Student Conduct

Ethical standards for personal conduct complement standards of academic quality and integrity to ensure a robust learning community. The University is ethically committed to creating a classroom and campus environment in which participants, both students and instructors can freely explore and express ideas and points of view as part of the process of engaged learning.

Fundamental to this learning process is a respect for difference. Because students bring very particular histories, experiences, and ways of knowing to the classroom, all can benefit from authentic interaction with one another. Free and vigorous inquiry depends on appropriate respect for all participants, especially when diverse points of view are presented in open debate.

Respectful conduct is expected of students on the campus at all times, both inside and outside the classroom. The use of cell phones and other personal electronic communication devices in the classroom is prohibited. The use of personal laptop computers in the classroom is encouraged, but only for appropriate academic purposes.

Those engaged in intern and trainee placements in professional settings need to be aware of and adhere to ethical standards in the professions they are being trained to enter. MAE/TC students should consult the Student Teaching Handbook for guidelines on student conduct in school placements. MAP students should consult the Clinical Training Handbook for professional codes of ethics governing work in clinical training placements.

USMA students can find their code of conduct guidelines in the fieldwork planning materials. Students are responsible for following these codes.

General Guidelines for Student Conduct

Students must not engage in any conduct that:

- Impairs the reasonable freedom of other persons to pursue their studies, duties or lawful activities in the University or to participate in the life of the University; or
- Is detrimental to the operation of the University or causes damage to University property, or the environment or ecology on University property; or
- Violates federal, state or local law; or
- Violates University policy, or
- Violates ethical standards in a field or professional setting, or
- Is otherwise deemed to be inappropriate.

Inappropriate conduct

Inappropriate conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Disrupting any teaching, study, assessment or research activities or the administration of the University;
- Obstructing any officer or employee of the University in the performance of his or her duties;
- Damaging or misusing any property, including intellectual property, which is:
  (a) under the control of the University; and/or
  (b) on University premises; and/or
  (c) at a location where a student is present under the auspices of the University.
- Disobeying any lawful instruction of an employee of the University, including failing to leave any building or part of a building when directed to do so
- Threatening, intimidating or disorderly behavior
- Endangering the health or safety of a person
- Verbal abuse, sexual harassment, physical or sexual assault, or any other form of abuse or harassment
- Compromising the privacy of an individual
- Compromising the confidentiality of information

Referral of allegations of inappropriate conduct

- Any officer, student or member of the University community or public may immediately refer an instance of suspected inappropriate conduct to the police or other relevant emergency service where circumstances warrant
- Allegations of inappropriate conduct on the part of a student received by the University shall normally be submitted to the Student Conduct Officer.

Click here for the complete text of the student conduct policy.