It is a great honor to welcome you to the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO). Whether you are a freshman, upperclassman, or graduate student your presence and contributions to the UCO community are valued. We are committed to your development in your field of study, global and cultural competency, health and wellness, leadership, civic engagement, personal character, and sense of community.

Your development in the aforementioned areas will present great, yet rewarding challenges along your journey towards graduation. As a university community, we have standards of behavior to hold our students accountable during this journey. In the pages to follow, you will be introduced to the Code of Student Conduct, which is our means to educate and support the university community in maintaining a reasonably comfortable living and learning environment for all UCO community members.

We encourage you to make informed, wise decisions that will impact your future, as well as your surrounding community. Furthermore, we encourage you to know your rights, accept your responsibilities, and live with great character.

We truly look forward to helping you grow at the University of Central Oklahoma. Enjoy the journey.

Go Bronchos!

Chris M. Snoddy,
Director of Student Conduct
PURPOSE
The purpose of the Office of Student Conduct is to ensure that students are made aware of UCO's policies and standards of behavior, their rights, their options of resources, and their responsibilities to uphold those policies and standards.

MISSION
The mission of the Office of Student Conduct is to determine responsibility in reported matters of misconduct and concern through timely and equitable investigations and educationally appropriate resolutions.

CORE PRINCIPLES
Character, Rights, and Responsibilities

W. Rod Costner
Assistant Director

Christina Traverso
Graduate Assistant
Case Manager

Blake Nesmith
Office Assistant
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   2. Definition of Incapacitation
   3. Definition of Force
   4. Definition of Coercion
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I: INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

The freedom of individual students to inquire, study, evaluate, increase understanding, and further their interpersonal development is essential and must be protected against suppression. Reasonable dissent plays a vital role in university discourse. However, freedoms may not be reasonably protected or exercised in a university that lacks order and stability.

Therefore the Code of Student Conduct, and the incorporated statements and policies therein are provided to inform the student body of the expected standards of behavior and policies that are fundamental to the normal activities of the University of Central Oklahoma. Furthermore, the purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to develop and maintain guidelines for a reasonable and comfortable living and learning environment for all University of Central Oklahoma community members. The intent of the University is to ensure that students do not overlook their civic and social responsibilities nor lose their rights as citizens and members of this community.

B. Transformative Learning Statement

The University of Central Oklahoma helps students learn by providing transformative experiences so that each student may become productive, creative, ethical and engaged citizens and leaders contributing to the intellectual, cultural, economic and social advancement of the communities they serve.

Transformative learning is a holistic process that places students at the center of their own active and reflective learning experiences. All students at the University of Central Oklahoma will have transformative learning experiences in six core areas: discipline knowledge; leadership; research, creative and scholarly activities; service learning and Civic engagement; global and cultural competencies; and healthy lifestyles.

C. Equal Opportunity Policy Statement

The University of Central Oklahoma (University) is committed to an inclusive educational and employment environment that provides equal opportunity and access to all qualified persons. The University will continue its policy of fair and equal employment and educational practices without discrimination or harassment because of actual or perceived race, creed, color, religion, alienage or national origin, genetic information, ancestry, citizenship status, age, disability or handicap, gender, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.

Discrimination or harassment in violation of the Equal Opportunity Policy should be reported to the Affirmative Action Officer (Office of Legal Counsel) in person at 114 Lillard Administration, or by phone at (405) 974-3377 or fax at (405) 974-3807. After office hours or on holidays, the report may be made by contacting University Police Services at (405) 974-2345. (For complete policy, please visit uco.edu/EqualOpp.)

*Please note that “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” are not protected personal characteristics under federal or state law, but were added to the Equal Opportunity Statement by the University.

II. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy, these definitions apply:

1. The term “University” means the University of Central Oklahoma.

2. The term “student” includes any person enrolled at the University of Central Oklahoma, whether for the current or upcoming semester, full-time, part-time, concurrent, on campus, abroad, online, or any other form of enrollment.

3. The term “University official” includes faculty, staff, and agents of the University having responsibility for working with that student in admissions, registration, advisement, housing, counseling, student conduct, teaching, financial aid, payment of fees, or any other activity directly related to the student’s academic program, or pursuant to law or governmental regulation including, but not limited to, contractors, consultants, volunteers, and other outside parties to whom the University has outsourced services or functions it would otherwise use employees to perform with a legitimate educational interest. A University official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review the contents of an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities.

4. The term “member of the University community” includes any person who is a student, faculty member, University official, person employed by the University (directly or by contract), or volunteer for the University. The Director of Student Conduct shall determine a person’s status as the situation warrants.

5. The term “University premises” includes all land, buildings, facilities, sidewalks, roadways, parking lots, and/or grounds controlled, owned, or leased by the University. University premises also include, but is not limited to, all University-owned, leased or rented vehicles.

6. The term “student organization or student group” means any number of students who have fully or partially complied with the formal requirements for University recognition / registration.

7. The term “hearing” means an opportunity to be heard, which may be informal or formal. Informal hearings are typically resolved by the case investigator after a preceding investigation. Final decisions for formal hearings are routinely made by a designated board, panel, or committee (i.e. the Committee on Student Conduct or Sexual Misconduct Panel). Each type of hearing is further explained further in sections III.Q.-R.

8. The term “hearing body” means any person or persons authorized by the Director of Student Conduct to hear misconduct cases, consider the provided information, and recommend an appropriate outcome, which may include recommending or imposing sanctions. A hearing body may be the case investigator, a designated board, panel, or committee.

9. The term “policy” is defined as any written regulation of the University as found in, but not limited to, the Code of Student Conduct, Residence Life Community Standards Handbook,
The term “academic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to:

a) The use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations;

b) Dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; or,

c) The acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University faculty or staff.

The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. (Please refer to section IV. for more information on plagiarism and its relation to academic dishonesty.)

The term “Office of Student Conduct” means the Director of Student Conduct or an appropriate departmental staff designee from the Office of Student Conduct.

The term “reporting party” means any person who reports an incident of an alleged violation of this Code of Student Conduct or any other related published University policy, such as those mentioned in section III. H. of this document. Anyone may be a reporting party and submit a complaint of misconduct to the Office of Student Conduct, UCO Police Department, or the appropriate University official.

The term “complainant” means any person who believes and claims that he or she has been a target of a crime, Code of Student Conduct policy violation, or any other related published University policy, such as those mentioned in section III. H. of this document. The “complainant” has the right to report violations of law or university policy with the Office of Student Conduct, UCO Police Department, or the appropriate University official.

The term “respondent” means any student or student organization accused of violating this Code of Student Conduct or any other related published University policy, such as those mentioned in section III.H. of this document. The president or designee(s) of the respondent organization shall be the primary point of contact for correspondence with the Office of Student Conduct throughout and upon the conclusion of investigations.

The term “sanction” means a purposeful, educational, and/or safety related assignment to encourage behavioral change, personal development, and ethical development administered as a consequence for violating one or more university policies. Students found responsible for violating one or more university policies receive sanctions as a result of their behavior. Refer to section III. T. for further information about sanctions.

17. The term “harassment” means a knowing and willful course or pattern of conduct by an individual, which would seriously alarm or annoy the targeted person and serve no legitimate purpose for communication. Forms of harassment include, but are not limited to courses of conduct that would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, which may include, but are not limited to actions such as repeated, unwanted phone calls, texts, social media messaging, and attempts to intimidate or threaten another person.

18. The term “bullying” means any intentional pattern of behavior through written, verbal, electronic communication (texting, posting, picture distribution, email), or physical action, which is committed for the purpose of harming another person or their property, or placing another person in fear of harm, in a manner that would disrupt or interfere with the person’s educational pursuits or the university’s efforts to facilitate educating students.

19. “Sexual misconduct” offenses include, but are not limited to, sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, non-consensual sexual intercourse, sexual exploitation, stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence. (Please refer to section VI. for further information.)

20. The term “sexual harassment” is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, written, online, or physical conduct of a sexual nature in the following context:

a) Submission to or rejection of such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of a person’s employment, academic standing, participation in any University programs and/or activities or is used as the basis for University decisions affecting the individual (often referred to as “quid pro quo” harassment); or,

b) Such conduct creates a hostile environment. A “hostile environment” exists when such conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it unreasonably interferes with, limits, or deprives an individual from participating in or benefitting from the University’s education or employment programs or activities. (Please refer to section VI.B. for additional information.)

21. The term “non-consensual sexual contact” is defined as any intentional sexual touching, however slight, with any object, with another person without consent of that person. (Please refer to section VI.C. for additional information)

22. The term “non-consensual sexual intercourse” is defined as any sexual penetration (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, with another person without consent of that person. (Please refer to section VI.D. for additional information.)

23. The term “consent” is defined as a knowing, voluntary, and clear permission by word or action to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Consent is active, not passive.
Silence, in and of itself, cannot be interpreted as consent. Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as those words or actions create a mutually understandable clear permission regarding willingness to engage in (the conditions of) sexual activity. (Please refer to section VI.A. for additional information.)

24. The term “incapacitation” is defined as a state where someone cannot make rational, reasonable decisions because they lack the capacity to give knowing consent (i.e. to understand the “who, what, when where, why, or how” of their sexual interaction). (Please refer to section VI.A.2. for additional information.)

25. The term “force” is defined as any intentional physical violence, restraint, or the presence of a weapon to gain sexual (or non-sexual) access to a person. Force includes threats that overcome resistance or produces reluctant compliance or acquiescence. (Please refer to section VI.A.3. for additional information.)

26. The term “coercion” is defined as an unreasonable pressure to engage in sexual (or non-sexual) activity. For the purposes of sexual coercion, determining what is unreasonable may be a function of duration, frequency, isolation, and intensity. (Please refer to section VI.A.4. for additional information.)

27. The term “sexual exploitation” is defined as taking nonconsensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for one’s own advantage or benefit, or to benefit a person other than the one being exploited. (Please refer to section VI.E. for additional information.)

28. The term “stalking” is defined as repetitive and menacing pursuit, following, harassing, and/or interfering with the peace and/or safety of another that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or suffer substantial emotional distress. (Please refer to section VI.F. for additional information.)

29. The term “domestic violence” is defined as violence or abuse (verbal, physical, and/or psychological) committed by a current or former spouse of an individual, person with whom an individual shares a child in common, person who is cohabitating with an individual or has cohabitated with as a spouse, or person similarly situated to a spouse of the individual under domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred. (Please refer to section VI.G.1. for additional information.)

30. The term “dating violence” is defined as violence or abuse (verbal, physical, and/or psychological) committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with another person. The existence of such relationship shall be determined based on consideration of the following factors: length of relationship, type of relationship and, frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. Dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse. Dating violence does not include acts by a person who meets the definition of domestic violence. (Please refer to section VI. G. 2. for additional information.)

31. The term “indecent public exposure” is defined as deliberately and publicly exposing one’s intimate body parts (genitalia), publicly urinating, publicly defecating, publicly engaging in sex acts, or assisting in committing such acts, whether in person or online.

32. The term “tobacco products” includes all forms of tobacco, but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, and all other kinds and forms of tobacco prepared in such a manner to be suitable for spit tobacco use, smoking, or both. This term also includes herbal tobacco products, simulated tobacco products that imitate or mimic tobacco products, including but not limited to e-cigarettes, hookahs, “vapes”, cloves, bidis, and kreteks. The only nicotine-containing products permitted on campus under the tobacco-free policy are those which are FDA approved for cessation purposes.

33. The term “tobacco use” includes smoking, chewing, dipping or any other consumption or use of tobacco products.

34. The term “event” as it related to student organizations shall generally be defined as an activity which meets two (2) or more of the following criteria:

   a) Fulfills an intended goal of a short-term or long-term plan of a University affiliate or University-recognized entity;

   b) Utilizes (in part or whole) the University affiliate’s or University-recognized entity’s expenses;

   c) Several members or several individuals recognized by an observer as members of the University affiliate or University-recognized entity in attendance;

   d) Indications of advertisement(s) distributed, which may include, but are not limited to:

      1. Information concerning the event was announced during an organization meeting.

      2. Information concerning the event was physically (bulletin boards, walls, doors on or off campus) or electronically (via social media) circulated or posted.

      3. Information concerning the event was emailed, texted, or electronically transmitted through a phone or computer application (i.e. GroupMe, Remind, Snapchat, etc.) to an organization distribution list or group of persons affiliated with the organization.

Any question of interpretation regarding these definitions should be referred to the Director of Student Conduct.

III: STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The objective of the University of Central Oklahoma is to provide an opportunity for education to all of its students. In order to achieve this objective, it is important to define standards of conduct or parameters of behavior that will enable students to work together with the faculty, staff, and administration in a positive manner.
A. Standards of Behavior

Attendance at the University of Central Oklahoma is not compulsory. The voluntary entrance of a student into the University of Central Oklahoma means the student also voluntarily assumes obligations of performance and behavior reasonably imposed by the University. The University of Central Oklahoma is an institution of higher learning. Thus, the rules and regulations are designed to ensure optimal conditions of learning for all students. Standards of conduct for students are seen as a base or foundation of behavior rather than arbitrary limits of behavior. The University’s approach to student discipline emphasizes assisting students in understanding and accepting responsibilities for their behavior. Both the interests of the student and the University community are taken into account in deciding the desirability and appropriateness of undertaking a course of discipline.

B. Scope of University Authority

The University’s authority is vested in the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Regional University System of Oklahoma, and the President of the University of Central Oklahoma. This includes authority to control and regulate various aspects of student behavior through disciplinary means. The President of the University of Central Oklahoma delegates to the Vice President for Student Affairs or the Vice President’s designee the authority to investigate potential or alleged violations of University regulations or law and to determine and administer appropriate penalties using a preponderance or weight of the evidence standard. The Vice President for Student Affairs reserves the right to intervene and/or hear any case of student misconduct.

All disciplinary decisions are carried out in the name of the President. The Vice President for Student Affairs delegates the authority to manage the student disciplinary process and appropriate resolutions to the Director of Student Conduct. Any sharing or delegation of the student conduct function remains revocable.

The Director of Student Conduct shall develop policies for the administration of the student conduct program and procedural rules for student conduct hearings, which are consistent with the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct.

C. Student Conduct Process Overview

1. The primary responsibility for student discipline will lie with the Director of Student Conduct. The Director of Student Conduct may be reached in the Office of Student Conduct. Reports of misconduct that are labeled inappropriate, disruptive, destructive, and/or in violation of University regulations usually are made in the first instance to the Office of Student Conduct, which is located in the Nigh University Center, room 136, (405) 974-5380.

2. The University of Central Oklahoma recommends that complaints or reports of misconduct be made as soon as possible after the incident has occurred, preferably within two (2) University business days. However, there is not a statute of limitations on filing complaints within the Office of Student Conduct.

3. Upon receipt of a complaint or report of misconduct, the Office of Student Conduct will commence an initial investigation of the reported matter, per section III. O.

After an initial investigation of the allegations, the Office of Student Conduct may decide to close the case without further investigation, due to a lack of merit.

4. In informal hearings, the delegated investigator shall serve as the hearing body, per section III. Q. of this policy. Per section III. R., a hearing body comprised of non-biased nominated and/or volunteer students, faculty, and/or staff members shall serve as the hearing body in formal hearings that do not involve allegations of sexual misconduct. Formal Hearings involving allegations of sexual misconduct policy violations, as outlined in section VI, shall be heard by a hearing body comprised of non-biased nominated and/or volunteer staff and/or faculty members, per section III. R.

Any act by a properly constituted hearing panel, at which a quorum of the hearing panel is present, shall be binding. At least one (1) student and two (2) faculty or staff members must be present to establish quorum for a formal hearing before a panel regarding matters that do not involve allegations of sexual misconduct.

At least three (3) faculty or staff members must be present to establish quorum for a hearing panel, resolving sexual misconduct allegations.

The Director of Student Conduct or his or her designee shall determine the composition of formal hearing bodies for non-sexual misconduct cases. The Title IX Coordinator shall determine the composition of formal hearing bodies for sexual misconduct cases.

5. The designated hearing body will review with the respondent the nature of the complaint(s) and allow for the respondent’s version of the incident to be heard. When the investigation is completed, including interviews of the respondent(s), complainant(s), and any witnesses, the designated hearing body will make appropriate recommendations for the disposition of the case. The designated hearing body has the responsibility and authority to take temporary and/or precautionary safety actions and final disciplinary action, if such action(s) is appropriate. Any information obtained either from the respondent, complainant, witnesses, law enforcement, or other relevant documentation may be used by the designated hearing body in determining proper action(s), including closing the case without action.

6. Decisions made by the Director of Student Conduct and/or delegated hearing body shall be final, pending the normal appeal process, which is located in section III. U.

D. Jurisdiction of the University

Generally, University jurisdiction and discipline shall be applicable to misconduct which occurs on or near activities, events, and premises which are owned, leased, or controlled by the University, including UCO owned social media and electronic communications. Additionally, the University shall exercise jurisdictional discipline to address misconduct which violates local, state, and/or federal law and adversely affects the University community and/or the safe and orderly pursuit of its educational objectives.
E. Interpretation and Revision

Any question of interpretation regarding the Code of Student Conduct shall be referred to the Director of Student Conduct for final determination. Under the direction of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Code of Student Conduct shall be reviewed annually.

F. Admission and Readmission of Student Applicants Under Disciplinary Sanctions

Admission requests of student applicants who are currently under disciplinary sanctions at other institutions must be approved through the Office of Student Conduct in the Nigh University Center, Room 136, (405) 974-5380. All such applications and requests will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct for review. Each student applicant’s case will be reviewed by a hearing body, as designated by the Director of Student Conduct. The student applicant seeking admission may be contacted to acquire further information prior to the final decision.

Student applicants who are seeking readmission after a temporary suspension, suspension, or expulsion from the University of Central Oklahoma that occurred as a result of student misconduct or violations of local, state or federal law, must obtain approval through the Office of Student Conduct in the Nigh University Center, Room 136, (405) 974-5380. All such applications and requests will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct for review. In such cases, student applicants must have met all previously required sanction criteria prior to re-admittance. The student applicant seeking readmission may be contacted to acquire further information prior to the final decision.

The University reserves the right to deny or rescind admission or readmission to any student applicant based upon prior conduct history, prior and/or pending criminal charge(s)/conviction(s), and/or false or omitted information on submitted admission applications. The University of Central Oklahoma typically upholds current disciplinary sanctions at other institutions must be approved through the Office of Student Conduct in the Nigh University Center, Room 136, (405) 974-5380. All such applications and requests will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct for review. Each student applicant’s case will be reviewed by a hearing body, as designated by the Director of Student Conduct. The student applicant seeking readmission may be contacted to acquire further information prior to the final decision.

The University reserves the right to deny or rescind admission or readmission to any student applicant based upon prior conduct history, prior and/or pending criminal charge(s)/conviction(s), and/or false or omitted information on submitted admission applications. The University of Central Oklahoma typically upholds current disciplinary sanctions at other institutions.

