- d. A tape recording shall be made of every judicial board hearing. The tape recording shall be the property of the University. Neither the complainant nor the accused shall be allowed to make a separate recording of any type. Under no circumstances will a copy of the recording be released except in the case wherein the records are subpoenaed by a court order.

## **J. ARTICLE NINE**

### **Interpretation and Revision**

The President is responsible for shaping the University's mission and academic standards in cooperation with the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System. The President has final authority over all employees and students. The President is also charged with the responsibility of maintaining appropriate standards of student conduct.

Any question of interpretation regarding the Code of Student Conduct shall be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for final determination.

The Code of Student Conduct shall be reviewed every two (2) years under the direction of the Office of Student Conduct.

## **K. HAZING POLICY**

### **I. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE**

No chapter, team, club, colony, unit, student, alumnus/alumna, advisers, and/or other persons associated with a university recognized or sponsored organization shall conduct or condone any activity which can be described as hazing.

### **II. STATEMENT OF POLICY**

In compliance with Acts 635, 637 and 640 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and the 2018 Board of Regents Uniform Policy on Hazing, the university reaffirms its policy that any form of hazing of any student enrolled at Grambling State University, is prohibited. Violation of this policy can result in both disciplinary actions imposed by the organization and/or institution as well as criminal charges.

#### A. Definitions.

1. **Hazing** is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against an individual that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include students at an educational institution, including but is not limited to:

I. The person knew or should have known that such an act endangers the physical health or safety of the other person or causes severe emotional distress.

II. The act was associated with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, participating in, holding office in or maintaining membership in any organization.

2. Hazing includes but is not limited to any of the following acts associated with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, participating in, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization:

I. Physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, paddling, striking, branding, electric shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity.

II. Physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, or calisthenics, that subjects the other person to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the physical health or safety of the individual or causes severe emotional distress.

III. Activity involving consumption of food, liquid, or any other substance, including but not limited to an alcoholic beverage or drug, that subjects the individual to an unreasonable risk of harm that adversely affects the physical health or safety of the individual or causes severe emotional distress.

IV. Activity that induces, causes, or requires an individual to perform a duty or task that involves the commission of a crime or an act of hazing.

3. It is important to note, physical activity that is normal, customary, and necessary for a person's training and participation in an athletic, physical education, military training, or similar program sanctioned by the postsecondary education institution is not considered "hazing."

4. **Organization** is a fraternity, sorority, association, corporation, order, society, corps, cooperative, club, service group, social group, band, spirit group, athletic team, or similar group whose members are primarily students at, or former students of, a postsecondary education institution, including the national or parent organization of which any of the underlying entities provided for in this definition is a sanctioned or recognized member at the time of the hazing.

5. **Pledging** is any action or activity related to becoming a member of an organization, including recruitment and rushing.

#### 6. Appropriate authority

I. Grambling State University Police (318-274-2222 on campus) or any state or local law enforcement agency.

II. If off campus, a 911 Public Safety Answering Point as defined in Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

III. Emergency medical personnel.

7. **Reckless behavior** is an activity or behavior in which a reasonable person knew or reasonably should have known that the activity or behavior may result in injury to another, including but not limited to excessive consumption of alcohol, binge drinking, drag racing, consumption of any controlled dangerous substance, acts of hazing, or other similar activity.

8. **Serious bodily injury** is bodily injury that involves unconsciousness, extreme physical pain, or protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty, death, or a substantial risk of death.

B. Prevention, Awareness, and Educational Programs.

1. Each new student shall be provided educational information on the dangers of and prohibition on hazing during the new student orientation process and during First Year Experience (FYE) courses. Information shall be provided in the form of a handbook or as a section in the FYE Book.

2. In addition, beginning in the Fall Semester of 2019, each new student shall be provided educational information on the dangers of and prohibition on hazing during the new student orientation process: in person at the first convocation; at the first Residence Hall Meetings; and electronically through the campus email system.

3. Each registered campus organization (as defined above in this Policy and in R.S. 17:1801.1) shall provide annually at least one hour of hazing prevention education to all members and prospective members. Education may be provided in person, electronically, or both. Each organization shall submit a report annually to the Office of Student Leadership & Engagement with which it is affiliated relative to the students receiving such education evidenced by an attestation of the student receiving the education.

4. The Office of Student Leadership & Engagement will also sponsor a Hazing Prevention Program each fall and spring semester, which will require attendance for all students who are interested in participating in any university-sponsored organization.

5. The hazing prevention education required under the provisions above shall include the information about criminal penalties for the crime of criminal hazing. Information shall also be provided to organizations on their obligations under the law, including the duty to investigate and report; and on the possible loss of funding and other penalties applicable to organizations under the Hazing Laws.

