

Proposed Code of Student Conduct Changes Executive Summary

The current version of the Montana State University [Code of Student Conduct](#) (Code), was last updated in November 2019. Over the course of the last year, the Office of the Dean of Students, in cooperation with a number of campus partners, has worked to create proposed changes to the Code to better align with the current University, best practices, and to improve efficiency and service to the University Community. While at first glance this proposed version may look completely different, we believe there are no major substantive changes to the conduct process or policies. The primary objective throughout our work was to better clarify the expectations and rights of MSU students and streamline the procedures identified in the Code.



Some of the changes in the proposed Code include:

- Items in the Code not related to student expectations were removed (e.g., faculty expectations). The Code is a document that outlines the expectations and procedures for students. These faculty responsibilities are encompassed in the [Faculty Handbook](#) and [Non-Tenure Track Collective Bargaining Agreement](#).
- A definition section was added to improve the understanding of key pieces and roles outlined throughout the Code.
- The Code was clarified to better define and identify when students could be disciplined, including alleged violations that occur off campus.
- Certain sections of the Code were combined for efficiency and ease of reading.
- Highlighted adjustments to student conduct policies include:
 - While several sections saw minor adjustments, modernizations, and updates, the sections on Hazing and Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Offenses saw a greater amount of clarification. However, the expectations of students within these sections remain consistent.
 - Incidents of the [Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation \(DHR\) Policy](#) that fail to meet the jurisdiction of the MSU DHR Policy can be adjudicated by the Office of the Dean of Students under the Code.
- The student conduct procedures and appeals sections saw larger adjustments compared to previous versions. The purpose was to achieve some of the following objectives:
 - Several sections and processes were combined to improve the readability and understanding of conduct processes and appeal processes.
 - A majority of timelines were shortened using technology for quicker and more efficient services. The goal is to assist students with resolving any pending conduct cases and appeals more quickly.
 - While student rights remain the same, the student conduct procedures were clarified. This version better explains the process step by step, refers to the language more commonly use, and greatly improves the ease for individuals to review and understand the student conduct process.