G. Admission and Readmission of Student Applicants with Felony Records

Pursuant to commitment of creating and supporting a safe living and learning environment for student, staff, and faculty, the University of Central Oklahoma requires a background check for student applicants who indicate on their admission application that they have been charged or convicted of one or more felony violations of the law. A $35.00 background check fee will be required to complete all national background checks.

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Office of International Services, The Academy of Contemporary Music at UCO (ACM® UCO), and the Jackson College of Graduate Studies will forward the applications of those charged or convicted with a felony to the Office of Student Conduct. Student applicants that are deemed academically admissible will be notified by the Office of Student Conduct and provided with instructions for pursuing eligibility consideration. In order to be considered for eligibility, the student applicant must provide additional documentation, such as the following:

1. Indictment information;
2. Police Affidavit(s) of Probable Cause;
3. Plea Document(s);
4. Pre-Sentencing Reports;
5. Judgement and Sentencing Forms;
6. Transcripts from previous colleges/universities attended; and
7. Two professional letters of recommendation

The final decision regarding eligibility rests with the Student Applicant Review Board, a panel of faculty and staff members designated to interview academically admissible student applicants who have disclosed a felony charge or conviction on their application. The Student Applicant Review Board meets with student applicants and makes decisions of eligibility based upon level of risk to the University community, which is determined after an examination of the aforementioned documents and an interview. Student applicants will be notified by the Office of Student Conduct once a determination of eligibility has been made. Student applicants may access further information about the review process, documents needed, deadlines and the board meeting schedule, and the background check fee payment form at the following website: http://sites.uco.edu/student-affairs/conduct/Review%20Board/index.asp.

H. Prohibited Conduct

Any student found to have committed the following misconduct is subject to the disciplinary sanctions outlined in section III.T. and section IV. E. (Please see section II. for the University definition of a student.)

1. Attempts to or encouraging others to commit acts prohibited by this code will be sanctioned to the same extent as if one had committed the prohibited act. Apathy or acquiescence in the presence of prohibited conduct may constitute a violation of this policy and may constitute a violation of the policy that prohibits the conduct or behavior.

2. Acts of dishonesty, including but not limited to the following:
   a) Cheating, plagiarism, bribery, or other forms of academic dishonesty, as stated in section IV.D.
   b) Knowingly or assisting in the act of, furnishing false information to any University official, faculty member, or office through forgery, unauthorized alteration or falsification of an official record, or misuse of any University document, record, or instrument of identification. This includes the submission of documentation in which required information or documents have been omitted.
   c) Tampering with the election of any University recognized student organization.
   d) Assuming the identity of another.
   e) Any other act of dishonesty, as stated in section IV.D.

3. Disruption or obstruction of other students’ ability to learn or actively participate in class, teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, other University activities, including its public-service functions on or off-campus, or other authorized non-university premises.
4. Assault, including but not limited to verbal abuse (persistent or severe), threats, intimidation, harassment, bullying (verbal, physical, and/or cyber), coercion and/or other conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person.

5. Battery, including but not limited to attempted or actual physical abuse that results or could result in bodily injury, pain, or impairment. This includes fighting, assault, battery, or any other form of physical violence against another person.

6. Attempted, actual theft of, or unauthorized removal of University property, property of another individual, commercial entity, or public property.

7. Attempted or actual damage to University property (including university housing properties), property of another individual, commercial entity, or public property.

8. Hazing and/or any solicitations to engage in hazing are strictly prohibited at the University of Central Oklahoma, as specified in sections V. I.-J.

9. Failure to comply with the directions of University officials or law enforcement officers acting in the performance of their duties and/or failure to identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so. (Regional University System of Oklahoma Policy Manual; section 4.3.3.g.)

10. Unauthorized possession, duplication, or use of keys to gain access to any University premises, property, or equipment.

11. Aiding and/or facilitating the access means of any unauthorized person to University premises, property, or equipment.

12. Violation of any accessible University policies, procedures, rules or regulations.

13. Violation of federal, state or local law.

14. Unlawful use, sale, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, being under the influence of or distribution of any federally controlled substances (illicit drugs including marijuana), in any form, or drug paraphernalia, on University-owned or controlled properties, including University Housing, University vehicles, any recognized student organization housing, or University sponsored activities, including all student organization activities, is prohibited. Furthermore, individuals with Medical Marijuana Registry cards are not permitted to use or distribute medical marijuana on campus. Intentionally or recklessly inhaling or ingesting substances (e.g. nitrous oxide, glue, paint, etc.) that will alter a student’s mental state is also prohibited.

15. The nonmedical use of prescription medication (i.e. “pain killers”) is expressly prohibited. This includes possession and distribution of medications that are off label and those that are not prescribed to the person in question, or use of prescription medication at a rate not congruent with the prescription.

16. Use, possession, manufacture, distribution, and being under the influence of alcoholic beverages and/or low point beer as defined in 37 O.S. §163.2 except as expressly permitted by state law and regulations, or public intoxication on campus properties, in University Housing and any student organization housing, or other University sponsored activities, unless explicitly and lawfully approved by authorized University officials for students is strictly prohibited. (Regional University System of Oklahoma Policy Manual; section 4.4.3.b.) This policy is applicable to alcohol in liquid or powdered forms.

a) It is also strictly prohibited to drive, operate, or be in actual physical control of a motor vehicle (47 O.S. §11-902):

1. While under the influence of alcohol, any other intoxicating substance, or a combination thereof;

2. With a blood or breath alcohol concentration level at or above the applicable legal limit is prohibited.

17. Distribution or attempted distribution of alcoholic beverages (including powdered forms of alcohol), in any circumstances, by or to any person under the age of twenty-one (21).

18. Violation of any accessible Housing and Dining Services policies (as specified in section VIII. H.-J) and/or contracts.

19. Illegal or unauthorized possession, usage, or storage of firearms, explosives, electronic control devices, such as Taser or other stun guns, other weapons, or dangerous chemicals on University premises in a manner that would reasonably be expected to threaten, harm, incapacitate, or cause fear to other University community members. The possession or firing of firearms, fireworks, explosives, ammunition, replica firearms (as referenced in section 1 of 8.12.025 of the Edmond, OK Municipal Code) or weapons such as bb guns, paintball guns, rifles, bows, swords, metal knuckle, blackjacks, hand chains, daggers, Bowie knives, dirk knives, spring-type knives, switchblade knives, loaded cans, billy clubs, knives and inappropriately-used knives or bladed instruments by students is prohibited on-campus, in any sorority, fraternity, or University-operated housing facilities, except as used in officially approved University programs. Lawfully stored handguns may not be removed from vehicles without prior written consent of the college or University President while the vehicle is on University property. (21 O.S. 1277.) To obtain permission to safely and lawfully store or display unloaded and approved weapons while on campus property, contact the University of Central Oklahoma Police Department at (405) 974-2345.

20. Initiating, causing, or contributing to any false report to a university official or law enforcement agency.

21. Participation in an on-campus or off-campus demonstration which disrupts the normal operations of the University and infringes on the rights of other members of the University community; leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled and normal activities within any campus building or area; and/or, intentional obstruction which unreasonably interferes with freedom of movement, either pedestrian or vehicular, on campus.

22. Obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic on University premises or University sponsored or supervised functions.

23. Conduct which is disorderly, lewd, or indecent, including urinating or defecating in public. Additionally, indecent conduct includes indecent or public exposure as defined by Oklahoma law and public exposure and unsolicited communications that are obscene, lewd, or indecent (i.e. unclothed drawings, depictions, or pictures of oneself or
24. Conduct in which a student engages or threatens to engage in conduct that poses a danger of causing physical harm to others.

25. Conduct which would disturb the peace, injure any person (including hazing), cause property damage, directly impede the lawful activities of others, interfere with University faculty or staff in the performance of their duties, or interfere with the educational process and the orderly operation of the University or which may impede its teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, and public service functions.

26. Theft or other abuse of computer and network resources, including but not limited to:
   a) Unauthorized entry into a system or file to use, view, transfer, change or delete the contents, or grant security permissions for others to do the same.
   b) Unauthorized use of another individual’s identification and password.
   c) Use of computing facilities to interfere with the work of another student, faculty member or University official.
   d) Use of computing facilities to view or send obscene or abusive messages.
   e) Use of University computing facilities and/or other University resources to interfere with normal operation of the University computing system or network.
   f) Any violation of the University and Network Usage Policy or Security Policy, which can be located at www.uco.edu/legal-and-policies.

27. Abuse of the student conduct system including but not limited to:
   a) Failure to adhere to the notice of a hearing body to appear for a meeting or hearing as part of the student conduct system.
   b) Falsification, distortion, or misrepresentation of information before the Director of Student Conduct or a hearing body (board, committee, or panel).
   c) Disruption or interference with the orderly conduct of a hearing body proceeding by threatening or bullying/intimidating a participant in a case investigation.
   d) Facilitation of an unauthorized Student Conduct Hearing.
   e) Attempting to discourage an individual’s proper participation in, or use of, the student conduct system.
   f) Attempting to influence the impartiality of a member of a hearing body (board, committee, panel, or designee) prior to and/or during the course of the student conduct proceeding.
   g) Harassment (verbal or physical) and/or intimidation of a member of a hearing body (board, committee, or panel) prior to, during, and/or after a hearing body (board, committee, or panel) proceeding.
   h) Failure to comply with temporary sanctions, such as a No Contact Order or Temporary Suspension, imposed by the Vice President for Student Affairs, Office of Student Conduct, or any other designated hearing body who has the authority to impose temporary sanctions.
   i) Failure to comply with the sanction(s) imposed under the Code of Student Conduct by the Vice President for Student Affairs, Office of Student Conduct, a designated hearing panel, or any other hearing body who has the authority to impose sanctions.
   j) Influencing or attempting to influence another person to commit an abuse of the student conduct system.
   k) Failure to complete assigned sanctions by the specified deadline.

28. Sexual misconduct, including, but not limited to, sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, non-consensual sexual intercourse and sexual exploitation as specified in section VI. A.-G.

29. Stalking as specified in section VI. F.

30. Domestic violence, including crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of an individual, person with whom an individual shares a child in common, person who is cohabiting with an individual or has cohabitated with as a spouse, or person similarly situated to a spouse of the individual under domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred, as specified in section VI. G.1.

31. Dating violence, including crimes of violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with another person. Dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse, as specified in section VI. G.2.

32. The use, sale, or distribution of all forms of tobacco products as defined in section II. 32., including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, spit tobacco, e-cigarettes, “vapes”, and herbal tobacco products. The University prohibits tobacco use on all University grounds, in all University buildings, all University grounds (including parking areas), outside of buildings, common outdoor areas, and University vehicles(s) owned or leased by the University. For further information on the Tobacco Free Campus Policy, please visit uco.edu/TobaccoFree.

33. Gambling for money or other things of value on campus or at University sponsored activities, except as permitted by law.

34. The redistribution or exchange of any commencement ceremony tickets for monetary purposes.

35. Retaliation, such as initiating (directly or indirectly) any adverse action against an individual or organization in reprisal to the person’s or organization’s reporting of a university policy violation or crime. Retaliation includes any adverse action against an individual or organization assisting in or witnessing such a report.
36. Catfishing or online impersonations, as referenced in Oklahoma State Statutes (12 O.S. 1450.)

I. Legal Proceedings and University Student Conduct Procedures

University student conduct proceedings may be instituted against a student charged with violation of a law which is also a violation of this Code of Student Conduct, such as when both violations result from the same factual situation, without regard to pending civil litigation in court or criminal arrest and prosecution. Proceedings under this Code of Student Conduct may be carried out prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil and/or criminal proceedings off-campus. Moreover, determinations made or sanctions imposed under this Code of Student Conduct shall not be subject to change because of criminal charges arising or dismissed out of the same facts.

When a student is charged by federal, state, or local authorities with a violation of law, the University has the ability to request or agree to special consideration for that individual because of his or her status as a student.

If the alleged offense is also the subject of a proceeding before a hearing body under the Code of Student Conduct, the University may advise off-campus authorities of the existence of the Code of Student Conduct and of how such matters are typically handled internally within the University community. The University will cooperate with law enforcement and other federal, state, or local agencies in the enforcement of criminal law on-campus and in the conditions imposed by criminal courts for the rehabilitation of student violators, as required by federal privacy and compliance laws including, but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Individual students and faculty members, acting in their personal capacities, remain free to interact with governmental representatives, as they deem appropriate.

When a student is charged by federal, state, or local authorities with a violation of law, the University has the ability to grant special consideration to individuals regarding the student conduct proceedings, due to legitimate circumstances and an absence of imminent danger. Legitimate circumstances will be determined by the Director of Student Conduct.

J. Reporting Incidents

Any person may report a student for violating the Code of Student Conduct. Incident reports shall be requested in writing and submitted to the Office of Student Conduct. All reports should be submitted as soon as possible after the incident takes place or as soon as the reporting party or complainant becomes aware of an incident, preferably within forty-eight (48) University business hours. Reports may be submitted online at uco.edu/ConductReportForm, via email at studentconduct@uco.edu, by phone at (405) 974-5380, via campus mail at box #300, by fax at (405) 974-3930, or by hand delivery to the Office of Student Conduct in the Nigh University Center, Room 136.

K. Prohibition of Retaliation for Reporting

Retaliation against complainants and/or anyone reporting UCO policy violations is prohibited by University policy and federal and state laws. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, threats, hazing, intimidation, stalking, and/or reprisals against anyone who reports or files a complaint against a UCO student. This policy also prohibits retaliation against witnesses of alleged policy violations.

L. Statement on Self-Defense

Violence is inconsistent with the standards and values of the University of Central Oklahoma. Yet, if a student has taken prudent and reasonable steps to avoid a physical altercation and violence is still unavoidable, then the efforts of avoidance will be considered as a mitigating factor in determining responsibility for alleged policy violations related to violence.

In cases whereby mutual physical combat is reported, participants of violent circumstances may face reduced or no disciplinary action, pending the investigation findings support that their involvement primarily demonstrated one or more of the following attempted or actual courses of action:

1. De-escalation of the preceding conflict;
2. A self-preservation physical position was assumed (i.e. covering of self or another in a protective manner); and/or
3. A minimal amount of force was used to extricate oneself or another from the violent circumstance;

Failure to take an opportunity to remove oneself from a physically violent or potentially violent situation and choosing to offensively engage in physical violence, negates claims of self-defense.

(Adapted from language provided by Ohio University, Northern Illinois University and Marymount University.)

M. Amnesty Policy

The University of Central Oklahoma encourages

1. the reporting of alleged sexual misconduct; and
2. seeking emergency medical assistance for themselves or others in alcohol or drug-related medical emergencies.

The University also recognizes that the potential for disciplinary action by the Office of Student Conduct may act as a deterrent to reporting and/or seeking emergency medical assistance. Therefore, the University has implemented an amnesty policy. In these incidents, the primary concern is the well-being, health, and safety of students.

Individuals who report incidents of sexual misconduct will not face disciplinary action from the Office of Student Conduct if they personally engaged in the unlawful or prohibited use of alcohol or drugs during incidents of alleged sexual misconduct.

In cases of medical emergency, the amnesty policy only applies to alcohol or drug-related medical emergencies, but does not apply to other prohibited conduct such as assault, property damage or distribution of illicit substances. In cases where an individual or organization fails to seek emergency medical assistance, the typical investigation and resolution process will ensue. Once reported, the students reporting and receiving medical assistance during an alcohol or other drug-related emergency will need to participate in the investigation of the incident(s) and exploration of recommended educational options, yet will not face disciplinary action from the Office of Student Conduct for the mere possession or use of alcohol or drugs.

All reports should be submitted as soon as possible after the incident takes place or as soon as the reporting party or complainant becomes aware of an incident, preferably within forty-eight (48) University business hours. Reports may be submitted online at
N. Temporary Remedies and Sanctions

In certain circumstances, the Director of Student Conduct or designee may employ a temporary remedy or temporary sanction prior to or during an investigation.

Temporary remedies are reasonable adjustments that may be made to provide an interim means of assistance for students prior to or during an investigation of alleged disruptive and/or threatening behaviors. Temporary remedies may be requested through the Office of Student Conduct or a partnering entity who may be assisting the student in other areas of their academic or social life.

Temporary sanctions are timely, precautionary safety measures, which may be utilized as a means to address reasonable and supported concerns about alleged disruptive and/or threatening behaviors. Temporary sanctions issued to respondents will not be more restrictive than necessary to minimize the potential negative impact upon academic success of the student(s) involved.

Temporary remedies and sanctions will be effective immediately to ensure the safety and well-being of members of the University community, preservation of University property, students’ safety and well-being. Students directly impacted by implemented temporary sanctions will be notified of this action in writing and the rationale for such action upon implementation.

Temporary remedies and sanctions, prior to or during an ongoing investigation, may be implemented, in a timely manner, if one (1) or more of the following is necessary:

1. To ensure the safety and well-being of the University community members or the preservation of University property;
2. To protect against an ongoing threat of disruption or interference with, the normal operations of the University; and/or
3. To preserve the current academic status and pursuits of the parties involved

Some examples of temporary remedies include, but are not limited to section change, residence hall room change, a No Contact Order, realignment of class groups, adjustments to class attendance or participation requirements, student organization attendance, and participation guideline adjustments or exceptions. Note: The Office of Student Conduct and other partnering entities can only request classroom adjustments or exceptions for attendance as each instructor of record controls their own classroom attendance policies.

Some examples of temporary sanctions which may be employed include, but are not limited to a loss of privileges, conduct holds on a student account, fines, parental notifications, assessments/evaluations, a No Contact Order, restitution, discretionary or educational sanctions, UCO Housing residence hall or room transfers, withholding of diplomas, UCO Housing temporary suspension, and University suspension, as described in section III. T.

When a student poses an immediate and present danger or ongoing threat of damage to life, University property, or disruption of normal University operations, the University may impose a Temporary Suspension from a University residence hall/apartment or from the entire University prior to a hearing. During the specified temporary suspension period, a student may be denied access to the University residence halls/apartments, to all University premises (including classes), and/or all other University sponsored on- and off-campus activities, including, but not limited to approved student organization on- and off-campus events.

Temporary sanctions do not replace the regular student conduct process, as described in sections III. O.-W, and are not final. The designated hearing body will inform the involved parties of the next steps in the student conduct process.

The parties directly involved, complainant(s) and respondent(s), shall be notified of this action and the rationale for the issued temporary sanction(s) in writing. In cases whereby a hearing is unable to be immediately scheduled, a subsequent letter will be sent to specify the date, time, and place of the upcoming hearing at the earliest possible date and time. The hearing process shall provide the student with an opportunity to hear and respond to all reports and allegations, and furthermore demonstrate why his or her continued presence on the University campus or within University Housing facilities does not constitute a disruption and/or threat. Depending upon the specific circumstances, issued temporary sanctions may offer the respondent an opportunity to demonstrate a mitigated threat or risk to the university community, which may expedite a return to an adjusted or the original status at the university during or after the conclusion of the investigation.

Only one hearing process, informal or formal, will operate in the manner described in sections III. O.-W. Temporary remedies and sanctions shall remain in place until the student is otherwise notified by the designated hearing body or the findings of the investigation and decision are rendered.

