

The Student Bill of Rights

Article I: Freedoms in the Classroom

Section I. Freedom of Expression

Freedom of expression in the classroom is encouraged and protected at Concord University. It is the responsibility of the classroom instructor to facilitate the orderly presentation of individual viewpoints as they pertain to the subject matter at hand and as time permits. It is especially important to allow the expression of views that may differ from those presented by the instructor or those professed by the majority of students.

Section II. Protection Against Improper Academic Evaluation

Students are responsible for maintaining standards for academic performance established for organizations and courses of which they are a part. At the same time, they should have protection against prejudiced or capricious academic evaluation. Students shall be evaluated on an academic basis as determined by Concord University. To provide this protection, Concord University recommends that students who feel they have received an unfair final grade to:

First, meet with the instructor of that course to discuss concerns. After full discussion with the instructor, if the question remains, consult the chairperson of the department in which the course is offered.

If a student considers their grade to be prejudiced or capricious, a grade appeal must be made in writing, along with appropriate evidence, to the Dean of the college in which the course resides. The Dean will investigate the claim to learn all he or she can prior to making a ruling in the matter. The Dean will submit his or her decision in writing to the student, the instructor, and the department chairperson. The Dean will also arrange with the registrar to alter the student's final course grade should that be determined necessary. Decisions of the Dean in such matters is final.

Section III. Protection of Access to Faculty

Students are responsible for maintaining professional correspondences and conduct with faculty. At the same time, faculty are responsible for maintaining a protection of their students' ability to access them during set office hours, as the instructor's schedule allows, or through other professional means of correspondence.

Section IV. Protection Against Improper Disclosure

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), any personally, identifiable information from a student's education records, without the consent of a parent or

eligible student, is considered confidential. However, educational records and other personal information can be shared with University officials, and “directory information” can be shared to third-parties by the University. “Directory information” includes:

- Student’s Name
- Local and Permanent address
- Telephone Number(s)
- Major field of study (including second majors, minors, etc.)
- Whether a student is currently enrolled
- Enrollment status (full-time, half-time, etc.)
- Class (freshman, sophomore, etc.)
- Academic level (associate, undergraduate, graduate, professional)
- Anticipated graduation date
- Certification of application for degree
- Dates of enrollment
- Degree(s) earned, including date, honors, and level of distinction • Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams.

Protection against improper disclosure is a serious professional obligation upheld by all members of the Concord University community.

Article II: Freedoms in Student Life

Section I. Freedom of Association

Students are free to organize, join, and promote campus associations/organizations/clubs to promote their common interests. All campus organizations are required to maintain the following protections and rights:

- A. The membership, policies, and actions of a student organization will be determined by a vote of only Concord University students wishing to join.
- B. Each student organization shall be free to choose its own advisor. Campus advisors may advise organizations in the exercise of responsibility, but they do not have authority to control the policy of such organization or the power to vote in the organization’s functions.
- C. Campus organizations shall be open to all students without respect to race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, creed, national origin, or religious belief.

Section II. Freedom of Inquiry and Expression

Students and their organizations shall be free to examine and to discuss all questions of interest to them, and to express opinions publicly and privately. They shall be free to support causes by

orderly means, which do not disrupt the regular and essential operations of the University. At the same time, it must be made clear to the academic and the larger community that in their public expressions or demonstrations, students or student organizations speak for themselves.

Section III. Freedom in Student Government

As constituents of the academic community, students shall be free, individually, and collectively, to express their views on issues of University policy and on matters of general interest of the student body. All students have the right to participate in the Concord University Student Government Association, and this right to participation shall be outlined by the Concord University Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws.

Section IV. Freedom of Safety

Students have the right to a safe and healthy learning environment, sufficient lighting in all campus areas, including parking areas during the evening hours, and safe access to campus facilities.

Section V. Freedom of Counseling

Students have the right to access educational, career, and mental health counseling from professionals that can accommodate the current enrollment as fiscal restraints allow.

Section VI. Protection of Privacy

Students have the right to the security and privacy of their dormitory rooms, persons, and personal possessions; additionally, they shall be free from unreasonable search and seizure without reasonable suspicion. No closed item owned by any student will be searched without the student's consent unless there is reasonable suspicion that the closed item contains an item or substance which poses a danger to the Concord University community.

Section VII. Freedom of Assembly

Students shall have the right to peacefully assemble, by legal means in non-restricted areas of campus, if those demonstrations do not impede access to or disrupt the normal functions of Concord University as a higher-education institution.

Article III: Student Conduct

Section I. Responsibility of Student Conduct

Students, as members of the Concord University community, have the responsibility to uphold the Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook and follow all policies created by Concord University. To maintain the rights listed in this document, students hold the responsibility to exercise these rights in a manner which will uphold the highest moral and ethical standards of the University.

Section II. Presumption of Innocence

Students must assume full responsibility for their actions as adults. In situations in which they may appear to have departed from the high standards of conduct expected of all members of the Concord University Community, students are entitled to due process investigations, in the course of which they will be presumed innocent until proven in violation of University policy.

Section III. Right to Due Process

- A. Right to a Fair Hearing by Students
- B. Right to Proper Notice
- C. Right to Representation by the Student Advocate
- D. Right to Appeal

Article IV: University Transparency

Students shall have the right to be involved and be aware of the governance process and decisions that affects the educational system in which they participate. The Concord University administration is committed to maintaining a level of transparency with all members of the Concord community as allowed by federal, state, and university policy.