C. Reporting Requirement.

It shall be the duty of all current and potential student organization members and pledges to report immediately, in writing, any violation of this policy to the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement. Any violation of this policy shall be investigated by the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement, with support from the Office of Student Affairs, and appropriate disciplinary action as needed will be taken.

D. Duty to Seek Assistance

1. In accordance with Act 637 of 2018, codified at R.S. 14:502, any person at the scene of an emergency who knows that another person has suffered bodily injury caused by an act of hazing shall, to the extent that the person can do so without danger or peril to self or others, give reasonable assistance to the injured person.

2. The criminal penalties for failure to seek assistance in violation of R.S. 14:502, states that any person who violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than one year, or both. If the serious bodily injury results in the death of the person, any person who violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000), imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than five years, or both.

#### E. Sanctions.

##### 1. Organizations and Affiliates

i. If an organization has taken disciplinary action against one of its members for hazing or has reason to believe that any member of the organization has participated in an incident of hazing, the organization shall report the incident, in writing, to the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement. The Office of Student Leadership and Engagement will make a determination on whether or not additional campus sanctions and/or student conduct adjudication may be necessary.

ii. If an organization or any of its members has been disciplined by a parent organization for hazing, the organization shall report the hazing for which the organization was disciplined, in writing, to the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement. The Office of Student Leadership and Engagement will make a determination on whether or not additional campus sanctions and/or student conduct adjudication may be necessary.

iii. If any person serving as a representative or officer of an organization, including any representative, director, trustee, or officer of any national or parent organization of which any of the underlying entities as recognized in this Policy is sanctioned or recognized member at the time of the hazing, knew and failed to report to law enforcement that one or more of the organization's members were hazing another person, the organization may be subject to penalties under R.S. 14:40.8. In addition, the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement will make a determination on whether or not additional campus sanctions and/or student conduct adjudication may be necessary.

##### 2. Students

i. Any student who violates the provisions of Acts 635, 637 and 640 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and this Policy shall be expelled, suspended, or dismissed from the institution and not permitted to return for at least one semester, quarter, or comparable academic period and may be subject to criminal charges.

ii. Consent is not a defense. It is not a defense to prosecution of an offense that the person against whom the hazing was directed consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity.

iii. Any student who fails to seek assistance as defined by the law and this policy shall be subject to penalties outlined in R.S. 14:40.8. Any person or organization shall be personally responsible for the content of any signs, notices or posters they sponsor or post on campus. By posting the sign, notice or poster on campus, the person or organization agrees to hold Grambling State University harmless for any assessed damages or liabilities incurred as a result of the sign, notice or poster.

## L. ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES POLICY

Grambling State University has a “**zero tolerance**” policy on the improper use of controlled substances. As a member of the University of Louisiana System, Grambling State University is designated an “alcohol and drug free” campus. The unlawful manufacture, distribution or use of illegal controlled substances or alcohol, or underage consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited on university properties and/or as part of any university activity. Such behavior may be grounds for disciplinary action.

Grambling State University endorses the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Amendment of 1989 (**Public Law 101-226**) and abides by all state and local laws and ordinances relative to alcoholic beverages and illegal controlled substances. Alcoholic beverages may not, in any circumstances, be used by, possessed by or distributed to any person under twenty-one (**21**) years of age.

Students found responsible for violating the Alcohol and Illegal Controlled Substances Policy shall be subject to disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

#### **M. WEAPONS ON CAMPUS POLICY**

Grambling State University, as a member of the University of Louisiana System, is designated as a “firearm-free zone” pursuant to Louisiana law R.S. 14:96.6. Carrying a firearm or dangerous weapon by a student or non-student on campus property, at campus-sponsored functions, or in a firearm-free zone is unlawful and violators shall be subject to criminal charges and campus discipline as stated in the University of Louisiana System, Board of Supervisors’ “**Weapons on Campus Policy**”.

Grambling State University explicitly prohibits the use, possession, or storage of dangerous weapons and explosives. Chemicals are also strictly prohibited even if legally possessed in a manner that harms, threatens, or causes fear.

Any person who wishes to possess a firearm sanctioned by state law and university policies while on school property, school transportation, or at any school sponsored or affiliated function, shall obtain written authority of the President or Vice President and register such weapon with campus police before bringing the firearm on school property, school transportation, or to any school sponsored or affiliated function.

Possession of a firearm, when in violation of state laws, the University of Louisiana System policy, or University policy, shall be grounds for suspension, or expulsion from the University.