O. Investigations

Upon receiving a written complaint or notice of concern, the Office of Student Conduct may conduct an investigation to determine if the complaint or concern has merit. Investigations may consist of informal hearings (interview meetings) with the complainant(s), the reporting party (if different from the complaint), the respondent(s), any witnesses, and the evaluation of relevant documentation such as photographs, social media dialogue and posts, videos, electronic messaging through a phone or computer application (i.e. GroupMe, Remind, Snapchat, etc.) and cellular telephone logs. Generally, the Office of Student Conduct contacts the complainant(s), the respondent(s), and witnesses by telephone call, email, university system text messages, or post letter sent to available phone numbers, on- or off-campus addresses or classrooms. This contact is established to arrange for an informal hearing.

Students who are contacted by the Office of Student Conduct should respond immediately by following the directions specified in the notice through personal conversation, phone call, voice mail, email, University system text message, and/or post letter that they receive and schedule a meeting with the requesting investigator by the deadline identified within the notice. Notices issued through University email addresses are considered proper notification to students. Students are responsible for checking their email on a regular basis for University communication. Failure to comply with these directions can be considered a violation of University policy, section III. H. 9.
Students may be accompanied by an advisor of their choice, during any informal or formal hearings, at their own expense.

If respondents who have been provided with notice do not appear before a hearing body for an informal hearing, then the information in support of the complainant shall be presented and considered in the absence of the respondent. A decision shall be made without the benefit of the respondent’s input, unless a documented emergency can be verified to account for the respondent’s absence. The purpose of informal hearings is to give complainants and respondents the opportunity to voice their version of the incident and recommendation for outcome. Students will also be given the opportunity to indicate a preference for an informal or formal hearing. Whereas student preferences will be considered, some preferences for a hearing type may not be honored, due to the specific nature and/or circumstances of the case and matters involved.

The Office of Student Conduct may determine if the complaints can be disposed of administratively by an informal resolution or case dismissal. If the allegations are not admitted to and/or cannot be reasonably disposed of by an informal hearing, the Office of Student Conduct may refer the case to another hearing body to be resolved formally (see section III.R.). The hearing body that hears the complaint, either informally or formally, will make a determination of responsibility based upon a preponderance of the evidence standard. Under this standard, the designated hearing body will seek to determine what more than likely occurred. Formal rules of due process, procedure, and/or technical rules of evidence applied in criminal or civil court are not used in student conduct proceedings.

P. Advisors

Students may be accompanied by an advisor of their choice, during any informal or formal hearings, at their own expense. The advisor may be an attorney. The designated hearing body may allow for multiple advisor(s) and/or support persons (not to exceed a total of two persons with the student) during an informal hearing process, at their discretion. However, the presence and/or actions of advisors’ or support persons must not disrupt the investigation and/or operations of the hearing process. Advisors and/or support persons may be excused from a hearing, informal or formal, if their behaviors or presence are deemed disruptive to the investigation and/or operations of the hearing process.

During formal hearings, the complainant and the respondent may be assisted by no more than one (1) advisor each. The advisor’s presence and/or actions must not disrupt the investigation and/or operations of the hearing process.

The ultimate role of an advisor is to help complainants and respondents understand and navigate the student conduct process and procedures.

During informal or formal hearings, when complainants or respondents may need accessibility or communication assistance, the hearing body may allow for the presence of an additional support person, upon request. In these circumstances, the support person may not serve in the role of a witness or advisor simultaneously. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516 (V/TTY). The Office of Disability Support Services is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 309.

UCO Procedural Advisors

UCO provides a free optional service for student respondents and complainants in matters under investigation by the Office of Student Conduct. A UCO Procedural Advisor is an annually trained UCO Faculty, Staff, or Student community member who has volunteered their knowledge, time, and communication abilities to help students understand and navigate the student conduct process and procedures.

A UCO Procedural Advisor can help students understand the relevant paperwork that is necessary to reach a resolution in their conduct process. Additionally, a Procedural Advisor can assist students in their understanding of the options and resources available during and after the conduct process.

Students who receive notice about their involvement in a current case investigation, as a complainant or respondent, will receive information about the UCO Procedural Advisor service. If the student would like to request a UCO Procedural Advisor, they may complete and submit an online form through OrgSync at uco.edu/PAForm.

An Office of Student Conduct staff member will contact the requesting student shortly thereafter to inform them of the availability of potential UCO Procedural Advisors.

Q. Informal Hearings

Informal hearings are conducted through a series of investigative interviews with complainants, the reporting party (if different from the complaint), respondents, witnesses, and an examination of relevant information gathered throughout the investigation.

1. Upon receipt of a complaint or report about a behavior concern and/or an alleged violation of the UCO Code of Student Conduct, complainants and respondents will be notified of the alleged behaviors and/or policy violations involved.

2. The designated investigator and/or hearing body will advise each party of their rights, options, and resources available.

3. Complainants and Respondents will be afforded an opportunity to indicate their preference for an informal or formal resolution of their respective case.

4. Complainants and Respondents may be accompanied by an advisor of their choice, during informal or formal hearings, at their own expense, as long as their presence and/or actions do not disrupt the investigation and/or operations of the hearing process. Advisors and/or support persons may be excused from a hearing, informal or formal, if their behaviors or presence are deemed disruptive to the investigation and/or operations of the hearing process.

During informal hearings, when complainants or respondents may need accessibility or communication assistance, the hearing body may allow for the presence of an additional support person, upon request. In these circumstances, the support person may not serve in the role of a witness or advisor simultaneously. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516 (V/TTY). The Office of Disability Support Services is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 309.
5. The hearing body will make all reasonable efforts to gather and review relevant information, interview the identified involved parties, including complainants, the reporting party (if different from the complaint), respondents, and witnesses. If respondents and/or complainants who have been notified, do not appear before the designated hearing body for an informal hearing, after reasonable efforts of contact attempts have been exerted, a decision may be rendered without the benefit their input.

6. An informal decision may be rendered after enough information has been gathered to make a determination by the designated hearing body. Some preferences to resolve matters informally or formally may not be honored, due to the specific nature of the case and specific circumstances involved.

   The hearing body’s determination shall be made on the basis of whether it is more likely than not that the respondent(s) violated the Code of Student Conduct, based upon the preponderance of the evidence standard.

   If the matters cannot be appropriately resolved in an informal manner, then notice of the reported allegations and advisement of an upcoming formal hearing shall be presented to the complainant and respondent in written form (if they have not already been presented).

R. Formal Hearings

1. A date and time shall be set for a formal hearing which does not conflict with students’ class schedules. At the discretion of the Office of Student Conduct, the date and time for hearings may be adjusted due to exigent circumstances, such as cases involving Temporary Suspension (see section III. N.). All hearings are closed and shall be conducted in private.

2. The notice for the hearing shall include:
   a) A statement of the date, time, place, and nature of the hearing;
   b) A reference to the particular sections of the University policies involved; and,
   c) A concise statement of the matters asserted. If the University or other party is unable to state the matters in detail at the time the notice is served, the initial notice may be limited to a statement of the issues involved.

3. Opportunity shall be afforded to the complainant and respondent to respond and present information and arguments on all issues involved.

4. The record in a formal hearing (Student Conduct or Sexual Misconduct) shall include:
   a) All acknowledgements, questions, challenges, and denials;
   b) Information received or considered at the hearing;
   c) Entries and offers of new information, challenges, and decision thereon;
   d) Proposed conclusions and exceptions;
   e) Any decision, opinion, or report by the panel chairperson at the hearing; and,
   f) All other information or data submitted to the hearing body chairperson or University Official in connection with their consideration of the case, provided all parties have had access to such information.

5. Formal hearing oral proceedings shall be electronically and/or digitally recorded. Such recordings shall be maintained for such time as to protect the record through any further review. Copies of the recordings shall be provided by the University at the request of any party to the proceeding. Costs of transcription of the recordings may be borne by the party requesting the transcription. For further review, electronic and/or digital recordings of any hearing or appeal hearing may be submitted for review without transcription unless otherwise required to be transcribed. In such cases, the expense of transcriptions shall be taxed and assessed against the requesting party.

6. The complainant, the respondent, and their respective advisor(s), if any, shall be allowed to attend the entire portion of the hearing, except the deliberation period(s). Only the hearing panel and UCO Legal Counsel, as needed, shall remain for the deliberation period(s). Admission of any additional person(s) to the hearing or the role adjustment of any currently involved person(s) shall be at the discretion of the chairperson of the hearing body.

7. In hearings or appeal hearings involving more than one (1) respondent, the chairperson of the hearing body, at his or her discretion, may permit the hearings concerning each student to be conducted separately or jointly. Formal hearings involving allegations of sex-based discrimination and/or other sexual misconduct policy violations under section VI. shall be heard by the Sexual Misconduct Panel. The Sexual Misconduct Panel shall be composed of nominated and/or volunteer faculty/staff members whose selection will be based upon the completion of annual trainings and continued education on sex-based discrimination and harassment, including sexual misconduct policies and adjudication protocol. All other formal hearings shall be heard by the Committee on Student Conduct.

8. The Committee on Student Conduct shall be composed of nominated and/or volunteer faculty members, volunteer staff members, and student applicants, whose selection will be based upon the following criteria: current academic standing, prior conduct history and applicable experience demonstrable through references.

9. The complainant and the respondent shall have the right to challenge the participation of any member of the Committee on Student Conduct or Sexual Misconduct Panel based on a belief of bias. The chairperson of the hearing body shall consider the merit of the challenge and make a decision to retain the panel chairperson or dismiss the hearing body member for that particular case.

10. The complainant and respondent shall have the right to be assisted by any advisor they choose, at their own expense,
unless that person’s presence and/or actions disrupt the operations of the hearing. The advisor may be an attorney. The complainant and the respondent are responsible for presenting his, her, or their own case. Generally, advisors will not be permitted to directly participate in formal hearings. Participating students should select an advisor or person whose schedule allows attendance at the allotted dates and times for student conduct hearings. Generally, delays shall not be allowed because of scheduling conflicts of advisors. Generally, delays shall not be allowed because of scheduling conflicts of advisors. During formal hearings, when complainants or respondents may need accessibility or communication assistance, the hearing body may allow for the presence of an additional support person, upon request. In these circumstances, the support person may not serve in the role of a witness or advisor simultaneously.

Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516 (V/TTY). The Office of Disability Support Services is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 309.

11. The complainant, the respondent, and the hearing body shall have the privilege of proposing witnesses and questioning the witnesses of other parties. Each party may be required to provide the amount of witnesses and/or names of their witnesses and advisor prior to the hearing for logistical preparation purposes.

12. Advisors may not serve as witnesses during the same hearing. Witnesses may be called to provide information to and answer questions from the hearing body and opposing parties. Questions from the opposing parties shall be directed towards the chairperson of the hearing body rather than to the opposing party and witness(es) directly. This method is used to preserve the educational tone of student conduct hearings and to avoid the creation of an adversarial and/or hostile environment.

13. During formal hearings, participants have the opportunity to offer information on their own behalf and to review all information, statements, or information presented.

14. Additional records, exhibits and written statements may be accepted during the hearing as information for consideration by a hearing body at the discretion of the chairperson.

15. All procedural questions are subject to the final decision of the chairperson of the hearing body. The chairperson may consult with a representative of the Office of Student Conduct and/or University Legal Counsel at any point during the hearing.

16. Formal rules of due process, procedure, and/or technical rules of evidence, such as those applied in criminal or civil court, are not used in student conduct proceedings.

17. Members of the hearing panel (Student Conduct or Sexual Misconduct) may ask questions of any person present during a hearing and the chairperson may invite questions and comments from hearing participants. The chairperson may also invite questions or comments from advisors or others present. The chairperson may reconvene a hearing if the hearing body decides that essential information has not been presented. The hearing shall be reconvened at the earliest practical time that the necessary information will be available. After the chairperson has determined that all necessary information has been presented and questions answered, the hearing body will go into closed session to deliberate and all parties and other persons will be excused.

18. During initial hearing deliberations, the hearing body (Student Conduct or Sexual Misconduct) shall determine whether the respondent has violated each identified section of the Code of Student Conduct. During appeal hearing deliberations, the hearing body shall make a determination of whether to uphold, modify, reverse the decision of the original hearing body, or remand the matter for further investigation or other action. On remand, instructions may include guidance regarding the scope of information to be further investigated and any appropriate stipulations, including the appointment of a new investigator and/or hearing body.

19. Recommendations of the hearing body shall be furnished to the Director of Student Conduct and, where appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator, who will review and finalize the findings.

20. The final decision, pending any appeal process, shall be communicated, in writing, within five (5) University business days from the concluded hearing date, consistent with section III. W.

Safety Precaution Options: The hearing body may accommodate for the personal safety, well-being, and/or fears of confrontation of the complainant, respondent, and/or other witnesses during a hearing by providing separate facilities, videoconference capabilities, by permitting participation by telephone, written statements, or other means, as deemed appropriate by the Vice President for Student Affairs or the Director of Student Conduct.

S. Notice of Initial Findings and Outcome

The complainant and respondent shall be informed of the hearing body’s determination of responsibility for each specific alleged policy violation. The hearing body shall provide written notice of the outcome for the investigation and hearing. In accordance with the laws of the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990, and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, the complainant(s) and respondent(s) shall be provided simultaneous written notice of the outcome of the investigation and/or hearing of crimes of violence, sex offenses, sexual misconduct offenses. Crimes of violence and sex offenses include arson, aggravated assault, burglary, simple assault and/or battery offenses, intimidation, stalking, criminal homicides, destruction or damage to property, kidnapping or abduction, robbery, and sexual misconduct offenses.

Complainants and respondents of sexual misconduct cases will be notified, simultaneously, in writing (which may be via email) of the outcome of the investigation and notice of opportunity and procedures to make an appeal request. The complainant and respondent will be notified of any granted appeal requests, rebuttal opportunities, and modifications to the initial findings and outcome, per sections III. U.-V. If appropriate and requested by a party, the
identified advisor of the respondent(s) and complainant(s) shall receive a copy of the initial findings and outcome letter.

T. Sanctions

1. Sanctions for violations of University policies may include, but are not limited to, one (1) or more of the following:
   a) **Warning** - A verbal and/or written notice to the student that the student is violating or has violated University regulations.
   b) **Apology Letter** - A typed and signed apology letter by the respondent(s) acknowledging responsibility for the University violation(s) and providing a sincere expression of remorse to the victim(s) and/or stakeholders of the misconduct.
   c) **Probation 1** - A written reprimand for violation of specified regulations and a loss of privilege from representing the University in on- or off-campus co-curricular academic, athletic, or other social functions sponsored by the University during the probationary period. Probation is for a designated period of time and includes the probability of more severe sanctions, such as suspension or expulsion, if the student is found responsible for violating any further institutional regulation(s) during the probationary period.
   d) **Probation 2** - Due to previous university violations at other institutions and/or law violations prior to admittance to the University of Central Oklahoma, a specified conditional period of enrollment may be applied to an incoming student. The conditional period may include a denial of access to one or more of the following areas and/or events of the University of Central Oklahoma:
      - Any University-sponsored cocurricular events;
      - Any Housing and Dining Facility;
      - Specifically identified Academic Building(s);
      - Intramurals Participation; and/or,
      - Any University structure.
      The conditional period may also include one or more of the following requirements:
      - Periodic or Regular Check-Ins with UCO Police Department;
      - Periodic or Regular Check-Ins with the Office of Student Conduct; and/or,
      - Periodic or Regular Check-Ins with designated Housing and Dining Officials.
   e) **Deferred Suspension** - University suspensions may be deferred for a definite or an indefinite period of time. The suspension will be automatically enforced for any subsequent violation of the Code of Student Conduct or local, state, or federal laws. In addition, the student or student organization may be responsible for completing subsequent sanction assignments applied for the most recent violation.
   f) **Loss of Privileges** - Denial of University privileges for a designated period of time, such as denial of entry or usage of certain areas on-campus, loss of tailgating privileges, removal from an officer position in a registered student organization, or restricted usage or attendance of certain University privileges or events, including but not limited to commencement ceremonies. Students may also be restricted from physically attending a class during or after the conclusion of an investigation to preserve the safety and/or normal operations of a particular and/or surrounding classrooms.
   g) **Conduct Hold** - A student given a conduct hold may be required to have all enrollment and release of academic records approved through the Director of Student Conduct. A conduct hold may also be utilized to ensure compliance with other actionable sanction or requests to appear for meetings with the Office of Student Conduct.
   h) **Fines** - Established and published fines may be imposed for violating University policies including, but not limited to, the Tobacco Free Campus Policy. In addition, fines may be imposed for failure to complete assigned sanction by designated deadlines.
   i) **Parental Notifications** – If a student is under the age of twenty-one (21) and has been found responsible for violating any local, state, or federal laws, including any alcohol or controlled substance policies, then the Director of Student Conduct and/or designee may contact and discuss the matter and/or resolution with the parents or legal guardian of the student.
   j) **Assessments/Evaluations** - A directive to attend and actively participate in as many appointments or sessions as necessary or recommended that will aid in the direction of the overall sanction learning outcome. These appointments or sessions may be facilitated by the UCO Center for Counseling and Well-Being, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Office, or other campus or non-campus agency.
   k) **Program Participation** - A directive to attend, actively participate, and successfully complete individual and/or group appointments or sessions that will aid in the direction of the overall sanction learning outcome. These appointments or sessions may be facilitated by the UCO Center for Counseling and Well-Being, or other campus or non-campus agency. Generally, outcomes that involve therapy shall specify a certain number of appointments or sessions for successful completion. Typically, program participatory sanction will aim to provide students with a transformative learning experience in the areas of academic integrity, alcohol and/or drug abuse, civility, sexual misconduct-related behavior and policy awareness, or anger management.
   l) **No Contact Order** - A directive that prohibits all forms of contact with another person or persons, which specifies a time period of enforcement. Forms of...
prohibited contact may include, but are not limited to, phone calls, contact through another person, contact initiated through social media, text messages, e-mail or any other electronic means. Attendance to a valid, school-related or work-related event may not constitute a violation. A No Contact Order may be temporarily instituted prior to a hearing as a means of preserving the safety of the University learning community and balancing the rights of respondents and/or as a final sanction at the conclusion of a hearing. Violation of the No Contact Order may result in a suspension from the University.

m) Restitution - Compensation for loss, damage or injury. This may take the form of appropriate service and/or monetary or material replacement.

n) Discretionary or Educational Sanction - Community service, program development/promotion, program participation and/or completion, written assignments, service to the University, research assignments, or other related discretionary assignments. Such assignments must have the prior and concluding approval of the Director of Student Conduct or designee.

o) Residence Hall Transfer – A student resident may be required to transfer residence halls due to a policy violation or pattern of policy violations that affect a particular residence hall community. This transfer may be for a specified or indefinite period of time.

p) Residence Hall Contract Termination - Separation of the student from the Residence Halls for a period of time, after which the student may be eligible to return. Conditions for readmission may be specified.

q) Residence Hall Expulsion - Permanent separation of the student from the Residence Halls.

r) Temporary Suspension – A student may be temporarily suspended from the University or University Housing facilities prior to, during, or after an investigation if one (1) or more of the following is necessary:

1) To ensure the safety and well-being of the University community members or the preservation of University property;
2) To protect against an ongoing threat of disruption or interference with, the normal operations of the University; and/or
3) To preserve the current academic status and pursuits of the parties involved.

s) University Suspension - A student may be suspended from a University residence hall/apartment and/or the University for a finite period of time, not less than the remainder of the current semester in which he or she is enrolled. During the suspension, a hold will remain on the student’s account to prevent enrollment during the period of suspension. During the time of suspension, enrollment will be prohibited on any main campus, distance, online, or ACM@UCO classes. Furthermore, the suspended student will not be allowed to enter any UCO campus properties, programs, or events for the duration of the suspension period. The student who has been suspended may apply for readmission at the close of the period for which he or she was suspended. Conditions for readmission may be specified. A suspension hold may be placed on the transcript during the period of suspension. Likewise, a notation of the suspension may be placed on the student’s academic transcript at the discretion of the Director of Student Conduct.

t) University Expulsion - Permanent separation of the student from the University. When a student is expelled, a notation of the expulsion will be placed on the student’s academic transcript at the discretion of the Director of Student Conduct. A student who is expelled will not be allowed to reenter the University premises. A hold will be placed on the student account to prevent re-enrollment.

u) Degree Revocation or Rescission of Credit - For those students found to have violated University policy and who have already graduated, the University may elect to revoke the degree(s) of a given student. Likewise, the University may elect to rescind credit for a specific course or program based upon a responsible finding of a UCO policy violation.

v) Withholding of Diploma(s) or Transcript(s) – The University may withhold the awarding of a diploma, withhold the access to student transcripts, or withhold the ability to send copies of student transcripts until the completion of a pending investigation or completion of one or more pending assigned outcomes, per a responsible finding of a UCO policy violation.

w) Transcript Notation – A notation on a student’s academic transcript indicating that a student is ineligible to return to the university, due to a behavioral conduct suspension or expulsion.

x) Removal from Study Tour – Students participating in a UCO Study Tour, whether foreign or domestic, are subject to be sent home immediately, if their behavior is becomes disruptive and/or contrary to the established policies within the current Code of Student Conduct and related standards of behavior established within the published UCO Study Tour behavioral agreements and statement(s) of understanding documents, which are reviewed prior to each tour. Any additional costs associated with the immediate return home will be applied to the student’s bursar account.

