

Statement of 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.
- **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. Approval from the President or Vice President for Student Affairs is required for a designated area for demonstrations.
- **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 identified by the President or Vice President for Student Affairs.
- **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 event 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-Residential Life 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)
- **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.

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.