Students found in violation of the “**Weapons on Campus Policy**” shall be subject to disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.



## N. STUDENT DUE PROCESS POLICY

### **Policy and Procedures Memorandum**

The purpose of this policy is to establish student due process procedures for University of Louisiana System institutions according to Act 464 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, codified at R.S. 17:3394 (Student Due Process and Protection Act).

Due process protection is afforded to all students and student organizations attending University of Louisiana System member institutions. This policy requires that universities governed by the University of Louisiana System set forth all of its policies, rules, and regulations governing students and student organizations' conduct in properly promulgated publications. All University of Louisiana System member institutions shall implement policies, procedures, and practices for due process in compliance with Act 464 and this Policy.

#### I. **Disciplinary Proceedings**

Any student enrolled at an institution under the jurisdiction of University of Louisiana System and accused of a violation of the disciplinary or conduct rules that carries a potential penalty of suspension of ten or more days, deferred suspension, or expulsion has the right to be represented, at the student's expense, by an attorney or non-attorney advocate who may fully participate during any disciplinary proceeding or other procedure adopted and used by the affected institution to address an alleged violation of the institution's non-academic rules or policies. This right applies to both the student who has been accused of the violation and to the student who is the alleged victim, if applicable. Prior to scheduling a disciplinary proceeding, the institution is required to inform the students in writing of their rights provided by this section.

Any student organization officially recognized by an institution under the jurisdiction of the management board has the right to be represented, at the organization's expense, by an attorney or a non-attorney advocate who may fully participate during any disciplinary proceeding or during any other procedure adopted and used by the institution to address an alleged violation of the institution's non-academic rules or policies. This right applies to both the student organization that has been accused of the alleged violation and the alleged victim, if applicable.

A student or student organization subject to a charge or disciplinary proceeding by the institution is entitled, upon receiving notice of the charge, to notice of any and all violations of the institution's non-academic rules or policies and the disciplinary proceedings or charges that will occur as a result. This notice shall include but need not be limited to each and every section of the institution's rules or policies that the student or student organization is alleged to have violated and any evidence the institution used and collected in making the charge.

When a violation is punishable by suspension of ten or more days or expulsion, or when a violation by a student organization is punishable by suspension or removal of the organization from the institution, the disciplinary procedures contained in the code of student conduct shall include but need not be limited to the following:

1. Afford the accused student or organization the express presumption of innocence and set forth that he or the organization may not be deemed guilty of the violation until

- he/she or the organization formally acknowledges responsibility or conclusion of a hearing where the institution has established every element of the alleged violation.
2. Require the institution to maintain an administrative file of disciplinary proceedings. The file shall include all documents and evidence in the institution's possession or control relevant to the alleged violation and the institution's investigation including but not limited to exculpatory evidence, documents submitted by any participant, and the institution's choice of a video recording, audio recording, or transcript of any disciplinary hearing ultimately held in the matter. The file shall not include privileged document or internal memorandums that the institution does not intend to introduce as evidence at any hearing on the matter.
  3. Provide both the accused student or organization and the alleged victim reasonable continuing access to the administrative file and the ability to make copies of all evidence or documents in the file beginning at least seven business days prior to any disciplinary hearing, or sooner if otherwise specified under federal law, except that individual portions of the administrative file shall be redacted if disclosure of the evidence is required by law.
  4. Ensure that all disciplinary proceedings are carried out free from conflicts of interest by ensuring that there is no commingling of administrative or adjudicative roles. For purposes of this paragraph, an institution shall be considered to commingle such roles if any individual carries out more than one of the following roles with respect to any disciplinary proceeding:
    - a. Victim counselor and victim advocate
    - b. Investigator
    - c. Institutional prosecutor
    - d. Adjudicator
    - e. Appellate adjudicator

## **II. Appeals**

Any student or student organization that is found to be in violation of the institution's non-academic rules or policies shall be afforded an opportunity to appeal the institution's initial decision to an appellate entity that is an institutional administrator or body that did not make the initial decision. Such an appeal shall be filed within ten days after receiving final notice of the institution's decision. The right to appeal the result of the institution's disciplinary proceeding also applies to the student who is the alleged victim, if applicable. The institution may designate the appellate entity as the final institutional authority on the matter; however, nothing in this Section shall preclude a court from granting a prevailing plaintiff equitable relief.

In the appeals process, the student or student organization has the right to be represented, at the student's or the organization's expense, by the student's or the organization's attorney or non-attorney advocate.