2. More than one (1) of the sanctions listed above may be assigned due to any single policy violation. Furthermore, the aforementioned sanctions are not meant to be a comprehensive list.

3. Other than University suspension and expulsion, sanctions shall not be made part of the student’s permanent academic record, but shall only become part of the student’s private education records.
4. The following sanctions may be assigned to student clubs, groups or organizations:
   a) Those sanctions listed above in section III.T.1.
   b) Deduction of points from one-time or annual award programs of competition.
   c) Restriction of hosting certain programs.
   d) Requiring a change of on-campus advisors as a condition of continued or renewed University recognition.
   e) Deactivation or loss of selected or all privileges, including tailgating privileges and University recognition, for a specified period of time.
   f) Notification of governing entity.

5. Following the investigation and/or hearing, the Director of Student Conduct or designated hearing body shall advise the respondent or respondent organization representative and complainant in writing, when appropriate, of its determination, outcome, and of the sanction(s) imposed, if any.

6. Any student or student club, group or organization found responsible for a violation of University policies which does not result in their temporary suspension, suspension, expulsion, credit rescission, or degree revocation, shall be entitled to a request for an Appeal by the Vice President for Student Affairs, as specified in sections III.U.-V. Additionally, any student or student clubs, groups or organizations found responsible for a violation of the University policies which results in their temporary suspension, suspension, expulsion, credit rescission, or degree revocation, shall be entitled to a request for an appeal hearing, as specified in section III.U.-V.

7. If a student or student organization makes an appeal request of a decision of suspension, expulsion, degree revocation, or rescission of credit, the decision will remain in effect during the appeal request and review, until a final decision is rendered.

**U. Appeal Requests**

The Appeal Request process serves as a procedural safeguard for the involved parties. A decision reached or sanction assigned by a hearing body may be appealed by the respondent and complainant. Complainants and Respondents may request that the decision reached or sanction(s) assigned, if any, by a hearing body be reviewed, according to the grounds described below.

**1. Appeal Request Description and Merits** - An appeal is a review of the record of the original investigation, finding of responsibility, sanctions assigned, and/or hearing procedures. Appeals are limited to a review of the investigation, findings of the initial investigation, related hearing, and supporting documents. Appeal proceedings (review or hearing) will take place to review appeal requests that are received within the appeal request deadline and substantially articulate one (1) or more of the following appeal merits:

   a) Disproportionate Sanction(s): To consider whether the sanctions outcomes assigned are significantly disproportionate to the severity of the violation. *(Simple dissatisfaction with a sanction is not grounds for overturning a sanction assignment under this provision.)*
   b) New Information: To consider new documentation, unavailable during the original hearing or investigation, that could substantially impact the original finding or sanction assignment(s). *(A summary of this new documentation and its potential impact must be included.)*
   c) Procedural Error: To determine that a procedural or substantive error occurred during the investigation or hearing that significantly impacted the outcome of the hearing *(e.g. unjustified and significant deviation from published procedures, etc.)*.

Appeal requests related to decisions made by the Office of Student Conduct, may be submitted online at the Office of Student Conduct OrgSync page at uco.edu/AppealForm. Appeal requests related to decisions made by Housing Officials may be submitted online at the Housing OrgSync page at uco.edu/HousingAppealForm.

All appeal requests must be completed, signed, submitted, and received within three (3) business days after the disciplinary decision has been rendered and received. Failure to check or claim notice of the disciplinary decision by email, US Postal Service, or campus mail will not constitute an acceptable reason for non-receipt of the original decision.

2. **Appeal Request Reviews** - When appeal request forms are completed and submitted, the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs will review the appeal request to determine if the appeal request was submitted within the three (3) University day window and substantially articulates one (1) or more of the aforementioned appeal merits.

   a) Request Denials: If the appeal request IS NOT submitted within three (3) business days and/or the appeal request DOES NOT substantially articulate one (1) or more of the appeal merits, then the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs will notify the requesting party and other party that the appeal request is denied.
   b) Requests Granted: If the appeal request IS submitted within three (3) business days AND the appeal request DOES meet one (1) of the appeal merits, then the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs will notify the requesting party that the appeal request is granted and will notify each party (complainant and respondent) that an appeal hearing or review will be forthcoming.

   i. Appeal requests that DO NOT involve university suspension, expulsion, temporary suspension, rescission of credits, or degree revocation are reviewed by the Vice President for Student Affairs.
ii. Appeal requests that DO involve university suspension, temporary suspension, expulsion, degree revocation, or rescission of credit are reviewed by the Committee on Student Conduct or the Sexual Misconduct Panel, if a sexual misconduct-related policy violation was involved.

For granted appeal requests, the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs will inform the opposing party of the granted appeal requests (e.g., if the respondent’s appeal request is granted, the appeal request will be shared with the complainant, who may also wish to file a response). Furthermore, each party will be contacted to coordinate the date and other necessary logistics for the appeal review or hearing. The Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, the Committee on Student Conduct, and/or the Sexual Misconduct Panel will make every attempt to hear or resolve an appeal within fifteen (15) business days of the submitted appeal request.

3. Pending Sanctions during Request and Review - All sanctions imposed by the original hearing body will be in effect during the appeal request and review. A request may be made to the Office of Student Conduct for special consideration, due to exigent circumstances, but the presumptive stance of the University is that the sanctions will stand. Graduation, study abroad, internships, co-curricular activities, and athletic team involvement do not, in and of themselves, constitute exigent circumstances. Hence, students may not be able to participate in those activities during their appeal request and review. In cases whereby the appeal review results in a reinstatement to the University or a return of previously lost privileges, all reasonable attempts will be made to restore the students to their prior status and assist with correspondence for missed coursework, while acknowledging that some opportunities may be lost in the short term. Additionally, in cases whereby the appeal review results in a reinstatement to the University or of a return of previously lost privileges for student organizations, the Office of Student Conduct will work, in tandem, with the Office of Student Engagement, to make all reasonable arrangements.

4. Significant Newly Acquired Information - In cases whereby newly acquired or discovered documentation, sufficient enough to alter the original decision is submitted as an appeal request beyond the expired appeal request deadline, the matter may be reviewed by the Vice President for Student Affairs for consideration of re-opening the case. If the newly acquired or discovered documentation was not accessible during the original appeal deadline, then the Vice President for Student Affairs may remand the case to the original hearing body for re-opening of the hearing to allow reconsideration of the original determination and/or sanction(s). If the newly acquired or discovered documentation is not sufficient enough to alter the original decision, the appeal request may be denied. The decision of the Vice President will be final.

5. Appeals Reviewed by the Vice President for Student Affairs - After receiving the granted appeal request, the Vice President for Student Affairs will initiate a further review of the appeal and make a determination to affirm, modify, or reverse the original hearing body’s decision, or remand the matter for further investigation or other action. On remand, instructions may include guidance regarding the scope of information to be further investigated and any appropriate stipulations, including the appointment of a new investigator and/or hearing body, as stated in section III.U.

6. Appeals Reviewed by the Committee on Student Conduct or Sexual Misconduct Panel - The Committee on Student Conduct consists of faculty, staff members, and student members who review appeals that involve cases resulting in temporary suspension, suspension, expulsion, degree revocation or rescission of credit. The Sexual Misconduct Panel consists of faculty and staff members who review appeals that involve sexual misconduct and/or other sex-based discrimination and harassment policy violations. After receiving the granted appeal request, a quorum of the appropriate hearing panel will be convened. The appeal will be further reviewed by the Committee on Student Conduct or Sexual Misconduct Panel through a formal appeal hearing. At the appeal hearing, the party requesting the appeal must demonstrate their selected appeal merit(s), as the original findings and sanctions will be presumed to have been decided reasonably and appropriately.

7. Appeal Hearing Proceedings - Appeal Hearings will be conducted in the same manner as formal hearings (See section III. R.). Generally, the Director of Student Conduct or designee shall serve as the University’s representative. The University Legal Counsel shall serve as the advisor on matters of procedure to hearing bodies.

V. Outcome of an Appeal

Appeals reviewed by the Vice President for Student Affairs or an appeal hearing panel will result in one (1) of four (4) outcomes:

1. That the original hearing body’s determination is affirmed;
2. That the original hearing body’s determination be modified; or,
3. That the original hearing body’s determination be reversed;
4. That the matter is remanded to the original or a new investigative and/or hearing body for further investigation or the acceptance of more evidence.

The outcome of an appeal request shall be shared with the complainant(s) and respondent(s). The decision of the Vice President for Student Affairs or the appeal hearing panel shall be final. In general, the Vice President for Student Affairs or the hearing panel shall make every attempt to review an appeal within fifteen (15) university business days of the submitted written request.

W. Notice of Final Outcome

Complainants and Respondents of sexual misconduct cases will be notified, simultaneously, in writing (which may be email) when the results become final and all appeal rights and procedures have expired, per sections III. U.-V. If appropriate and requested by a party, the identified advisor of the respondent(s) or complainant(s) shall receive a copy of the final outcome letter.
IV. ACADEMIC POLICIES, RIGHTS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The University of Central Oklahoma seeks to develop the whole individual and the skills needed for successful living. The educational experience is designed to enable students to practically apply the knowledge and skills gained to individual and social problems. The University promotes an international understanding as well as an appreciation for the democratic way of life.

A. Academic Regulations

Students are responsible for reviewing the information contained in the official University catalog. The catalog contains regulations governing academic programs, course requirements, campus life, and other important information. When a student requests his or her transcript be sent to another institution, the University shall have the right to supply other academic information as may be requested by that institution. No information concerning disciplinary action will be released unless such action is permissible under federal policies.

Certain colleges, departmental and administrative officers at the University have a legitimate interest and are authorized to access this information as necessary. Information may be released from students’ records to appropriate persons in connection with an emergency if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of a student or the University community.

The following factors should be taken into consideration in determining whether records may be released under this Section: (a) the seriousness of the threat to the health or safety of a student or the University community; (b) the need for such records to meet the emergency; (c) whether the persons to whom such records are released are in a position to deal with the emergency; and, (d) the element of time being a crucial factor in dealing with the emergency.

Records maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professionals are typically not open for parents’ or students’ inspection. Inquiries regarding medical records should be directed to the office maintaining those records, i.e., the Center for Counseling and Well-Being or the health clinic at UCO.

B. Record Holds

There are various holds that may be placed on a student’s records that would prohibit him or her from being able to conduct business on the campus. The types of holds are: admissions, library, deans, financial, registrar, advisor, enrollment, housing delinquency, conduct, or loan delinquency. The various holds may be put in place until such a time that the student is in compliance with University policies. Should the student find he or she has one or more of the above holds, he or she should contact the appropriate office to resolve the issue that created the hold.

C. Academic Integrity Statement

Each student is expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom.

D. Academic Dishonesty Policy

Violation of these expectations, as specified above and in sections III, IV, and V, may result in penalties up to and/or including expulsion from the University. Each student is expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the classroom. Specific examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

1) Cheating on an examination or the preparation of academic work;
2) Copying from another student’s test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data, listings, and/or programs;
3) Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the professor or instructor, including, but not limited to teaching resources or test banks;
4) Collaborating with or aiding another person, without authorization, during an examination or in preparing academic work;
5) Knowingly and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying or possessing in whole or in part, the contents of an un-administered examination;
6) Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for one in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
7) Bribing another person to obtain an un-administered examination or information about an un-administered examination;
8) Turning in counterfeit or unoriginal work;
9) Stealing academic material;
10) Plagiarizing or appropriating another’s work or idea without properly acknowledging incorporation of that work or idea into academic work; students of a group are responsible for plagiarized material contained in group work. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following:
   a. The submission of any work that has been downloaded from the internet.
   b. The submission of any work that includes quotations, paraphrasing, or the ideas of another without proper citation.
11) Reuse of work or the turning in of the same work to more than one (1) class without the expressed permission of the instructors involved;
12) Knowingly falsifying academic documents;
13) Accessing confidential academic records without authorization;
14) Any forgery, alteration, or misuse of academic documents, forms or records, in hard copy or electronic format;
E. Alleged Academic Dishonesty: Guidelines

1) Instructor-of-Record: The instructor-of-record is the individual responsible for the grade assignment. Other faculty members who are participating in a course (such as in team-taught courses) and teaching assistants are also expected to participate in any appropriate way in assessing penalties for misconduct or dishonesty and may participate in any appeal(s).

2) Instructor Procedures: In instances where the instructor-of-record has information that shows a student has more than likely engaged in academic dishonesty, the following procedures will be used:

STEP ONE (1):

The instructor-of-record will discuss the situation as soon as possible with the student, explaining the allegation, the reasons for it, and the disciplinary action(s) being considered, and will give the student the opportunity to respond to the allegation. In cases where the instructor is unable to contact a student, i.e., at the end of a semester, the instructor may consult with the Office of Student Conduct for assistance. A student who attempts to withdraw to avoid the consequences of alleged academic dishonesty will be denied or have the withdrawal disallowed until the issue has been fully resolved.

STEP TWO (2):

If, after consultation with the student, the instructor-of-record decides to initiate disciplinary action, the instructor must communicate to the student in writing, within five (5) school days the actions taken and the reasons for them. The instructor may do one (1) or more of the following:

a) Require the student to complete a substitute assignment or examination.

b) Award a reduced grade for the examination, assignment, or course.

c) Award a “zero” or a grade of “F” for the assignment or examination.

d) Award a grade of “F” for the course.

e) Recommend more stringent disciplinary action (e.g., conduct probation, suspension, or expulsion) by the University.

STEP THREE (3):

If any of the above disciplinary actions are taken, the instructor-of-record must file an online report with the Office of Student Conduct at uco.edu/Conduct. Faculty may indicate on the online report form whether further disciplinary action is desired. If no further disciplinary action is desired beyond STEP 2d), incidents of academic dishonesty must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. In addition:

a) If the disciplinary action taken by the instructor involves STEP 2a, 2b, or 2c, and the student agrees to the disciplinary action, no notification is required to the instructor-of-record’s department chair/school director, or dean.

b) If disciplinary action taken involves STEP 2d, the instructor-of-record will notify the department chair/school director.

c) If the disciplinary action taken involves STEP 2e, the instructor-of-record will notify and provide documentation to the department chair/school director and the dean. The dean will review the documentation, add his or her comments, and forward it to the Office of Student Conduct for further action, such as probation, suspension, or expulsion, if warranted.

NOTE: A student may not withdraw from a course in which a case of academic dishonesty is pending.

F. Academic Appeal Procedures

In order to provide a means for students to pursue a solution to grievances affecting them individually, two appeals procedures exist. The first enables a student to seek redress when the student believes a faculty member has not met professional obligations or has behaved in an unethical manner in a professional relationship with the student. The second allows a student to appeal the assignment of a grade. If a student believes practices and procedures were not consistently and/or accurately followed, the student has the right to appeal the final grade within specified timeframes.

1. Appeal of an Alleged Violation of Professional Ethics

Members of the University’s faculty are subject to the Faculty Conduct Policy (Appendix H of the Faculty Handbook). A student should report an alleged violation of professional ethics to the faculty member’s department chair/school director.

2. Grade Appeal Process

If a student believes the practices and procedures used to determine his or her final grade were not
consistently and/or accurately followed, the student has the option to have his or her appeal considered by the Board of Academic Appeals. Information regarding the specific steps involved in filing a grade appeal may be found at uco.edu/AcademicGradeAppeal. All appeals must be filed with the Office of Academic Affairs no later than the end of the fourth week of the next semester immediately following the semester in which the grade was assigned. A spring grade appeal may be filed during the subsequent summer, but must be filed no later than the end of the fourth week of the next fall semester.

G. Study Tours

A study tour is any credit or non-credit course in which the majority of the academic work is accomplished through group study and travel outside the UCO campus. It provides a group of students with an applied, supervised experience at an off campus location, whether foreign or domestic, and enhances the student’s classroom knowledge of an academic discipline(s) through first hand exposure.

The UCO Code of Student Conduct and related standards of behavior established and published by the Centre for Global Competency (CGC), within the study tour behavioral agreements and statement(s) of understanding documents, which are reviewed prior to each tour, remain applicable while participating in UCO Study Tour activities.

Students are expected to be positive ambassadors of the University of Central Oklahoma and maintain an awareness of the potential personal, legal, and professional consequences that may ensue due to violations of university policies and/or local laws.

Students participating in a UCO Study Tour, whether foreign or domestic, are subject to be sent home immediately, if their behavior becomes disruptive and/or contrary to the established policies within the current Code of Student Conduct and related standards of behavior established within the published study tour behavioral agreements, policies, and statement(s) of understanding documents, which are reviewed prior to each tour. Any additional costs associated with the immediate return home will be applied to the student’s bursar account. In the event that it is necessary for designated leaders to send a student home early from a study tour, the Office of Student Conduct will conduct a full investigation into the matter, as deemed necessary, per the procedures outlined in section III.

