



COMMUNITY STANDARDS & STUDENT CONDUCT

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Division of Student Life



Promoting High Standards of Integrity & Accountability

College is about learning to make good choices. Community Standards and Student Conduct fosters a developmental approach to student conduct, provides support and guidance to the University community, and promotes the values and expectations of the University of Washington.

Integrity.
It's the Washington Way.

Our Story

College is about making decisions. But a successful college experience is about learning to make good decisions. In Community Standards and Student Conduct (CSSC), we work with students who are at decision-making crossroads, and help them navigate their way through self-examination, considering consequences, and clarifying values.

CSSC's mission is twofold. First, CSSC promotes student accountability through a developmental approach to working with students. Cultivating responsible, ethical behavior of the individual student, while contributing to a caring, civil campus and community, are keys to the mission of CSSC.

Student accountability is an educational process. In the disciplinary process, students are asked to examine the factors that contributed to their decision-making that resulted in a violation of the Student Conduct Code.

Secondly, CSSC partners with student leaders, student organizations, student government, and local neighborhood associations to advance students' understanding of their role as members of the greater community. CSSC works to ensure that students are knowledgeable about what it means to be responsible citizens in their neighborhoods. We believe UW students make good neighbors, and CSSC works to promote that to the greater community.

Community Standards and Student Conduct recognizes that the college experience is about making choices. The mission of CSSC is to help students maximize their academic success at the University of Washington by making responsible, ethical choices.

Our Commitment

Access – University of Washington students are held to high standards of ethics, integrity and accountability through the Student Code of Conduct (WAC 478 120). Through individual intervention, CSSC works with students to remove barriers to their success by helping them to identify roadblocks and to create new pathways for decision-making in the future.

Engagement – Learning to live as responsible adults in the context of our campus community is critical to students' continued success as future leaders in their chosen fields. The experience of identifying, internalizing and articulating community expectations is a key component of engagement.

Diversity – All students are held to the same standards of conduct and accountability. CSSC honors students' diverse backgrounds and meets students where they are in their individual identity development. Each and every student is treated with the respect they deserve as members of our community. CSSC encourages cross cultural understanding through individualized interventions.

Care – Care is a value exercised throughout our interactions with students, faculty, staff, and community members. We participate twice weekly in the Student Life Consultation and Assessment Team to address students of concern. In addition, CSSC serves on the Violence Prevention and Assessment Team, a group comprised for the purposes of assessing risk and responding to situations in which potential harm is involved.

Student Learning – A primary purpose of CSSC is to safeguard the learning environment by upholding the University's standards for student behavior. Students evaluate the consequences of their actions and choices and the impacts to themselves and the community. Through this process, students gain greater awareness of self and develop a sense of purpose and civic responsibility. We strive to help students develop lifelong skills which will contribute to their success in their neighborhoods and communities in the future.

Quick Facts

- Provided disciplinary clearance reviews for 2,500 students studying abroad.
- Conducted 1000 disciplinary clearance reviews for students applying to Law Schools, Graduate Schools, transferring schools or background checks for government employment.

Quick Facts *continued*

Student Conduct

- In 2009-2010 CSSC held 193 students accountable for violations of the Student Conduct Code.
- 29 cases were high level, involving physical harm or threats of physical harm.
- Provided educational programs on the Student Conduct Code to faculty and staff from 12 different departments.
- Assisted Colleges and Schools with interpreting and developing policies consistent with the Student Conduct Code.
- Developed a new Study Abroad Student Conduct Code with Office of Global Affairs.
- Trained the University Disciplinary Committee.
- Consulted with 30 faculty regarding students of concern.

Community Standards

- Launched the Husky Principles, a set of expectations and guidelines for what it means to be a member of the UW Community.
- Supervised 6 students who participated in the Husky Neighborhood Assistants program, serving the approximate 6000 students living in the north of 45th community.
- Developed a Safety Campaign aimed at increasing awareness using risk reduction strategies in the North of 45th community.
- Distributed over 750 monthly newsletters to residents.
- Conducted Nightwalk Safety Audit examining safety issues such as malfunctioning streetlights, dangerous overgrowth, and uneven sidewalks.
- Led a MLK Day of Service project in the North of 45th neighborhood and recruited over 35 volunteers.

Efficiencies

Community Standards and Student Conduct was created in order to respond more efficiently to Student Conduct issues, and to marry reactive student judicial services with proactive community development. Since its inception, CSSC has been pivotal in increasing knowledge and services for student behavioral issues and emergent student needs.

CSSC has also helped centralize support for our neighbors North of 45th. We created the Husky Neighborhood Assistants program, a partnership with the Office of Regional Affairs and Carlson Leadership Center, to increase communication with the surrounding community and provide leadership opportunities for students. The result has been an increase in positive communication and partnership.

We have worked with our colleagues at UW Tacoma and UW Bothell to establish learning outcomes for students, increase assessment of student outcomes, and to explore ways to maximize limited resources.

Challenges & Opportunities

The growth rate of student conduct cases is approaching levels that will exceed the capacity of Community Standards and Student Conduct.

Student Conduct cases have increased 28% in the past academic year.

CSSC was envisioned as 3FTE department. Current budget constraints have prevented the addition of staff to meet increasing demand for services.

Further budget cuts in Community Standards and Student Conduct will result in reduced availability of staff to respond to campus concerns and student conduct. CSSC will reduce hours of operation even as we are seeing an increase in demand.

The current Student Conduct Code (WAC 478-120) is difficult to interpret for both students and faculty. It does not efficiently meet the needs of the campus community.

Symplix Corporation's Advocate product is an online software package that can help tie a wide variety of services and programs together, increasing efficiency and effectiveness in collaboration and coordination for student conduct, student behavior, and students of concern. There is widespread support for the program, but funding will be an ongoing concern.



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