Issues that may be raised on appeal include new evidence, contradictory evidence, and evidence that the student or student organization was not afforded due process. The institutional body considering the appeal may consider police reports, transcripts, and the outcome of any civil or criminal proceeding directly related to the appeal.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the institutional body considering the appeal may grant the appeal, deny the appeal, order a new hearing, or reduce or modify the punishment. If the appeal results in the reversal of the decision or a lessening of the sanction, the institution shall reimburse the student for any tuition and fees paid for the period of suspension, including a deferred suspension, or expulsion which had not been previously refunded, if applicable.

UL System member institutions are not required to use formal rules of evidence in disciplinary proceedings. However, they shall make good faith efforts to include relevant evidence and exclude evidence which is neither relevant nor probative.

Institutions are obligated to provide equivalent rights to a student who is the alleged victim in the disciplinary proceeding, including equivalent opportunities to have others present during an institutional disciplinary proceeding, to an unrestricted choice of attorney or non-attorney advocate in any meeting or institutional disciplinary proceeding, if applicable.

### **III. Interim Measures**

UL System member institutions shall have the ability to take reasonable interim measures necessary to ensure the physical safety of members of its campus communities during a timely investigation and adjudication of a student disciplinary issue including but not limited to the ability to make adjustments in student housing arrangements, impose conditions of mutual no-contact between the accused student and the alleged victim, temporarily suspend a student, or ban a student from campus. Such reasonable interim measures shall require the following:

1. Within seventy-two hours of the alleged violation being deemed an immediate threat, written notice of the interim measure that explains the institution's reasons for enacting the measures.
2. Within seven business days of the written notice as outlined in the above paragraph, unless otherwise waived by the accused student, an interim measure hearing to determine whether there is substantial evidence that the student poses a risk to the physical safety of a member of the campus community and that the interim measure is appropriate to mitigate that risk. At the hearing, both the accused student and the alleged victim shall have the right to be represented, at the student's expense, by an attorney or a non-attorney advocate who may fully participate during the hearing. An accused student's waiver of the right to an interim measure hearing shall not constitute an admission of guilt or a waiver of any additional rights provided for in this section.

### **O. ZERO TOLERANCE FOR AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR POLICY**

Grambling State University has a “**Zero Tolerance**” policy for Aggressive Behavior. The purpose of this policy is to address incidents of unacceptable behavior which create fear, bodily harm to another, or damage to property.

Aggressive Behavior is defined as intimidating gestures, threatening, abusive language, fighting or physical actions which create fear, intent of bodily harm, bodily harm to another person or damage to university or personal property.

Additional definitions of aggressive behavior may be identified in the student handbook, which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. **Assault**
2. **Battery**
3. **Dangerous, Threatening Unsafe Behavior**
4. **Destruction/Damage to Property**

Any student found in-violation of an aggressive behavior act may result in immediate suspension up to expulsion from the University. The University has jurisdiction over all behavioral infractions which occur in university facilities or on university property. University charges and criminal charges are independent of each other.

## **P. ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY**

The use of any unauthorized electronic device including, but not limited to, cell phones, pagers, iPods, MP3, etc., during official classroom instruction, University assembly periods, and official University testing administration sites are strictly prohibited. Students entering a classroom or testing site must turn off and store their phones prior to entering the room. Cell phones are not allowed on desks or tabletops. Students must obtain permission from the instructor prior to the beginning of class and must operate the phone in silent mode if extenuating circumstances require a cell phone to be on during class. The instructor may determine the consequences for violations of this policy or refer written complaints to the Office of Student Conduct.

## **Q. CLASSROOM MISCONDUCT POLICY**

1. When a student's behavior in class is **as seriously** disruptive as to compel immediate action, the instructor has authority to remove a student from the class on an interim basis, pending an informal hearing addressing the behavior. A student who has been removed from a class on an interim basis is entitled to an informal hearing before the head of the department offering the course within three working days of the removal. The department head may either:
  - a. Approve an agreement of expectations between the student and the instructor and reinstate the student to the class; or
  - b. Extend the removal of the student from the class and refer the case to the Office of Student Conduct for adjudication. (A copy of all material shall be forwarded to the instructor's academic dean, the student's academic dean and to the Office of Student Conduct.)
2. When a student's action is **not as serious** as to require immediate removal from the class, the following steps shall be followed:
  - a. The instructor for the class shall inform the student that his/her behavior has been inappropriate;