Prohibited Behavior on Study Tours include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Participation on a study tour without submitting the required signed and notarized waiver(s) and agreement forms prior to the departure for the study tour;
2. Submission of any false paperwork in order to participate on a study tour;
3. Failure to comply with the pre-departure and/or post-departure instructions of the University Officials tasked with facilitating and teaching the study tour trip;
4. Failure to comply with the designated and distributed schedule and itinerary of the study tour designated faculty or staff leaders. Every study tour must include at least one designated leader who is a current UCO faculty and/or staff member.
5. Consumption, possession, and/or distribution of alcohol, of any kind, on study tours within the borders of the United States;
6. Alcoholic possession or use that violates the international laws of the specific destination of the study tour;
7. Public Intoxication, regardless of the study tour destination;
8. Non-Study Tour participant guest visitation into hotel or any other temporary dwelling of the study tour; and
9. Violations of any other established and accessible policies stated with the UCO Code of Student Conduct.

For further information about UCO Study Tours, please visit the website at uco.edu/studytours.

V. STUDENT ORGANIZATION EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The University of Central Oklahoma recognizes the fact that every individual is unique and may excel in a wide range of areas. Therefore, UCO strives to provide an environment in which students, staff and faculty create activities and organizations in an effort to enhance co-curricular life. These activities and organizations provide students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills, build relationships and take an active role in the formation of campus plans and policies. A listing of active student organizations (including fraternities and sororities) at the University of Central Oklahoma can be obtained online at http://sites.uco.edu/student-life/organizations.

A. Responsibilities of Active Student Organizations

1. In order to obtain and maintain active organizational status, the following steps must occur:
   a) Register your student organization on OrgSync (orgsync.com) with two leaders and at least three members (in addition to the officers) for a total of at least five members.
   b) Upload a constitution and/or bylaws, which has been updated within last three years.
   c) Have a UCO faculty or staff member willing to serve as an advisor.
   d) Renew your student organization on OrgSync every year between April 1st and the first Friday in September by updating your OrgSync page, updating your constitution, and attending an Organizational Leader and Advisor Training.
2. Any organization seeking exemption from the minimum membership requirement must submit a written request to the Office of Student Engagement.
   a) The written request must detail specific reasons why the exemption is sought.
b) The written request must provide an outline or timeline detailing how the organization will work to meet the requirement.

c) An exemption will only be granted for six (6) months. Failure to seek an extension or meet the minimum membership requirement will result in loss of recognition.

3. All fraternities and sororities must be an active and recognized member of the appropriate UCO-recognized Greek governing body, and abide by the rules and regulations of the appropriate UCO-recognized Greek governing body. The UCO Office of Student Engagement is responsible for identifying the appropriate governing body. Fraternities and sororities that are not active and/or are not recognized members of their governing council may have their University recognition revoked.

4. The organization and organizational officers are responsible for upholding the rules and regulations of the University of Central Oklahoma. This responsibility cannot be delegated to advisors, campus police, and/or others and applies to activities on and off the University of Central Oklahoma campus. Violations will be reviewed by the University and may result in, but not limited to, denial of facility usage, revoking of recognized organizational status, and individual and/or group discipline.

5. The Office of Housing and Dining must give prior approval to any organized student activity that is to take place in the residence halls.

6. Auxiliary organizations (i.e. Little Sister or Little Brother groups) will not be recognized and/or permitted on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma. All student organization members must be enrolled at UCO and must not be on academic probation with the University.

7. Organizational rules and constitutions do not supersede the policies and procedures of the University of Central Oklahoma.

8. Any organization’s rules, regulations, laws or procedures remain revocable.

9. The Office of Student Engagement will resolve conflicts concerning interpretation of individual constitutions.

10. All contracts paid with Student Activity Fee funds must be routed through the proper channels. Contracts that do not follow procedure will not be upheld by the University.

11. Overspending of allocated Student Activity Fee accounts is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.

B. UCO Facility Utilization Policies

1. Active student organizations may reserve campus facilities for use during organization activities and events. Reservations for facilities must be made or recorded through the Student Organization Event Planning Form found on OrgSync. All organization events should be entered on the student organization’s OrgSync page. By completing this form, all locations on campus may be reserved and/or the designated contact person for the requested location may be reached to request a reservation. A full outline of the required steps for the Student Organization Event Planning Process can be found at uco.edu/FUP.

Instructions for reserving and canceling campus facilities and the Student Organization Event Planning process may be acquired in the Office of Student Engagement, Nigh University Center, Room 424, (405) 974-2663 or online at http://sites.uco.edu/student-life/orgs. To reserve or cancel events in the Nigh University Center, students should contact Conference and Events Services at (405) 974-5932. A full list of NUC policies for reserving space and food may be found on the Student Organization website.

2. Active student organizations may post and distribute signs, handbills, flyers and displays in the designated University locations with approval. Please refer to the UCO Facility Utilization Policy on the student organizations website for more information on how to have signs approved, where to chalk, etc.

3. Active student organizations may request funding from the Student Activity Fee (SAF) Fund. Details on how to obtain SAF funding can be found in section V.G.1.

4. Active student organizations that acquire funds other than those from the Student Activity Fee Fund are required to maintain those funds in a cash account (“A” Account) with the Purchasing and Payables office. Details on the operation of student organization cash accounts can be found in section V.G.2. Student organizations may find information regarding policies and procedures on the Student Organizations website at http://www.uco.edu/studentorgs.

5. In addition to the privileges of active student organizations, the Office of Student Engagement will provide the following to active fraternities and sororities:
   a) advertising in the Fraternity and Sorority Life brochure
   b) promotion through mailings, website, newspaper advertisements, etc.
   c) an academic report each semester
   d) member educational programming
   e) facilitating roundtable discussions
   f) advising governing councils
   g) administrative and financial support of recruitment efforts
   h) opportunity to participate in membership recruitment events (Recruitment, Greek Fair, etc.).

C. Membership in Active Student Organizations

1. All student organization members must be enrolled at UCO and must not be on academic probation with the University. Student organizations that have constitutionally established city-wide, state-wide, or multiple university charters and have registered in such manner with the Office of Student Engagement shall be deemed acceptable under this policy.

2. To serve as an officer of a recognized student organization,
a student must be currently enrolled at UCO, as at least a part-time student, have a minimum cumulative retention GPA of 2.5, and maintain a GPA of 2.5 each semester of participation, but some organizations may have higher GPA requirements. Students falling below the minimum GPA requirements for any given semester may not serve as an officer during the following semester (fall and spring, not summer) until GPA requirements are met.

D. Establishing a New Student Organization

If a student wishes to participate in a student organization whose purpose is not currently addressed by any existing student organization, that student may form a new student organization and apply for recognition by registering at OrgSync.com under “University of Central Oklahoma”. In order to start a new student organization, a group must have two (2) student leaders, three (3) additional students in the membership, a UCO faculty/staff advisor and a current constitution. Once an OrgSync account has been created with this information included, an Organization Leader Training and Advisor Training must be attended. The Office of Student Engagement will let you know when you are approved. Individuals interested in establishing a new fraternity or sorority must work with the Office of Student Engagement, in addition to the desired governing council, to ensure all requirements are met.

E. Inactive Status

1. Any student organization that fails to complete the materials necessary to maintain active status will be deemed inactive.

2. Inactive student organizations may regain active status by completing the renewal steps on OrgSync:

   a) Updating their profile on OrgSync including updated officer names and a dated Constitution.

   b) Attending Organization Leader Training.

   c) Attending Advisor Training.

3. A student organization that has remained on the “Inactive Student organizations” list for two (2) consecutive years will have its official recognition revoked and its OrgSync account deleted.

4. All fraternities and sororities must be active and recognized members of the appropriate UCO-recognized Greek governing body and abide by the rules and regulations of the appropriate UCO-recognized Greek governing body. The UCO Office of Student Engagement is responsible for identifying the appropriate governing body. Fraternities and sororities that are not active and/ or are not recognized members of their governing council may have their University recognition revoked.

F. Suspension of Student Organizations

1. The Vice President for Student Affairs or his or her designee may place a student organization on disciplinary suspension. A student organization placed on disciplinary suspension loses all privileges reserved for active student organizations.

2. Student organizations that are suspended may regain active status in the following way:

   a) Meet all the requirements set forth by the Vice President for Student Affairs or his or her designee. Greek organizations must also meet the requirements set forth by the appropriate governing body.

   b) Discuss the objectives and goals of the organization with the Coordinator of Student Engagement.

   c) Review the former constitution. Revise, update or approve the constitution and submit it via OrgSync.

   d) Complete an updated organization profile on OrgSync with at least one (1) faculty or staff member. Approval of the OrgSync profile is required by the listed advisor. Additional advisors may be added from on- and off-campus.

3. Student organizations that have been suspended by the Office of Student Engagement and/or Office of Student Conduct may reserve campus facilities for informational meetings only during the last semester of their suspension. The Office of Student Engagement must approve the scheduling of rooms for, and publicizing of, informational meetings by inactive student organizations. Student organizations placed under disciplinary suspension are limited to one (1) on-campus informational meeting per semester. An informational meeting is defined as a gathering where the purpose of the organization is the only topic of discussion. During the informational meeting, student organizations may collect information from interested students, such as contact information, academic release forms, biographical information, etc. All informational meetings held by student organizations must abide by the rules set forth by the appropriate governing body.

G. Student Activity Fees

1. Student Activity Fees are derived from activity funds paid by each student. A fee is collected for the purpose of funding social, cultural, and other developmental cocurricular activities at the University. Various groups will allocate funding distribution for the current academic year. The three (3) types of funding groups include:

   a) The UCO Student Association (UCOSA) may administer funding for student organizations. UCOSA appropriated SAF funds will be administered by the UCO Student Congress or auxiliary bodies that it may establish.

   b) The University-Wide Student Activity Fee Committee chaired by the Vice President for Student Affairs or his or her designee reviews funding requests from University offices, departments and certain student entities. This committee is comprised of five (5) UCOSA Executive Officers (Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Chair of Student Congress, Vice Chair of Student Congress, and Secretary of Student Congress) and the Vice President for Student Affairs or his or her designee. University offices and departments shall submit budgets for
consideration by the committee. The committee then renders a decision on whether the program or event will be funded, and in what amount, and forwards all recommendations to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

c) The UCOSA Ways and Means Committee may distribute further Student Activity Fee monies as one-time funding to student organizations. Student organizations seeking one-time funding shall submit requests to the Ways and Means Committee.

d) All authority to administer student activity fee funds originates from the Vice President for Student Affairs and remains revocable.

e) Overspending of allocated student activity fee accounts is prohibited and may result in sanction assignments.

f) Payments from the Student Activity Fee allocations can be handled via Petty Cash, a university purchasing card, or through the use of the appropriate Purchasing, Payment Services, and Travel documents. To obtain specific information about using these payment methods or documents, please contact the Student Activity Fee Budget Manager, Nigh University Center Room 150, 405-974-5552.

2. The University of Central Oklahoma requires that all student organization funds that are generated outside of the Student Activity Fee (SAF) Fund, be deposited in the UCO Bursar’s Office, unless permission has been granted by the Vice President for Student Affairs for the use of an alternate plan. Fraternities and sororities are exempt from this policy.

a) Funds generated outside the SAF will be deposited in the UCO Bursar’s Office. These funds will be credited to the student organization’s cash account, to be used only by the organization depositing the funds. Requests for expenditures will be made on the appropriate Payment Services forms. The original request form will be submitted directly to Payment Services for processing. Both the faculty/staff advisor and a designated student representative of the organization must sign each request. To obtain a list of advisors and students with cash account signature authority, please contact the Student Activity Fee Budget Manager, Nigh University Center, Room 150, (405) 974-5552. Petty Cash is the other option available for purchasing from the student organization’s cash account. This process begins with a Pre-authorization for Petty Cash form. This form must be submitted via OrgSync. For questions, please contact Student Activity Fee Budget Manager, Nigh University Center, Room 150, (405) 974-5552.

b) All material other than money left by any University organization shall be left as the property of the corresponding student organization the following year.

c) Any funds left by inactive student organizations can only be expended by approval of the Vice President for Student Affairs. Funds left by groups on disciplinary suspension can only be expended by approval of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

d) Obligations of debts shall not be left unpaid at the end of the academic year by any organization. If, through error in bookkeeping or otherwise, such obligations should be left, the same shall be paid by the succeeding organization before any further expenditure of funds shall be made during the following year. When unusual circumstances exist and there are unpaid obligations, the Vice President for Student Affairs may approve payment where adequate monies are available in the account of the organization.

H. Fundraising Guidelines

The following are the guidelines for student organization fundraisers:

1. All food preparation and distribution must conform to the guidelines of the Oklahoma County Health Department.

2. Fund-raisers based upon the completion of and/or the solicitation of credit card applications are prohibited.

3. Any SAF funds used to pay for the materials and/or products used during the fund-raiser must be returned to the organization’s SAF account before funds can be deposited into the organization’s cash account.

I. Hazing – University Policy Statement

Hazing is an act which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, which may degrade any person or lead to the destruction or removal of 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. No student organization or any person associated with any organization sanctioned or authorized by the University shall engage or participate in hazing, as defined by Oklahoma law, the UCO Code of Student Conduct, the UCO Fraternity and Sorority Life policies, and respective organizations’ national policies on hazing and risk management.

UCO also considers endangering the safety of individuals as a form of hazing. “Endangering the safety” shall include, restricting or limiting students’ freedom from the occurrence or risk of injury, danger, or loss of property, finances, or basic rights which could adversely affect the living conditions of the individual.

Other activities and situations which may constitute hazing include, but are not limited to the following behaviors or activities, whether coerced or forced: subjection to poor living conditions, actions of personal servitude towards another person, line-ups, any special pre- or post-initiation activities that do not contribute to the positive development of the new members, bullying or intentional humiliation of new or potential members, and intentional interference of academic pursuits.
Regardless of the incident location(s), any student(s) and/or student organization(s) found responsible for any form of hazing may be subject to immediate suspension and/or expulsion. The expressed or implied consent of the victim shall not be considered as a defense. Apathy and/or consent in the presence of hazing are not neutral acts; they shall be considered violations of this policy. Any penalties imposed by the University for hazing are separate from, and in addition to, penalties resulting from criminal cases, or the organization’s governing body.

J. Hazing - Oklahoma Law


1. No student organization or any person associated with any organization sanctioned or authorized by the governing board of any public or private school or institution of higher education in this state shall engage or participate in hazing.

2. Any hazing activity described in subsection F of 21 O.S. § 48-1190 or section V.1.6., upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with an organization sanctioned or authorized by a public or private school or by any institution of higher education in this state is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if the student willingly participates in such activity.

3. A copy of the policy or the rules and regulations of the public or private school or institution of higher education which prohibits hazing shall be given to each student enrolled in the school or institution and shall be deemed to be part of the bylaws of all organizations operating at the public school or the institution of higher education.

4. Any organization sanctioned or authorized by the governing board of a public or private school or of an institution of higher education in this state which violates subsection F of 21 O.S. § 48-1190 or section V.1.6., upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be punished by a fine of not more than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($1,500.00) and the forfeiture for a period of not less than one (1) year all of the rights and privileges of being an organization organized or operating at the public or private school or at the institution of higher education.

5. Any individual convicted of violating the provisions of section V.1.1. shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be punishable by imprisonment not to exceed ninety (90) days in the county jail, by the imposition of a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), and/or by both such imprisonment and fine.

6. For purposes of this section:

a) “Hazing” means an activity which recklessly or intentionally endangers the following:
   1) mental health;
   2) physical health; or,
   3) safety

b) “Endanger the mental health” shall include but not be limited to any activity, except those activities authorized by law, which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, subjection to poor living and/or sleeping conditions, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual. (21 O.S. § 48-1190, 1990, amended 1995)

c) “Endanger the physical health” shall include but not be limited to any activity, except those activities authorized by law, which would subject the individual to extreme physical stress, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage or intoxicating liquor as defined by 37 O.S. §506, non-intoxicating beverage as defined by 37 O.S. §163.2, drug, controlled dangerous substance, or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual; and

K. Reporting Hazing Activity

The entire University community shares the challenge and responsibility of reporting hazing activity. Indeed, hazing may occur in academic, Greek, student athletic, band, military, cultural, and/or other interest organizations. Apathy and/or consent in the presence of hazing are not neutral acts; they shall be considered violations of this policy. If you are aware of or have reluctantly participated in any form of hazing, then please contact one (1) of the following offices to report the matter(s):

1. UCO Police Department, Public Safety Building, (405) 974-2345;
2. Office of Student Conduct, Nigh University Center, Room 136, (405) 974-5380; or
3. Office of Student Engagement, Nigh University Center, Room 424, (405) 974-2363.

L. Advisor Responsibilities

The responsibilities of student organization advisors are:

1. To serve as a resource person and to offer guidance, assistance, advice, and encouragement to the organization.
2. To help the organization:
   a) Determine the goals and objectives for the year
   b) Develop a plan to achieve the goals and objectives
   c) Develop adequate funds to finance proposed programs
   d) Know and understand established University policies and procedures
M. Student Organization Events

Student organizations are not permitted to have alcohol on campus.

1. Students, faculty, and staff of the University of Central Oklahoma are invited to attend any all-school functions. Closed functions may be limited.

2. The members of the various organizations have the responsibility of obtaining chaperones for their activities. Chaperones should arrive before the activities begin and remain until all participants depart. During the time they are present, the staff/faculty advisor/chaperone are the representatives of the University and assist students with compliance of University policies and the rules and regulations of the facility in which the activity is located. The Office of Student Engagement reserves the right to require additional chaperones for any activity. Fraternities and sororities may substitute a UCO employee with a registered chapter advisory board member, who is at least three (3) years removed from the organization.

3. Each group will be held responsible for any property damage and for the conduct of individuals (members or guests) attending its social functions. If found responsible for violating University property damage policies and/or laws, applicable outcomes, such as restitution, as specified in section III, T. may be assigned. In keeping with University policy, the use or possession of drinks that have alcoholic content is not permitted at any University on-campus function.

4. Any group sponsoring an activity on campus is responsible for removing all decorations and returning all properties immediately after the function. The use of hay and other flammable materials is not permitted in campus facilities without prior approval.

5. All student organization meetings and activities, which are held on-campus in the evening on Sunday through Thursday, must conclude no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the posted closing hours of the building in which the meeting or activity is being held or by 12:00 a.m. (midnight), unless proper prior written authorization is acquired by the respective building captain. The Office of Student Engagement can be consulted regarding dates and activities previously scheduled to avoid conflict with other school programs. Student organizations must abide by the policies and guidelines set by the location or building in which their event is being held. Building Captains can be contacted for all policies and guidelines concerning the space they oversee. All events held by student organizations must be approved before they take place through the submission of the Student Organization Event Planning Form.

