

**STUDENT RIGHTS WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**  
**Approved by University Council May 19, 2014**

**Policy 11.1**

The University is committed to complying with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Admission to the university is open to anyone qualified according to published admissions standards and resource limitations.

***Access to Higher Education.*** The University must make available to all students publications which denote academic and behavioral standards required of all who register at this institution.

***Freedom from Discrimination.*** Students shall be treated on an equal basis in all areas and activities of the University regardless of race, color, sex, genetic information, religion, age, national origin, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected status. Additionally, for purposes of this Policy, the term “Protected Class” includes sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

***Freedom of Speech, Expression, and Association.*** The rights of free speech, expression, and association, as defined by the Constitution of the United States and developed by statutory laws and judicial decisions, are guaranteed to every member of the university community.

***Rights of Privacy.*** A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this privacy will be observed by students and the university officials alike. See “Confidentiality of Records” FERPA for more information.

***Rights of Due Process.***

Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university regulations shall be assured procedural due process. At the discipline hearings, an accused student shall be assumed innocent until found responsible, and in the initial hearing, the burden of proof shall rest with those bringing the charges. In all proceedings, the student shall be guaranteed substantive and procedural due process.

***Participation in Policy Development.*** University policy guarantees the right of students to participate in the initiation and development of university policy through shared governance.

***Policy in Decision-Making.*** Students have the right to have their views considered at appropriate levels of the decision-making process within the university community.

***Student Organizations.*** The university recognizes the right of students to form organizations not forbidden by federal laws, state laws, or university policy. Student organizations must be registered and approved through the procedures established in "Student Organizations Policies" designated in these policies.

Student Publications. Student publications may deal with issues of interest and importance to the university community. At the same, the editorial freedom of student editors and managers entails corollary responsibilities to be governed by the canons of responsible journalism, such as the avoidance of libel, indecency, undocumented allegations, attacks on personal integrity, and the techniques of harassment and innuendo.

### **Student Responsibilities Within the University Community**

A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, the staff and the administration.

A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published university policies and procedures and to comply with them and the laws of the land.

A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire university community. If a student violates any university policy or procedure, the student will be subject to due process of university policy regardless of any civil or criminal actions that may be pending as a result of the same action.

The university reserves the right, through due process, to issue a warning, to suspend, or to dismiss any student for conduct that is harmful to members of the university community or damaging to the educational interests of the university.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

<https://www.uhcl.edu/dean-of-students/students/student-conduct>