

Responsible Community Action Policy

The safety and well being of every member of the College community is the highest priority of the College. The College aims to provide assistance and support to members of its community at all times, and all students are expected to “Stand Up” for each other and take action by seeking assistance in the event of a medical emergency, or when they perceive that a member of the community may be in danger.

Although policy violations cannot be overlooked, since it is our shared responsibility that persons needing emergency care receive immediate attention, the College will consider the positive action of reporting incidents when determining the appropriate response for policy violations. This policy has been established to ensure that proper emergency assistance and intervention are not delayed due to the perceived fear of punitive action under the Student Code of Conduct.

In instances where students may require medical attention for possible alcohol or drug overdoses, and contact College authorities about the need for medical attention, **students under the legal drinking age who take affirmative action and “Stand Up” to seek assistance from College officials or emergency medical personnel for themselves or their fellow students who are in distress may be exempt from student conduct sanctions for the possession and consumption of alcohol by an underage student.**

This does not preclude conduct action for other violations of the Student Code of Conduct associated with underage drinking.

To fall under the scope of this policy, the student who seeks assistance must:

- remain where they are, or remain with the individual requiring emergency care;
- identify themselves to, provide information to, and comply with, the directives of the responding University Police officers or other College officials;
- agree to timely completion of recommended alcohol education activities, assessment and/or treatment such as BASICS (Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students.) Failure to complete the prescribed course of action may result in conduct action.

Conversely, the College will consider the failure to seek emergency assistance as a factor when determining the appropriateness of conduct action.

This exemption from a conduct sanction will normally be applied only on a one-time basis for a student who notifies College officials or emergency medical personnel, and the College reserves the right to implement this policy on a case-by-case basis.

Students should also be aware that this policy does not prevent action by law enforcement authorities who are not members of the University Police Department.

When a student may be a victim of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or other violence, our primary concern is to provide appropriate support for the victim, and for this support to be forthcoming, it is important that the incident be reported. Therefore, students who report that they are victims of sexual misconduct will not be charged with a Code of Conduct violation for behavior that otherwise would be considered a violation (for example underage alcohol or illegal drug consumption.)

In circumstances where an organization recognized or sponsored by the College is found to be hosting an event where emergency assistance is requested, the willingness to seek assistance may be viewed as a mitigating factor in determining group conduct sanctions.

Approved by College Council
5/10/13