N. UCO Off-Campus Alcohol Event Registration Guidelines

1. All fraternities and sororities recognized by the Office of Student Engagement must comply with the Office of Student Engagement policies and guidelines. These guidelines may be different than those outlined below, therefore all registration for social events will be approved by the Office of Student Engagement.

2. Any student organization that wishes to hold an off-campus event where alcohol will be served must abide by the policies and procedures established by the third party vendor.

O. Scheduling of Speakers and Facility Utilization

It is the practice of the University of Central Oklahoma to encourage student organizations to invite guest speakers to campus for the purpose of imparting discourse to the student body. The organization and its advisor will take responsibility for the planning, conduct, and reception of the program, the visiting speaker, and the audience. In accordance with UCO Facilities Utilization Policy, scheduling a reasonable time and place at least two (2) weeks in advance is required to prompt better attendance, proper reception of the speakers, prevention of scheduling conflicts, traffic (pedestrian or vehicular) hindrances, or disturbance of other University activities. It is recommended that in order to prevent misunderstanding, premature announcement, and confusion, a tentative date and place be explored prior to initial contact, and then scheduling be completed, prior to final commitment. Please refer to the UCO Facilities Utilization Policy for further information on reserving outdoor or indoor facilities for speaking engagements.

This policy can be found at uco.edu/FUP.

The University of Central Oklahoma, its facilities and students, are subject to the laws of the State of Oklahoma. Therefore, the facilities shall at no time be used by any person who in the language of Senate Bill 729: “by word of mouth or writings, advocates, affirmatively suggests or teaches the duty, necessity, propriety, or expediency, or doing any act of violence, the destruction of or damage to any property, the bodily injury to any person or persons, of the commission of any
VI: SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICIES

A. Sexual Misconduct Policy Statement

The University of Central Oklahoma will neither tolerate nor condone any form of sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct includes, but is not limited to, instances of sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, non-consensual sexual intercourse, sexual exploitation, stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence. In instances where there is reason to believe that University policy prohibiting sexual misconduct has been violated, the University will pursue disciplinary action. Sexual misconduct on campus, at university-related events, and against students or employees constitutes a report to the University Title IX Coordinator and/or law enforcement. All employees, save for counselors, pastors, and para-professional counselors, are responsible for reporting all details of sexual misconduct to the University Title IX Coordinator when they know or should know of an incident in violation of these policies. Individuals may request confidentiality from the University Title IX Coordinator, if they wish to make a report without revealing identifying information. Please refer to the University policy for more information about employees responsible for reporting sexual misconduct, confidential reporting, and requests for confidentiality at uco.edu/UCODiscrimPolicy.

The University may immediately suspend any employee or student reasonably believed to have engaged in sexual misconduct in violation of this policy, with notice and hearing to follow promptly. The University has established procedures for timely reporting, investigation, and resolution of sexual misconduct reports. University sanctions may be pursued regardless of whether an individual chooses to report the matter to law enforcement. University sanction may include, but are not limited to, warnings, probation, restrictions, suspension or expulsion.

The voluntary use of drugs and/or alcohol is not an excuse for a violation of any sexual misconduct policy.

This policy applies regardless of the sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression of individuals engaging in sexual activity.

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions and provisions apply:

1. Definition of Consent
   a) Consent is a knowing, voluntary, and clear permission by word or action to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity.
   b) Silence or passivity is not consent. Consent is not passive, but is active and freely given. Silence, in and of itself, cannot be interpreted as consent.
   c) Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as those words or actions create mutually understandable clear permission regarding willingness to engage in (and the conditions of) sexual activity.
   d) Initiators of sexual activity are responsible for obtaining consent.
   e) Consent to one form of sexual activity cannot automatically imply consent to any other forms of sexual activity, nor does it automatically imply consent of any sexual contact in the future.
   f) Previous relationships or prior consent cannot automatically imply consent to future sexual acts.
   g) Consent granted to one individual does not automatically imply consent to any other parties.
   h) Consent can be withdrawn once given, as long as that withdrawal is clearly communicated. Once consent is withdrawn, sexual activity must stop reasonably immediately.
   i) Consent cannot be obtained from an individual who is incapacitated due to lack of consciousness, age, disability, or incapacitated due to drugs or alcohol.
   j) The use of intimidation, coercion, threats, force, or violence automatically negates any previously obtained consent.

2. Definition of Incapacitation

Incapacitation is a state where someone cannot make rational, reasonable decisions because they lack the capacity to give knowing consent (e.g., to understand the “who, what, when, where, why or how” of their sexual interaction). Incapacitation can occur mentally or physically, from developmental disability, by alcohol or other drug use, or blackout. Incapacity may also result from mental disability, sleep, unconsciousness, or from the ingestion of rape drugs. Drinking and/or drug use may render an individual incapable of giving consent for sexual activity. For example, someone who is incapacitated may agree to have sex at the time, but have no memory of the consent. This person may have been functioning in a “blackout” and could not give effective consent.

A policy violation occurs where a person knows or a reasonable person (sober and exercising good judgment) in the situation would have known about the condition of the incapacitated person.

3. Definition of Force

Force includes any intentional use of physical violence, restraint, or the presence of a weapon to gain sexual or non-sexual access to a person or their property. Force includes threats, that overcomes resistance or produces reluctant compliance or acquiescence.

4. Definition of Coercion

Coercion is an unreasonable pressure for to engage in sexual activity. Coercion is distinguishable from seduction, where sexual advances are welcome and persuasion is reasonable. When an individual verbally and/or physically expresses that they do not want to engage in or continue in a sexual act, continued pressure beyond that point can be coercive. For the purposes of coercion, determining what is unreasonable may be a function of duration, frequency, isolation, and intensity.
B. Sexual Harassment Policy Statement

Students should enjoy a learning environment free of inappropriate harassment, including, but not limited to sexual harassment perpetrated by fellow University students, other University members, or non-affiliated third parties. Sexual harassment by any member of the University community, including students, faculty and staff, is a violation of both law and University policy, and will not be tolerated. Harassment between University employees, University employees and students, and/or student-on-student harassment is prohibited. These policies can be found on the UCO website at uco.edu/policycentral.

1. Definition of Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment shall be defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, written, online, or physical conduct of a sexual nature in the following context:

a. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of a person’s employment, academic standing, or participation in any University programs and/or activities or is used as the basis for University decisions affecting the individual (often referred to as “quid pro quo” harassment); or,

b. Such conduct creates a hostile environment. A “hostile environment” exists when such conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it unreasonably interferes with, limits, or deprives an individual from participating in or benefitting from the University’s education or employment programs or activities.

Conduct must be deemed severe, persistent, or pervasive from both a subjective and an objective perspective. A hostile environment can be created by persistent or pervasive conduct or by a single or isolated incident, if sufficiently severe. The more severe the conduct, the less need to show a repetitive series of incidents to prove a hostile environment, particularly if the conduct is physical. In contrast, the perceived offensiveness of a single verbal or written expression, standing alone, is typically not sufficient to constitute a hostile environment.

2. Examples of Prohibited Conduct

Conduct, whether in person, in writing, by telephone, through social media, by electronic means, or otherwise, which is prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to:

a. Unwelcome sexual flirtation, advances, or propositions for sexual activity;

b. Continued or repeated verbal abuse of a sexual nature, such as suggestive comments and sexually explicit jokes;

c. Sexually degrading language used to describe an individual;

d. Remarks of a sexual nature used to describe a person’s body or clothing;

e. Display of sexually demeaning objects and pictures;

f. Offensive physical contact, such as unwelcome touching, pinching, or brushing the body;

g. Actions indicating that benefits will be gained or lost based on response to sexual advances.

C. Non-Consensual Sexual Contact Policy Statement

The University of Central Oklahoma will neither tolerate nor condone any form of non-consensual sexual contact.

1. Definition of Non-Consensual Sexual Contact

Non-Consensual Sexual Contact is any intentional sexual touching, however slight, with any object, with another person without consent of that person.

2. Examples of Prohibited Conduct

Conduct prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to:

a. Unwanted sexual contact with a stranger or a friend, acquaintance, spouse, current dating partner, or former intimate partner.

b. Unwanted sexual contact committed by force, threat, surprise, coercion, intimidation, or through use of mental or physical helplessness.

c. Unwanted sexual contact with the breasts, buttock, groin, or genitals, or touching another with any of these body parts, or making another touch you or themselves with or on any of these body parts.

d. Unwanted sexual contact such as touching, brushing, fondling, and groping the body.

D. Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse Policy Statement

The University of Central Oklahoma will neither tolerate nor condone any form of non-consensual sexual intercourse.

1. Definition of Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse

Non-consensual sexual intercourse is any (anal, oral, or vaginal) penetration, however slight, with another person without consent of that person.

2. Examples of Prohibited Conduct

Conduct prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to:

a. Unwanted sexual intercourse with a stranger or a friend, acquaintance, spouse, current dating partner, or former intimate partner (including date or acquaintance rape)

b. Unwanted sexual intercourse committed by force, threat, surprise, coercion, intimidation, or through use of mental or physical helplessness

c. The use of force, including hitting, pushing, or otherwise acting upon violently to engage in sexual activity
d. You may go to the nearest hospital emergency room (ER), regardless of whether you have physical injuries resulting from the assault. The ER will provide testing for semen, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections (S.T.I.). In addition, this will help if you choose to pursue criminal charges. Even if you do not want to prosecute now, you may change your mind later.

e. A follow-up check may be recommended by the health care provider since some S.T.I.’s cannot be detected immediately.

E. Sexual Exploitation Policy Statement
The University of Central Oklahoma will neither tolerate nor condone any form of sexual exploitation.

1. Definition of Sexual Exploitation
Sexual exploitation is taking non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for one’s own advantage or benefit, or to benefit a person other than the one being exploited. This policy also covers sexual misconduct which does not otherwise constitute one of the other sexual misconduct definitions.

2. Examples of Prohibited Conduct
Conduct prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to:

a. Sexual voyeurism (such as watching another person undress, use the bathroom or engage in sexual acts without the consent of the person observed)

b. Taking pictures or video or audio recording, or providing for the observation by a third-party of another in a sexual act, or in any other personal/private activity without the consent of all involved in the activity

c. Disseminating sexual pictures, audio, video, or other media without the depicted person’s consent

d. Communications that are obscene, lewd, or indecent;

e. Intentionally or recklessly exposing one’s genitals in non-consensual circumstances;

f. Engaging in prostitution or prostituting another student

g. Engaging in sexual activity with another person while knowingly infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or other sexually transmitted disease (STD) and without informing the other person of the infection; and

h. Administering alcohol or other drugs (such as “date rape” drugs) to another person without his or her knowledge or consent.

F. Stalking Policy Statement
The University of Central Oklahoma prohibits will neither tolerate nor condone stalking.
1. Definition of Stalking

Oklahoma law defines stalking in 21 O.S. §1173, as any person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows or harasses another person in a manner that (1) would cause a reasonable person or a member of the immediate family of that person to feel frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested; and (2) actually causes the person being followed or harassed to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested. Stalking is the (1) repetitive and (2) menacing (3) pursuit, following, harassing, and/or interfering (4) with the peace and/or safety of another (5) that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or suffer substantial emotional distress.

Two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts which directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person’s property shall constitute stalking.

2. Examples of Prohibited Conduct

Conduct prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to:

a. Purposefully following or appearing within the sight of that individual;
b. Approaching or confronting that individual in a public place or on private property;
c. Appearing at the workplace or residence of that individual;
d. Threatening or making obscene gestures;
e. Unwanted repeated communication or contact, including personal contact, telephone calls, voice messages, email, instant messaging, written correspondence, social media communication (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.), and unwanted gifts;
f. Leaving strange or potentially threatening items;
g. Entering a home or car and doing things to frighten or inform an individual that they were there;
h. Threats prompting fear for safety or safety of family member(s), friends, roommates, or others;
i. Harassment, either by the individual or through a third party;
j. Electronic harassment, such as impersonating an individual online and/or spamming email accounts;
k. Unauthorized access of personal, academic, medical, financial, and/or other personal identifying information;
l. Vandalism; and,
m. Surveillance or other types of unwanted observation, including use of electronic devices or software to track or obtain private information.

3. Tips for Responding to Stalking Behaviors

Stalking is an unpredictable and dangerous behavior. Yet, you can increase your safety by considering and implementing some or all the following tips:

a. Trust your instincts. Do not downplay the danger. If you feel unsafe, you may be unsafe;
b. Contact UCO Police or other local law enforcement agency for assistance;
c. Consult with the Project SPEAK Office for information about your options for safety and support, assistance with reporting, safety planning and/or obtaining resources on and/or off-campus;
d. You may contact Project SPEAK at (405) 974-2215 (if during UCO business hours) or call the 24-hour YWCA hotline at (405) 943-7273. An advocate may accompany you to file criminal charges and/or make a report for disciplinary action, but they recognize that this is your decision. The Project SPEAK representative or YWCA advocate will assist you regardless of your decision about reporting. If you elect to go to report the matter, you do not have to undergo it alone;
e. You may call UCO Police or local law enforcement and report the incident, even if you do not want to prosecute. Your report may help to protect you and prevent future occurrences to others;
f. A report to the University may be made at any time. A criminal investigation may be subject to a statute of limitations;
g. Seek support by notifying your Resident Assistant, family member(s), roommates, co-workers, staff members, faculty members, and/or friends about your concerns;
h. Change your email address, screen names, and telephone numbers. Be selective about to whom these are given. Change passwords and clear your computer of spyware;
i. Customize privacy/security settings on your social media;
j. Consider using an unlisted telephone number;
k. Have a plan and steps you will take if the stalker appears at your home, work, or class;
l. Cease all communication with the stalker and any attempts to contact you;
m. Consider changing your locks, installing deadbolts and/or a security system and ensure that your windows and doors have working locks;
n. Consider obtaining a court order that requires the stalker to cease from contacting you and to keep a certain distance from you;
Domestic Violence and Dating Violence Policy Statements

The University of Central Oklahoma will neither tolerate nor condone domestic violence and dating violence.

1. Definition of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence of violence or abuse (verbal, physical, and/or psychological) committed by a current or former spouse of an individual, person with whom an individual shares a child in common, person who is cohabiting with an individual or has cohabitated with as a spouse, or person similarly situated to a spouse of the individual under domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred.

2. Definition of Dating Violence

Dating violence is violence or abuse (verbal, physical, and/or psychological) committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with an individual. The existence of such relationship shall be determined based on consideration of the following factors: length of relationship, type of relationship and, frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. Dating partners can be dating each other exclusively or dating other people concurrently. Dating relationships may have a sexual component, but do not have to. Dating violence does not include acts by a person who meets the definition of domestic violence (see Section VI. F. 1.).

Dating violence may also occur between individuals who are no longer dating, if the violence or abuse is connected to or predicated upon some aspect of the prior relationship. Prior relationship violence may be evidenced by lingering jealousy, residual anger, resentment, feeling slighted or used, or delayed retribution from a prior relationship.

3. Examples of Prohibited Conduct:

a. Verbal abuse, such as extreme or excessive use of language in the form of insults, name-calling, and criticism, designed to mock, shame, embarrass, or humiliate another

b. Physical abuse and violence, such as intentionally or recklessly causing bodily harm, attempting to cause another bodily harm, or putting another in fear or imminent bodily harm

c. Physical abuse and violence including punching, slapping, scratching, or striking another with any part of one’s body or with any object

d. Physical abuse and violence including, keeping another captive, preventing from leaving, or otherwise restraining them against their will;

e. Physical abuse and violence, such as sexual abuse and any form of non-consensual sexual activity within the context of a domestic or dating relationship;

f. Psychological abuse, such as a persistent pattern or prolonged climate of dominating or controlling behavior intended to terrorize, intimidate, isolate, or exclude another;

g. Psychological abuse, including threatening to harm a pet or destroy a sentimental possession, and financial/economic abuse and blackmail; and

h. Prior relationship violence or abuse, such as shoving a former dating or domestic partner into a wall when learning about a new romantic interest or partner.

4. Tips for Responding to Domestic Violence or Dating Violence Behaviors

a. Trust your instincts. Do not downplay the danger. If you feel unsafe, you may be unsafe;

b. Get medical attention and keep documentation and any photos of injuries;

c. Contact UCO Police or a local law enforcement agency for assistance;

d. You may also report the incident for disciplinary action by contacting the Office of Student Conduct at (405) 974-5380.

e. Consult with the Project SPEAK Office at (405) 974-2215, for assistance in determining the steps that you may desire to take, helping you to plan for your safety, and assisting you with obtaining resources on and/or off-campus;

f. Contact the YWCA Domestic Violence Hotline for shelter, safety planning, VPO assistance, and other information (405) 297-1139;

g. Seek support by notifying your Resident Assistant, family member(s), roommates, co-workers, staff members, faculty members, and/or friends about your concerns.

If you have any reason to believe that you may be in physical danger, call UCO Police Department at (405) 974-2345 or dial 9-1-1.

H. Oklahoma Criminal Law Definitions

In accordance with the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA), criminal definitions of behavior are applicable should you wish to pursue Oklahoma state criminal or civil actions. These definitions may differ from the University’s administrative policy definitions noted above. The University’s administrative system and disciplinary procedures are separate and distinct from those available to someone in a state civil or criminal action. Individuals may seek University administrative remedies in accordance with this policy and also may seek state or federal civil or criminal
remedies for the same incident through the applicable systems in the jurisdiction where the offense(s) occurred. The definitions set forth in the University policy are reviewed and verified annually and may be accessed at uco.edu/UCODiscrimPolicy (section 1.2.5. J. For a more frequently updated resource, please consult the Oklahoma State Court Network website at http://www.oscn.net.)

I. Options for Reporting and Confidentiality

The University encourages students and any other individuals who have experienced sexual misconduct to talk to someone about what happened, as well as their rights and options for safety and having the misconduct addressed. The University is responsible for responding reasonably to reduce the likelihood of further incident and support affected community members.

Different employees on campus have different abilities to maintain confidentiality:

- Some employees are required by law to maintain near complete confidentiality. Talking to them is sometimes called a “privileged communication”. Professional, licensed counselors and pastoral counselors who provide mental health counseling to members of the school community (including those who act in that role under the supervision of a licensed counselor) are not required to report any information about an incident to the University without permission of the individual making the disclosure.

- Individuals who advise, work or volunteer in the on-campus Project SPEAK Office, including front desk staff and students, and the Student Alliance For Equality (S.A.F.E.) student organization can generally talk to a person who has experienced sexual misconduct without being required to reveal any personally identifiable information about an incident to the University. A person who has experienced sexual misconduct can seek assistance and support from these individuals without triggering a University investigation that could reveal their identity.

- All other University employees, including faculty and staff, are required to report all known details of an incident, including the identities of the person who experienced the misconduct, alleged perpetrator(s), and any known witnesses, to the Title IX Coordinator. A report to these employees (called “Responsible Employees”) necessitates a report to the University and generally obligates the University to investigate the incident and take appropriate steps to address the situation.

