

University of Oregon Student Conduct Code: Off Campus Jurisdiction Information

In September 2014, the UO Board of Trustees approved changes to the UO Student Code of Conduct addressing student conduct off-campus. These changes had been considered by the Student Conduct and Community Standards Committee (which includes student representatives), the University Senate, and the President. These changes include the ability of the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (SCCS) to respond to off-campus student behaviors that are a violation of the student conduct code and adversely and significantly affect the living or learning environment. These changes are designed to align with practices that focus on the educational purpose of the Student Conduct Code.

Q and A:

Q: What situations could result in a student being held accountable for behavior that occurs off-campus?

A: The revised Student Code of Conduct allows the code to be applied off campus to any behavior that it could be applied on campus. In order for the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (SCCS) to take jurisdiction of an incident off-campus, the following requirements must be met:

- 1) the accused party is a UO student, AND
- 2) the behavior would be a violation of the student conduct code had the incident occurred on campus

AND

- 3) the alleged behavior negatively affects the living or learning environment OR
- 4) there are health and safety concerns for the university community.

Q: Why does the university sanction behavior that happened off campus?

A: The university has an interest in maintaining a safe community and appropriate standards of conduct for all students. Off-campus behavior may have an impact on the university community and students are accountable for meeting our conduct standards no matter where they are.

Q: What type of off-campus behaviors might cause the SCCS to initiate conduct proceedings?

A: The code applies to any off-campus behavior that could be charged on campus.

In terms of behaviors that affect neighborhood livability, students may be sanctioned for illegal activity for which students are warned or cited by a law enforcement agency, including the Oregon Liquor Control Commission. Citations may include:

- Disorderly Conduct
- Prohibited Noise
- Minor in Possession (MIP)
- Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor
- Allowing Alcohol Consumption to Minors
- Interfering with a Police Officer
- Open Container or consumption in Public
- Unruly Gathering
- Rioting
- Public Urination
- Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUI)

Q: What is a typical sanction for these types of violations?

A: It varies on a case-by-case basis. Sanctions are focused on education and prevention. Situations involving repeat offenses, danger to the community, or very serious violations of the code, may result in suspension or expulsion.

Q: When is restorative justice a possible option?

A: Currently, UO students who are cited for Unruly Gathering may be offered the option of participating in a restorative justice process facilitated by the UO through the Eugene Municipal Court. Through the use of educational and collaborative processes, the UO Restorative Justice Program (UORJ) serves to:

- Acknowledge and address the needs of those harmed by violations and the impacts they've experienced
- Repair harm to the greatest extent possible
- Build community
- Advance student learning
- Reduce recidivism of harmful behavior

When a student successfully completes the restorative justice process, the charge is removed from the student's municipal record. This option may expand to additional situations soon.

Q: Can I report an off campus violation of the code of conduct? How do I do so?

A: All community members, including students, may report suspected student misconduct online at <http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards.aspx>

Q: Can I submit a report anonymously? Can I submit it if I don't know the student's name?

A: Yes. However, if more identifying information is received, it is the easier to investigate and reach a positive resolution.

Q: Will the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards sanction every student for every municipal, state or other off-campus violation they receive?

A: Not necessarily. While the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards is allowed to impose sanctions for any violation of the code, the student conduct process is an educational process focused on student development. The focus is on helping students learn from mistakes and becoming respectful members of the UO and larger community. Often restorative justice and community service can be options for sanctions. Sometimes diversion/educational classes for alcohol and drug related offenses are an option. However, serious violations and crimes, including sexual assault, are of grave concern to the University, and will result in sanctions that may affect a student's academic status.

Q: Will having a conduct violation on a student's record keep that student from getting a job?

A: The student conduct process and related student records are private and protected by federal law. A student's record cannot be released without the student's permission.

Q: How likely is a student to be suspended or expelled for off campus behavior?

A: These sanctions are used only in exceptional circumstances.

Q: If a student gets a ticket from a local law enforcement agency will it be sent automatically to the conduct office?

A: No. However some agencies, at their discretion, do indeed share information and those incidents are forwarded to the conduct office.

Q: If a student is charged with a crime, why would they also have a conduct violation? Isn't that double jeopardy?

A: Double jeopardy only applies to criminal cases. Conduct violations are not covered by criminal statutes, and thus the double jeopardy clause does not apply.