8. The instructor shall describe to the student specific needed changes in the student's behavior;
9. The student will be provided an opportunity to modify his/her behavior in accordance with the changes identified in writing, inclusive of a summary of his/her discussion with the student, and the instructor will retain a file copy of the summary;
10. If a student believes an instructor's expectations are unreasonable, he/she may confer with the instructor's department head about the matter. The department head may choose to support the guidelines developed by the instructor, or he or she may work with the instructor to develop a modified set of expectations. If there are changes in the instructor's original set of expectations, a signed and dated copy will be provided by the department head to both the student and the instructor; and
11. If a student's behavior continues to be unacceptable, the department head may initiate additional discussion with the instructor and/or the student. If the department head concurs with the instructor's view that the problem has not been resolved, the situation may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. A memorandum describing the student's behavior, as well as a copy of the written summary and any other related material shall be forwarded to the **Office of Student Conduct. (A copy of all material shall be forwarded to the instructor's academic dean, student's academic dean and the Office of Student Conduct.)**

## **R. DRESS CODE POLICY**

Grambling State University, a community of leaders preparing students to compete as well as succeed in their chosen careers, still maintains the traditional notion of acceptable dress attire. The personal appearance of every university student is an important component of maintaining a student-centered learning environment. In order to achieve the total educational process an appropriate dress code which promotes a positive image of the university must be presented at all times. Students are expected to dress in a manner supportive of a positive learning environment, free from disruptions and distractions.

The following standards shall apply and will be enforced:

Examples of inappropriate attire include but are not limited to:

- a. Wearing hats, caps, do-rags, skullcaps, bandanas, stocking caps and/or other headgear;
- b. Lounging shoes, lounging slippers, bare feet, short-shorts, sagging pants (**exposing undergarments**), lounging pants (**except in the privacy of the student's living quarters**)

This policy does not apply to headgear identified as religious or cultural dress. Students seeking approval for headgear attire shall make a written request through the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Students must adhere to any special dress standard set by groups presenting social programs such as musical arts, convocations, commencement, etc. Admission to such events may be denied if manner of dress is inappropriate.

Appropriate student behavior addressing the dress code policy shall be monitored by university faculty and staff.

## **S. PARENTAL NOTIFICATION**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (**FERPA**) is a federal law that permits universities to notify parents or guardians of students under 21 years of age of alcohol and other drug violations which result in a determination that the student has committed a disciplinary violation. This exception to the privacy rights of students was enacted because of the health and safety consequences of alcohol and other drug abuse. Grambling State University is committed to the total development of each student. We believe that parents share the University's concern in such situations for their child's health, safety, and academic progress.

Therefore, Grambling State University may notify parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of any student under the age of 21 found responsible for a violation of any federal, state, and/or local law or university policy regarding alcohol and/or controlled substances or other dangerous drugs.

### **Questions Pertaining to this Code of Student Conduct should be directed to:**

**Inetha M. Wimberly**  
**Director/Office of Student Conduct**  
**Grambling State University|403 Main Street| GSU Box 4309|Grambling, LA 71245**  
**Phone: 318-274-7782**  
wimberlyi@gram.edu|www.gram.edu

## **T. NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

Grambling State University adheres to the equal opportunity provisions of federal civil rights laws and regulations that are applicable to this agency. Therefore, no one will be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, or national origin (**Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**); sex (**Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972**); or disability (**Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**) in attaining educational goals and objectives and in the administration of personnel policies and procedures. Anyone with questions regarding this policy may contact the **EEO Officer Beverly Crawford, Brown Hall Rm. 127 at (318) 274-2660**.

The health, safety, and well-being of students, employees, campus visitors and authorized users are the University's primary concern. If you or someone you know is the victim of any form of sexual misconduct, you are strongly urged to seek immediate assistance.

If the University is open, employees, students and non-students may file a report in person during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Friday) with the Title IX Coordinator Beverly Crawford, Brown Hall; Room 127:

**Title IX Coordinator**  
**Brown Hall Rm. 127**  
**403 Main Street**  
**Grambling, LA 71245**  
**Phone: (318) 274-2660**  
**Email: [titleix@gram.edu](mailto:titleix@gram.edu) or [crawfordb@gram.edu](mailto:crawfordb@gram.edu)**

Assistance can be obtained 24 hours a day, seven days a week from:

- **University Police**
  - 1-911, emergency; on-campus
  - (318) 274-2222, off campus
- Local Hospital:
  - **Northern Louisiana Medical Center-**
    - 401 East Vaughn Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270
    - (318) 254-2100

In addition, the Grambling State University Counseling Center (274-3277) and the Student Health Center (274-2351), both are located at the Foster-Johnson Health Center.

***NOTE: Although this handbook was prepared with available information at the time of publication, Grambling State University reserves the right to amend, without obligation, any information or statement in the publication as deemed necessary.***

***Students should be familiar with the latest policies and procedures so promulgated. They supersede all others.***