More information about the ability of UCO employees to maintain confidentiality can be found in section 1.2.7 of the University of Central Oklahoma Policy Prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment as Defined, Including Sexual Misconduct (uco.edu/UCODiscrimPolicy).

J. Options Available in Cases of Sexual Misconduct

Regardless of the location of the misconduct, several options may be pursued, including, but not limited to:

a) Pursuing criminal charges through the University of Central Oklahoma Police Department, City of Edmond Police Department, or other law enforcement agency within the vicinity of the incident and/or your residence;

b) Contacting the Project SPEAK Office, Nigh University Center, Room 406, (405) 974-2215; The Project SPEAK Office provides a safe place where individuals can explore the options available to them through criminal proceedings, civil proceedings and institutional disciplinary proceedings. In addition, the Project SPEAK Office assists with referrals for remedies such as legal assistance, medical care, counseling, housing needs/relocation, and academic concerns;

c) Obtaining a Victim’s Protection Order (VPO) through the office of the Oklahoma County District Attorney Victim Services, (405) 713-1600. VPOs have nationwide and statewide validity unless otherwise stated;

d) Pursuing a UCO “No Contact Order” from the Office of Student Conduct, (405) 974-5380;

e) Pursuing University sanctions through the Office of Student Conduct, Nigh University Center, Room 136, (405) 974-5380. (See section III.T. for sanction possibilities.)

K. Procedures for Reporting Sexual Misconduct

In addition to addressing criminal sexual misconduct through the criminal justice system, incidents involving students, faculty, and staff may be reported to the University for disciplinary action. Although reports to law enforcement are always encouraged, a criminal report is not necessary to initiate disciplinary proceedings. Individuals reserve the right to choose whether or not to report incidents of sexual misconduct to law enforcement or for disciplinary action. Students found responsible of sexual misconduct may face a number of sanctions, up to and including, expulsion. Further information regarding the disciplinary process may be obtained by contacting the Office of Student Conduct at (405) 974-5380 and online at uco.edu/ReadConductCode.

The Project SPEAK office can also aid survivors in reporting sexual misconduct. The office provides information on options available to individuals through law enforcement, civil proceedings, and the student conduct process. Additionally, the office can assist individuals by providing referrals to resources to meet their needs.

Individuals who report sexual misconduct will be provided an explanation of procedures for institutional disciplinary action in cases of sexual misconduct, information about their rights and options, as well as information about counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, and other on- and off-campus services available. In addition, individuals will be informed of and offered resources such as living situation support (room changes and on-campus housing relocation), academic support (such as tutoring and emergency absence notifications, transportation situation support, working situation support, and other protective measures available to help ensure safety. Accommodations or protective measures are provided if the individual request them and if they are reasonably available, regardless of whether the victim chooses to report the crime to campus police or local law enforcement.

Sexual misconduct involving any person may be reported by...
contacting the Title IX Coordinator:
Adrienne Martinez, UCO Title IX Coordinator
Office of Legal Counsel
Lillard Administration Building, Room 114D
(405) 974-3377
Amartinez9@uco.edu or TitleIX@uco.edu

Sexual misconduct involving any student may also be reported by contacting the Deputy Title IX Coordinator for students in the Office of Student Conduct:
Chris M. Snoddy, Director of Student Conduct
Office of Student Conduct
Nigh University Center, Room 136
(405) 974-5380
csnoddy@uco.edu

Sexual misconduct involving any employees may also be reported to the Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Employees:
Erika Cerda, Director of Employee Relations
Human Resources
Nigh University Center, Room 317F
(405) 974-2932
ecerda@uco.edu

Sexual misconduct involving any UCO student athlete, coach or athletics administrator may also be reported to the Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Athletics:
Darnell Smith, Assistant Athletic Director of Athletic Compliance
Legal Services
Hamilton Field House, Room 103
(405) 974-3959
Dsmith132@uco.edu

To report emergencies, make a report afterhours, and/or in addition to reporting sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy, contact UCO Police:
UCO Police Services (24 Hours a day, 7 days a week)
(405) 974-2345 or 9-1-1
Public Safety Building
(west of the Education building along University Drive, on the west side of the main campus)

L. Sexual Misconduct Complaint Procedures

The University of Central Oklahoma’s policies offer both informal and formal grievance procedures to resolve cases of alleged sexual misconduct involving students, faculty, and staff. A complete copy of the policy is available at uco.edu/legalpolicies. To make a report, please contact one (1) or more of the following offices:

a. UCO Title IX Coordinator, Lillard Administration Building, Room 114D, (405) 974-3377
b. Office of Student Conduct, Nigh University Center, Room 136, (405) 974-5380
c. Human Resources Department, Nigh University Center, Room 317F, (405) 974-2327
d. UCO Police Department, Public Safety Building, (405) 974-2345

Students may also contact any of the following types of employees responsible for reporting sexual misconduct:
Resident Advisor, Residence Hall Director, class instructor, department chair/school director, college dean, and the Office of Student Conduct. All University staff not identified as professional counselors or advocates are responsible for reporting to the Title IX Coordinator all relevant details about alleged sexual misconduct.

If for any reason the aforementioned campus entities are involved in the alleged harassment or discrimination, or the student does not believe that the entity can be impartial, the student may file the complaint with the following University entities:

a. UCO Title IX Coordinator, Lillard Administration Building, 114D, (405) 974-3377.

c. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for monitoring and oversight of implementation of Title IX Compliance at the University. This includes coordination of training, education, communications, and administration of gender discrimination grievance procedures for faculty, staff, students and other members of the University community.

Complaints involving students shall be promptly, fairly, and impartially investigated by the Director of Student Conduct or his or her designee, which shall reflect the normal investigation, hearing, and appeal procedures, as stated in Sections III. Investigating officials receive at minimum annual training on issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, how to conduct an investigation, and hearing processes that protects the safety of victims and promotes accountability. The investigation should be completed promptly so that a decision can be rendered within sixty (60) days of receipt of the complaint. If this is not possible, the investigator will inform the complainant of the status of the investigation within sixty (60) days, the reason(s) for delay, and an estimated completion date for the investigation. At the conclusion of the investigation and hearing, the Office of Student Conduct shall send simultaneous written notice of the final determination to each party and the Title IX Coordinator.

To the extent possible, all records involving sexual misconduct allegations are kept private. In accordance with the Jeanne Clery Act, UCO must complete publicly available record keeping, reporting and disclosures. This information is reported for statistical purposes and no personally identifiable information about the complainant or reporting party is released. Further, any accommodations or protective measures provided to complainants or reporting parties is also maintained as private as possible, to the extent that the ability of the institution to provide the accommodations is not impaired.
M. Prohibition of Retaliation for Reporting
Retaliation against reporters of sexual misconduct is prohibited by University policy and federal and state laws. Retaliation includes threats, intimidation, and/or reprisals against anyone who reports prohibited behaviors.

N. Anonymous Reporting
An anonymous report is an unofficial means to inform the University administration and/or UCO Police Department that sexual misconduct has occurred on-campus, near campus, or against a University member. This method has been developed to encourage student reporting of sexual misconduct without the risk of identity exposure and the pressures of filing a report with the Office of Student Conduct and/or filing criminal charges with a local law enforcement agency. The anonymous report will provide valuable information to the University administration and UCO Police Department, which will allow for improved prevention programming and resources in the future for the UCO campus community.

Anonymous reports may be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, whether or not criminal charges are filed at a later date. The Anonymous Reporting Form can be found and completed online at uco.edu/Conduct. Additionally, anonymous reports may be filed with RUSO Ethics Point by calling 866-898-8438 or online at uco.edu/EthicsReport.

To keep information anonymous, do not include names of any person involved. If names are included, this is no longer considered an anonymous report and an investigation may be conducted. Anonymous reports will remain confidential to the public, but may be shared with UCO Police Department and/or the Center for Counseling and Well-Being for statistical, programmatic, and/or referral purposes.

Since the anonymous reporting method is unofficial, the Office of Student Conduct may not be able to take disciplinary action in response to such a report.

O. Programs and Services
Project SPEAK (Support, Promote, Educate, Advocate for Knowledge) within the Center for Counseling and Well-Being serves students by educating the community. Project SPEAK supports students by providing a confidential assessment of their needs.

Project SPEAK informs and educates the campus community on domestic and sexual violence, sexual assault, stalking and bullying, and implements the bystander intervention programming. Project SPEAK informs those that have experienced sexual assault or some form of violence of all the services that are available to them and assists them in exploring the possible options to pursue. Project SPEAK staff advocates for the individual as much, or as little, as is desired. Project SPEAK collaborates with agencies and partners to provide referrals to obtain a VPO (Victims Protective Order), obtain counseling and additional support services, file a No Contact Order, file a police report on or off campus, assist in relocation within the dorms, assist with the student conduct process, address academic concerns, and assist with schedule changes, if desired.

Campus Advocacy Services in the Center for Counseling & Well Being:
Julia Reed, LCSW
Director, Center for Counseling and Well-Being
Nigh University Center #402
(405) 974-2215
jreed31@uco.edu

If you are someone you know is in immediate danger, call UCO Police (405) 974-2345 or by dialing 9-1-1 at any time, during and after business hours.

Walk-ins are welcomed if the advocate is available. If there is no one in the office and you need help or just need someone to talk to, please go to the UCO Center for Counseling and Well-Being, Nigh University Center, Room 402.

Primary Prevention & Risk Reduction:
Through the Center for Counseling and Well-Being/Project SPEAK Office, the University develops a campus culture that fosters healthy relationships through supportive efforts, promotion, education, advocacy and knowledge. Education and knowledge are the two (2) key components that encourage the campus community to be responsible, engaged and proactive bystanders. This is established through university events, programs and trainings throughout the fiscal year. UCO’s prevention approach is comprehensive in that it addresses factors at the individual, relationship, community, and societal levels. Primary prevention education programming is designed to benefit everyone at UCO, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression.

UCO acknowledges that sexual misconduct on college campuses is a serious issue that can have lasting harmful effects on those that experience it as well as their friends and family members.

Prevention efforts aim to decrease the number of individuals that experience sexual misconduct on our campus. Prevention efforts include, but are not limited to: promotions of SafeWalk, My SPEAK plan cards (an informative checklist to prevent sexual misconduct), understanding consent, self-defense seminars and bystander intervention techniques adapted from Bringing in the Bystander™ (BITB). In addition, campus trainings are supplemented with educational presentations on topics including: dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, bullying, sexual assault, sexual harassment, bystander intervention, consent, healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, the conduct process, peer advocacy, rape culture/victim blaming, how to support a survivor and resources available at the university, state and national level.

Bystander Intervention:
Bystanders are individuals who witness emergencies, criminal events or situations that could lead to criminal events or policy violations and by their presence may have the opportunity to provide assistance, do nothing, or contribute to the negative behavior. UCO promotes the development of pro-active bystanders, individuals whose behaviors intervene in ways that influence the outcome positively. Active bystanders must 1) notice the event, 2) interpret the incident as an emergency, 3)
assume responsibility for intervening, and 4) have the bystander intervention skills to intervene effectively. UCO promotes the “4 Ds” of effective bystander intervention skills, including “Direct, Distract, Delegate, Delay”. UCO develops active bystanders via campus-wide implementation of bystander intervention education programming adapted from Bringing in the Bystander™ (BITB) (BITB is a registered trademark of the University of New Hampshire Prevention Innovations.) Bystander training is a part of the curriculum of Healthy Life Skills courses (a required core course for the university). Staff and peer educators also deliver the training as requested by Athletics, Fraternity and Sorority Life, faculty, or other departments or organizations.

Ongoing Prevention and Awareness Campaigns:
UCO hosts a series of events, programs and training throughout the year to educate the campus and community about domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, bullying, consent and stalking. Primary focus months are in October (Domestic Violence Awareness Month) and April (Sexual Assault Awareness Month). UCO also combines campaigns and awareness efforts that are found on local and national levels to develop UCO branded programs, events and trainings.

Campus Prevention and Education in the Center for Counseling and Well-Being:
Alex Russell, MSW
Assistant Director, Health Promotion and Outreach
Nigh University Center #402
(405) 974-3407
Arussell22@uco.edu

VII. OTHER UNIVERSITY POLICIES

A. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. The University of Central Oklahoma complies with the guidelines of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. The UCO Office of the Registrar serves as the official custodian of FERPA guidelines. All questions or concerns regarding FERPA issues should be routed to the UCO Office of the Registrar. Further details about FERPA may be accessed online within the UCO Undergraduate Catalog at uco.edu/DegreeInfo.

B. Students with Disabilities

Disability Support Services provides and coordinates mandated support services, auxiliary aids, and accommodations for students with disabilities, which allow them to gain equal access to an education. Disability Support Services also serves as a resource to the University community and promotes awareness so that students with disabilities can participate in all facets of University life (For more information, please visit uco.edu/DisabilitySupport)

The University of Central Oklahoma, to the extent required by law, complies with Section 504 and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity and full participation in college programs for persons with disabilities in accordance with state and federal laws. The University’s intent is that no person is subjected to discrimination with regard to any college program or activity. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516 (V/TTY). The Office of Disability Support Services is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 309.

Per Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”), pregnant and parenting students may request adjustments by contacting the Title IX Coordinator, at (405) 974-3377 or TitleIX@uco.edu. The Title IX Office is located in the Lillard Administration Building, Room 114D.

The Student Complaint Procedure in Cases of Alleged Disability Discrimination and/or Harassment can be found online at: uco.edu/DisabilityComplaint.

Some students may have emotional or mental disorders. Although such students may be considered disabled and may be protected under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, they are expected to meet the same standards of conduct as any student. It is important that an instructor establish standards of conduct for his or her classroom and enforce them for all students. If student’s behavior patterns are of concern, but non-threatening, then the instructor is advised to contact the Center for Counseling and Well-Being at (405) 974-2215 or the Office of Student Conduct at (405) 974-5380.

The University of Central Oklahoma, to the extent required by law, is not required to retain or readmit a student with a disability whose behavior poses a direct threat to the safety of others. If you believe that a student is engaging in misconduct or exhibiting behaviors that are disruptive to the classroom, you should immediately contact the Director of Student Conduct at (405) 974-5380 to discuss the situation and determine if a University violation has occurred. In cases of emergency, contact UCO Police Department, (405) 974-2345.

C. Service and Assistance Animals Policy

The University of Central Oklahoma complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with regards to service and assistance animals on campus.

For more information regarding service and assistance animals, please visit uco.edu/DisabilitySupport or the university’s policy on service and assistance animals at uco.edu/ServiceAnimals.

D. Drug Free Schools Policy Statement

The University of Central Oklahoma recognizes its responsibility as an educational and public service institution to promote a productive and healthy environment. This responsibility demands implementation of programs and services which facilitate that effort. For complete policy visit uco.edu/DrugFreePolicy.
E. Weapons Policy Statement

Except as provided for by statute or University policy, no person may possess any weapon while on University property or participating in any University activity. University property includes the campus grounds, buildings, classrooms and offices, vehicles, or other premises owned, leased to, or controlled by the University. University activity includes, but is not limited to, normal daily business and educational activity and any University-sponsored function or activity.

This policy applies to all University employees, students, and visitors. Any University employee violating this policy is subject to immediate termination. Any student violating this policy is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, as set out in the Code of Student Conduct. A visitor found in violation of this policy is subject to immediate removal from University property or activities.

No person in possession of any concealed handgun pursuant to the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act is authorized to carry the handgun into or upon University property. Under 21 O.S. §1277, the following property shall not be construed as prohibited for persons having a valid concealed handgun license:

1. Any property set aside for the use of any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, provided the handgun is carried or stored as required by law and the handgun is not removed from the vehicle without the prior consent of the University president while the vehicle is on University property;
2. Any property authorized for possession or use of handguns by University policy; and
3. Any property authorized by the written consent of the University president, provided the written consent is carried with the handgun and the valid concealed handgun license while on University property.

F. Pedestrian-Friendly Campus Policy

This policy is designed to communicate the proper use of and right of way rules related to campus sidewalks. Through this policy the University shall establish and maintain a safe environment for all. Please visit the full policy at uco.edu/PedestrianPolicy for more detailed information.

G. Technology and Network Usage Policy

Technology services at the University of Central Oklahoma are provided to promote and support education, research, and administrative services for students, faculty, and staff. All persons utilizing these services are responsible for ensuring that technology services are used in an ethical and lawful manner.

The University assigns all students, faculty, and staff an official University email account. Students, faculty, and staff are required to read email from this account on a regular basis, as email messages are considered official communications and may be time-sensitive.

The University is not responsible for and does not support personal devices. The University does provide assistance to connect university applications and services on personal devices. The University does provide to students, free of charge, anti-virus software. For assistance contact the UCO Service Desk at (405) 974-2255 or email support@uco.edu.

Students are encouraged to use all forms of technology responsibly. Cyber crimes are committed daily and college students are an increasingly high-risk target. As such cyber security is of utmost importance. See the Cyber Security website for precautions: http://www.uco.edu/technology/cyber-security.

Use of any technology, including the network, provided by the University of Central Oklahoma constitutes agreement to abide by the University’s policies. Policy violations by faculty, students, or staff may result in the revocation of computer and network privileges. In addition, such actions may result in disciplinary review, sanctions, dismissal from the University, and legal action. Violations may also constitute a criminal offense, punishable by local, state or federal law or University policy. Please see the full UCO Technology and Network Usage Policy and Security Policy which can be found on the university’s Legal and Policies page located at uco.edu/legalpolicies.

H. Severe Weather and Emergency Procedures


All residents and visitors are required to evacuate the building when the fire alarm is sounded. Those refusing to cooperate with UCO Housing staff, UCOPD, and/or evacuate the building are subject to disciplinary action. Housing staff may key into the rooms to check for evacuation during evacuation exercises or actual fire situations.

I. Weather Closing Protocol

For information regarding potential late start or cancellation of classes and other activities on-campus, all UCO students, faculty, staff and other University personnel are encouraged to monitor Oklahoma City-area television stations, the UCO Closing Information Line, (405) 974-2002, and/or the UCO Closing Information page on the University’s web site, uco.edu/closing-info. Students may check the UCO Home Page at uco.edu.

J. Emergency Notification Protocol

All students, faculty and staff are automatically entered into the UCO Central Alert program for emergency notifications upon enrollment or employment. This program allows UCO to send Short Message Service (SMS) text messages (a cost may be applied by individual cell telephone providers), e-mails, and voice messages informing the community of vital information. The UCO Central Alert program sends weather-related or closure-related updates from UCO; via text only. Students, faculty, and staff are strongly encouraged to check and verify their preferred and alternate phone numbers and alternate email address on a regular basis. Students, faculty, and staff may opt-out of the UCO Central Alert program on UCOnnect.
For more information, please follow the Central Alert link within UCOnect at uco.edu/CentralAlert. UCO also uses the UCO Guardian App to relay information via push notifications. More information about UCO Guardian can be found at uco.edu/UCOGuardian.

K. Campus Grounds and Access to Buildings

Campus designs and improvements will provide access between buildings with particular consideration for people with disabilities. The international symbol of accessibility has been placed at exterior doors of buildings for indication. The accessibility symbol has been placed on restroom entry doors to indicate that facilities meet the standards for persons with disabilities.

Campus maps indicating accessible parking designations are available through Transportation and Parking Services, Nigh University Center, Room 309, (405) 974-2780, or via the internet at the following address: uco.edu/Parking.

L. Guidelines on Infectious Disease for the University of Central Oklahoma

Education and communication form the basis of any institution’s best approach to dealing with the complex and interrelated issues raised by an infectious disease. Thus, the University of Central Oklahoma has adopted the following comprehensive program of education for students and employees.

The University of Central Oklahoma recognizes the need to analyze individual circumstances and respond to each person’s infectious condition on a case-by-case basis. Responding to each case individually is called for in the interest of flexibility, sensitivity, simplicity, and the balancing of legitimate interests.

The policy regarding the response and handling of an infectious disease can be accessed online at: http://sites.uco.edu/administration/policies-and-procedures1/policy-files/infectious_disease.pdf.

M. Medical Liability and Responsibility Notice

Whether enrolled in an on-campus class or in a University-sponsored internship, practicum, course, or activity involving domestic or foreign travel, the student is responsible for his or her own medical treatment and is liable for his or her actions. In the event of injury or illness while participating in a University-sponsored activity, the University cannot approve a claim for treatment or reimbursement.

The University does not offer a student health insurance plan. Students can enroll in a health insurance plan through the Marketplace website (uco.edu/StudentHealthPlans) and discover more information on dates and tips for health insurance on the Health Insurance page (uco.edu/HealthInsurance). More information on insurance is available in the Health and Wellness Clinic at UCO, Wellness Center, Room 105, (405) 974-2317. Each student is strongly encouraged to invest in the appropriate coverage.

VIII. UNIVERSITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

A. Services of the Center for Counseling and Well-Being

The Center for Counseling and Well-Being is a place where students can learn to deal with personal concerns, obtain support for managing the stressors of college, and receive support in coping with mental health challenges. For more information, please call or visit the Center for Counseling and Well-Being, Nigh University Center, Room 402, (405) 974-2215. You can also visit the Center for Counseling and Well-Being website at uco.edu/CounselingCenter.

With an approach of total wellness, The University of Central Oklahoma’s Center for Counseling and Well-Being works with students on enhancing their emotional health and abilities in managing all the stressors of college and the school-work-life balance. The Center for Counseling and Well-Being is a department within the Division of Student Affairs and is a place where students can learn to deal more effectively with personal concerns or situations, such as coping with friendships, divorce or a break-up, anxiety, depression, academic difficulties, career change, identity, support for LGBTQ, grief, stress, and adjustment to college life.

The Center for Counseling and Well-Being helps students resolve emotional difficulties, improve personal skills, overcome the effects of trauma or grief, decrease substance use and achieve their intellectual, personal and creative potential. The Center for Counseling and Well-Being provides individual services and group workshops. Additionally, the Center for Counseling and Well-Being offers Case Management to students in need of a range of assistance related to transportation, health insurance, housing, food, clothing, etc.

The Center for Counseling and Well-Being’s Health and Promotion Outreach team conducts outreach and education on all areas of mental well-being in the classrooms, for student groups, with faculty, or in other areas that serve our campus community. Services are available to currently enrolled students of UCO only, however, the staff will work with non-students (those considering enrollment, spouses of students, etc) to connect with resources in our community.

Group services include substance education (Choices and Change), substance abuse recovery (SMART Recovery), Coping Skills, Grief Support, Seeking Strength, Anger Management, and DBT Skills Group.

Additionally, the Center for Counseling and Well-Being provides confidential services such as comprehensive alcohol and drug assessments and treatment planning to currently enrolled UCO students. More details about the various programs and services as well as free online self-assessments can be found on the ADAP website: uco.edu/AlcoholDrugHelp.

The Center for Counseling and Well-Being is located in Nigh University Center, Room 402, and is open between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding university holidays. All services are free and confidential to currently enrolled students. To schedule an appointment or to obtain more information, please call 405-974-2215 or visit the Center for Counseling and Well-Being website, uco.edu/CounselingCenter.

The Center for Counseling Well-Being website contains screening and assessment tools that can be completed anonymously. Assessment tools help a student review substance abuse behaviors, depression, anxiety, and eating disorders. For more information, refer to uco.edu/
The University of Central Oklahoma does not carry insurance for the theft of personal property. If personal property has been stolen from you, we recommend contacting UCO Police if you are on campus or the local police department if you are off-campus. It is important to file a police report as soon as possible to aid in the recovery of your property and to assist in the investigation.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact UCO Police at (405) 974-3161 or visit uco.edu/UCOPolice.
suggested you contact your insurance agent for possible coverage under your homeowner’s, automobile, or renter’s insurance. The UCO Police Department unit provides a copy of the incident report to your insurance company at their request. Residents of UCO Housing facilities that do not have insurance coverage through a parent/guardian homeowner’s policy are encouraged to seek Renter’s insurance which is reasonably priced by most insurance companies doing business in Oklahoma.

f) UCO Police Department coordinates their criminal investigations with and/or furnishes information to other law enforcement agencies. If the offense took place on-campus, it is generally not necessary for you to also report it to another law enforcement agency. In doubt, however, ask the investigating officer.

g) If the investigation is successful and an offender is identified and/or property recovered, UCO Police Department will need your continued cooperation. You will be required to make positive identification of the property. It may be necessary to hold the item(s) in police custody until the investigation or criminal prosecution is completed. UCO Police Department will assist you through each step of the process.

h) If you are the victim or witness to a crime, UCO Police Department will do everything possible to solve the crime and apprehend the offender. If you would like additional crime prevention material or assistance, please call UCO Police Department at (405) 974-2345.

F. Behavioral Assessment Team (BAT)

The mission of the UCO Behavioral Assessment Team (BAT) is to refer members of the Central community (students, faculty, and staff) who may be experiencing personal crisis or demonstrating behaviors that may be early warning signs of possible disruptive or violent behavior to appropriate campus resources. The BAT’s goal is to intervene at the earliest possible indication and facilitate successful resolution of concern. The focus of the team is to care for students, faculty, and staff members who may be in distress. Team members coordinate resources and implement a multidisciplinary response with the goal of providing assistance to the individual while mitigating risk in an effort to keep the UCO community healthy and safe.

To alert the BAT about a person of concern, please call (405) 974-2364 during normal business hours or visit uco.edu/bat.

In an emergency, when a person may be about to harm themselves or another person, please contact the UCO Police Department at (405) 974-2345 or call 9-1-1.

An additional resource for community members is the Call SAM (Student Assistance by Health and Wellness) helpline. The 24/7, toll-free helpline service can be reached by calling 855-225-25AM (2627). Students may also call 2-1-1, a community-based resource, referral, and crisis support line. Both of the aforementioned options provide support for issues like substance abuse, mental or emotional well-being and family crises, and is managed by behavioral health providers and medical providers trained in mental health issues.

G. Commuter Student Services

The Office of Commuter Student Services acts as an advocate for commuter and nontraditional students’ issues, while providing multiple and necessary resources to ensure that commuter and nontraditional students become more active and engaged participants within their communities. The Office of Commuter Student Services provides various services to commuter and nontraditional students, such as assistance with employment opportunities, childcare listings, off-campus housing guides and options, Carpool and Rideshare Program information, Commuter Meal Program information, and numerous other resources. The Office of Commuter Student Services is located in the Nigh University Center, 115, (405) 974-3655. For more information regarding the Office of Commuter Student Services, please visit the website at uco.edu/commute.

H. Housing and Dining Services Options

For detailed information about on-campus living options, learning communities, meal plan options, and leadership opportunities, visit the Housing and Dining Services website at http://sites.uclo.edu/administration/housing or contact the Housing and Dining Services Office at (405) 974-2746 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

I. Housing Room Personalization Policies

1. Furniture
   a) No university-owned furniture or equipment may be removed from the room. Suite, or apartment. Residents may bring furniture from home as long as no university furniture leaves the room/apartment. Any additional furniture must not restrict exiting from any portion of the room or be a safety hazard to persons walking around the room.
   b) Waterbeds are prohibited in all housing facilities.
   c) Furniture left in rooms after a resident moves out will be discarded, and charge will be added to the residents’ account.
   d) All beds, excluding 1000 building of University Commons, can be lofted. Residents are encouraged to consult with their RAs and Hall Directors for proper lofting equipment and guideline. Self-designed loft constructions or manufactured kits are prohibited.
   e) Alternations to any furniture, including but not limited to removal of safety features, is prohibited and subject to disciplinary action and/or monetary fines.

2. Walls
   a) Nails, screws, double-stick tape or duct tape, in or on the walls, ceilings, or furniture is prohibited. Masking tape, white poster putty, 3M Command strips or other temporary mounting devices are recommended for hanging posters and other decorations. Although recommended, these mounting devices do not excuse any damages done to the room. Residents will be
charged for any damages or residues left on walls or surface of their rooms.

b) Painting walls or other surfaces is prohibited. No more than 20% of each wall space may be covered.

c) Decorations are encouraged as long as they do not create health hazards, fire hazards or damage to the room.

3. Decorations
If residents decorate their rooms or floor, these guidelines must be followed:

a) All materials used (i.e. paper, foil) must be flame resistant
b) Trees and other greenery must be artificial and flame resistant
c) Lights must be UL-approved and of low wattage
d) Fire alarm pull stations, fire extinguisher cabinets, smoke detectors, and exit signs must not be covered and exits must not be blocked.

4. Doors and Ceilings
No decorations may be placed on any door or ceiling of a residents’ room. This includes hanging anything from the doorknob or ceiling. Whiteboards may be placed directly beside but not on the room door.

5. Windows and Screen Removal
No window display may be permitted if it substantially detracts from the aesthetics of the residence hall. Decisions regarding appropriateness are up to each facility’s Hall Director. Removal of Screens is prohibited. Removal of screens from residence halls rooms/apartment will result in a minimum reinstallation charge of $25.00.

6. Darts and Dartboards
Due to potential for personal injury and property damage, darts and dartboards are not permitted at any time in hallways or residents’ rooms, suites, or apartments.

7. Exercise and Fitness Equipment
Exercise/Fitness equipment in excess of twenty-five (25) pounds are not permitted in residence halls. Students are responsible for any damage caused by their exercise and fitness equipment.

8. Candles and Candle Warmers
Possession and use of candles, candle warmers, Sterno, Scentsy’s, Incense, and wax burners are prohibited. University Housing staff reserves the right to confiscate and dispose of all such items due to potential fire hazard candles and incense create. Open flames of any kind are prohibited.

9. Electrical Appliances
a) Permitted Appliances:
   All electrical devices and appliances must be UL approved. Visit the UL website at www.ul.com for more information.

   Desk lamps (no halogen bulbs), computers, radios, stereos, television, VCRs, DVD players, clocks, irons, curling irons, razors, heating blankets, surge protectors, and protected multi-plugs (must have protected light indicator and on/off switch-only one per room) toothbrushes, coffee makers, and tea kettles (with automatic shut off functions) microwave, rice cookers, crock pots with a protected light indicator and on/off switch, toasters with timers and protected on/off light indicators, blenders, and refrigerators. Refrigerators 4.5 cubic feet or smaller and microwaves that are 700 watts or less are permitted in the residence halls; only one refrigerator and microwave allowed per room. Multi-plug power strips and protected multi-plugs are also permitted.

   Permitted Electrical Appliances (University Commons ONLY):

   George Foreman Grill (must be used under the oven hood), griddles (must be used under the oven hood), crock-pots, slow cookers and toaster convection ovens.

   For inquiries about items not listed, residents should contact their Hall Director. For items not approved will be confiscated by an authorized Housing staff member.

b) Prohibited Appliances:

   Hot plates, space heaters, halogen lamps, sun lamps, woks, electrical potpourri pots, and candle warmers, Scentsy, extension cords, multi-plugs or other electrical splitters (without a protected light indicator and an on/off switch) air conditioners, personally installed ceiling fans, extension cords, multi-plug covers and splitters. Additionally, any cooking, lighting, heating and cooling devices or appliances that may 1) pose health or safety concerns; 2) strain the electrical capability of the facility; and 3) include an exposed heating element

   This is not a complete list. Hall Directors must approve exemptions to the policy.

10. Floor/Welcome Mats

   Floor “welcome” mats are prohibited in areas where they may cause a tripping hazard, such as hallways.

11. Cinder Blocks

   Cinder blocks are prohibited in residents’ rooms, suites and apartments. Bed risers may be utilized as they typically do not cause any damage to floors and surfaces.

J. Housing Community Standards

1. Guests

   a) Guests are defined as individuals who are not contractual residents of a specific room. All guests must have an escort (a contractual occupant of that
3. Visitation
   a) Visitation policies apply specifically to guests of the opposite gender, indicating the time frame which guests may visit a resident’s room. The visitation policy also applies to hallways and stairwells; all visitors must use gender appropriate bathroom and shower facilities as if they lived in that room/aptartment. Visitation hours are as follows:
   b) West Hall, The Quad, Murdaugh Hall and University Suites:
      Sunday through Thursday 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM (midnight)
      Friday and Saturday: 10:00 AM – 1:00 AM
   c) The University Commons have 24-hour visitation

4. Quiet/Courtesy Hours
   a) Quiet hours are maintained to help provide an atmosphere that is conducive to good scholarship and to promote an environment where individuals can learn from the experience of group living.
   b) Housing Designated Quiet Hours:
      Sunday through Thursday: 10:00 PM – 10:00AM
      Friday and Saturday: 12:00 AM (midnight) – 10:00AM
   c) Courtesy hours are in effect throughout the residence halls twenty-four (24) hours a day. Therefore, excessive noise, as determined by affected students, is discouraged at all times. Residents of each floor/building are expected to deal with any problems of noise that may arise through communication, floor meetings, or consultation with the RA. If a problem persists, residents who violate quiet hours are subject to disciplinary action. Beginning the week before final exams each semester, quiet hours are extended to twenty-four (24) hours a day until all finals are completed.

5. Unsanitary and Disorderly Conditions
   Unsanitary and disorderly conditions that may cause potential health or safety hazards to the resident and/or the surrounding residence hall community are prohibited. This includes, but are not limited to, excess trash, unclean rooms/ common areas, and blocked entrance/exits. The fine for unsanitary conditions is $100.00.

6. Door to Door Sales/Recruitment
   Soliciting or going door to door of any kind is prohibited unless the activity has been authorized by the UCO Housing Office. Examples include going door to door selling magazines or knocking on doors asking students to vote in upcoming elections. Residents are encouraged to call the housing staff or UCOPD, (405) 974-2345 immediately if they observe any individual(s) soliciting or going door to door in a University residential facility.

7. Pets
   Residents are not allowed to have pets of any kind, with the exception of fish in a clean, odor-free aquarium. Each resident is allowed to have one (1) aquarium that is ten (10) gallons or less inside their residence hall. Multiple fish may be housed inside the aquariums. Feeding and temporarily keeping animals in or around living areas is also prohibited. Residents who do so may be subject to a fine, cleaning and fumigation fees, as well as possible disciplinary action.

8. Sports and Activities
   Playing sports or other physical strenuous and competitive games in Housing facilities, which include, but are not limited to Frisbee, golf, soccer, field hockey, football, basketball, baseball, croquet, lacrosse, in-line skating, bicycle, water fights, running activities, or skateboarding are prohibited.
**NOTEWORTHY CHANGES**

**Additions:**
- Table of Contents
  - Table of Contents has been updated to reflect changes in section lettering and added sections.
- Section III.
  - Section III. C., “Student Conduct Process Overview” was added.
  - Section III. L., “Statement on Self-Defense” was added.
  - Section III. W., “Notice of Final Outcome” was added.

**Updates:**
- Section I.
  - Section I. C. - The term “handicap” was added.
- Section II.
  - The referenced sections in definitions were updated to reflect changes in lettering and numbering.
  - The definition for the term “student” was updated.
  - The definition for the term “student organization or student group” was updated.
  - The definition for the term “policy” was updated.
  - The definition for the term “force” was updated.
  - The definition for the term “coercion” was updated.
  - The definition for the term “event” was updated.
- Section III.
  - Due to new additions in section III., the section lettering and numbering was updated.
  - Section III. B. - The description of “Scope of University Authority” was updated.
  - Section III. G. - The section “Civil Conduct” was removed and changed to “Admission and Readmission of Student Applicants with Felony Records.”
  - A link to more information about the Student Applicant Review Board was added.
  - Section III. H. 2. - The description of “Acts of Dishonesty” was updated.
  - Section III. H. 8. - The description of “Hazing” was updated.
  - Section III. H. 14. - The description was updated in light of changes to state law.
  - Section III. H. 20. - The description of “False Reports” was updated.
  - Section III. N. - “Suspensions” section was changed to “Temporary Remedies and Sanctions.” The description was also updated.
  - Section III. P. - “Procedural Advisors” section was changed to “Advisors.” The description was also updated.
  - An option for additional support person for assistance was added.
  - Section III. Q. - The description of “Informal Hearings” was updated.
  - Section III. R. - The description of “ Formal Hearings” was updated.
  - An option for additional support person for was added.
- Potential formal pre-hearing requirements of witnesses and advisor was updated.
- Section III. S.
  - “Notice of Final Outcome” section was changed to “Notice of Initial Findings and Outcomes.”
- Section III. T. 1. f.
  - “Loss of Privileges” was updated.
- Section III. T. 1. l.
  - “No Contact Order” was updated.
- Section III. T. 1. r.
  - “Temporary Suspension” was updated.
- Section III. T. 1. s.
  - “University Suspension” was updated.
- Section III. T. 1. t.
  - “University Expulsion” was updated.
- Section III. U.
  - “Appeal Requests” was updated.
- Section IV.
  - Section IV. D., “including, but not limited to teaching resources or test banks” was added.
  - Section IV. E., language was updated.
- Section V.
  - Section V.B., “Student Organization Facility Utilization Policies” was changed to “UCO Facility Utilization Policies.” The description was also updated.
  - Section V. I., “Initiation of New Members” was removed and changed to “Hazing – University Policy Statement.” The description was also updated.
  - Section V. J., “Oklahoma Law Against Hazing” was changed to “Hazing – Oklahoma Law.” The description was also updated.
  - Section V. M., “Social Functions” was changed to “Student Organization Events.” The description was also updated.
  - Section V. N., the description was updated.
  - The term “Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life” was changed to “Office of Student Engagement.”
- Section VI.
  - Section VI. K., contact information for Employee Relations was updated.
  - Section VI. O., contact information for Ongoing Prevention and Awareness Campaigns was updated.
- Section VII.
  - Section VII. B., contact information for pregnant and parenting students was added.
  - Section VII. E., “Weapons Policy Statement” was updated.
  - Section VII. G., “Technology and Network Usage Policy” was updated.
  - Section VII. H., “Severe Weather and Emergency Procedures” was updated.
  - Section VII. J., “Emergency Notification Protocol” was updated.
- Section VIII.
  - Section VIII. A., “Services of the Center for Counseling and Well-Being” was updated.
Character, Rights, and Responsibilities