

## 2. DEFINITIONS

## 3. RULES OF CONDUCT

Enumerated below are the specific prohibitions, policies and procedures of the Code that are the foundation for individual and group conduct at the University of San Diego (USD). As a member of the USD community, each student is responsible for understanding and following these standards, policies and procedures. Students are expected to model good citizenship and engage in respectful, responsible and appropriate conduct that is consistent with USD's mission and values, and reflects positively upon the USD community.

The following conduct is prohibited on University premises or at University events, wherever they may occur. *This same conduct, though occurring off University premises and not at University events, may nonetheless be subject to University sanctions when it adversely affects the University, its educational mission or its community.* Violation of these standards, policies and procedures may subject an individual or group to disciplinary action as determined by the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students or his or her designee, pursuant to the provisions of the Code.

1. Acts of dishonesty, including but not limited to the following:
  - a. Cheating, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty. Academic Integrity violations are managed under the USD Honor Code.
  - b. Forgery, alteration or misuse of any University document, record or instrument of identification.
  - c. Appropriation of institutional resources for personal advantage.
  - d. Tampering with the election of any University organized student organization.
  - e. Furnishing false information to any University official, faculty member or department.
2. Disruption of teaching, research, administration, conduct proceedings or any other institutional activity.
3. Any act of sexual misconduct or relationship violence, as defined in the [Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Process](#) or the [Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence Reporting and Response Standards and Protocols](#).
4. Abuse of any person, including but not limited to:
  - a. physical abuse,
  - b. threats,
  - c. verbal intimidation,
  - d. libel,
  - e. harassment,
  - f. stalking,
  - g. coercion,
  - h. cyberbullying
  - i. and/or other conduct which threatens the health or safety of any person, either in person or online/virtually.
5. Committing a hate crime or engaging in an act of intolerance in violation of University policy.
6. Attempted or actual theft or unauthorized use of the property of the University, or property of any member of the University community, or property being used for a University event or other personal or public property.
7. Damage or attempted damage to University property, to property of any member of the University community, to property being used for a University event or to other personal or public property.
8. Conduct that is disorderly, lewd, indecent or obscene.
9. Failure to comply with the direction of a University official or law enforcement officer who is acting in performance of their duties and/or the failure to identify oneself to any of these persons when requested to do so.
10. Climbing or any other unauthorized activity on the façades, ledges or roofs of University facilities.
11. Launching or dropping an object or substance from within or on a University structure or property.
12. Hazing, as defined by applicable law or by the University's [hazing policy](#) included in the Code.

### 13. Alcohol Policy

- a. Possession, consumption or sale of alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of 21 years on University property or at a University-sponsored event;
- b. Furnishing alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 21 years or having an open container in a public location when 21 or over on University property or at a University-sponsored event;
- c. Public display of intoxication on University property or at a University-sponsored event;
- d. Possession and/or utilization of devices for the rapid, high-risk consumption of alcohol including, but not limited to games with alcohol, funnels, beer pong accessories, beer bong, luges, etc., regardless of age;
- e. Driving on University property while under the influence of alcohol;
- f. Operating a motor or push-on vehicle while under the influence of alcohol;
- g. A student may be accountable for prohibited items documented in a shared space.

14. Use, possession, manufacture, cultivation or dissemination of illegal drugs or drug-related paraphernalia; being under the influence of illegal drugs; or the misuse of legal pharmaceutical drugs. Notwithstanding the California Compassionate Use Act of 1996, or any other California Law addressing the use of marijuana, the use, possession, manufacture, cultivation, dissemination or being under the influence of marijuana on University property or at University-related activities is prohibited. A student may be accountable for prohibited items documented in a shared space. CBD products as allowed by the Federal Farm Bill are permitted. A student seeking medical attention for themselves, or for another person, due to alcohol and other drug intoxication by contacting either University or local authorities might not be formally adjudicated for the associated rule of conduct by the University.

15. Violation of a Dining Services policy, rule or regulation.

16. Violation of a University parking or traffic policy, rule or regulation.

17. Violation of a University Information Technology Policy.

18. Violation of a Residential Life policy, rule or contract. (See Community Standards and Terms and Conditions)

19. Violation of any University policy listed in the University Policies section of the Code.

20. Unauthorized possession or use of a weapon on University property or in connection with a University activity. For the purpose of this policy, a "weapon" shall include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following: a firearm, pellet gun, skeet rifle, paint gun, potato gun, spear gun, slingshot, bow & arrow, air rifle, taser gun, explosive material (including fireworks), pistol, dagger, ice pick, retractable bladed knife, knife with a fixed blade longer than 2.5 inches used for any purpose other than food preparation and consumption, or any other form of weapon, self-defense instrument or ammunition used for any purpose. In addition, unauthorized possession or use of any weapon in violation of the California Penal Code (including but not limited to sections 626.10 and 16000 et seq.) shall constitute a violation of this rule of conduct. Similarly, use or possession of a laser pointer in violation of California Penal Code section 417.27 or other applicable law shall constitute a violation of this rule of conduct. Possession of a laser of 5 milliwatts (5/1000 of a watt) or more on University property or in connection with a University activity requires the advance written approval of the Assistant Vice President/Dean of Students (or designee).

21. Violating campus fire safety or security through setting or behavior leading to an unauthorized fire; creating a fire hazard; failing to attend to or completely extinguish an authorized fire; misusing, disabling, damaging or tampering with fire safety equipment; reporting or creating a false fire alarm; failing to vacate a building or entering a building during a fire alarm; re-entering a building without authorization after a fire alarm; interfering with campus and/or emergency personnel responding to a fire alarm.

22. Violations of any published University policy.

23. Abuse of the conduct process, including but not limited to: (a) failure to obey a notice or other directive issued in connection with a conduct proceeding; (b) falsification, distortion or misrepresentation of information before a disciplinary Hearing Board or disciplinary officer; (c) failure to comply with the sanctions imposed under the Code.

24. Misconduct that arises on campus or off campus in which a student is detained, arrested, cited or otherwise charged with violations of local, state or federal laws that materially or adversely affect the individual's suitability as a member of the University of San Diego community.

25. Conduct that intentionally or recklessly threatens or endangers the health and safety of any person, including but not limited to, violating any health and safety requirements identified by the University or by local and state officials.

26. Misconduct that arises on or off campus that jeopardizes the welfare of the USD community or its members.

## 4. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

## 5. STUDENT CONDUCT PROCEDURES

## 6. SANCTIONS

# The Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities Graduate and Law Students

2025-2026



[www.sandiego.edu/conduct](http://www.sandiego.edu/conduct)

# THE STUDENT CODE OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## THE CODE CONTAINS:

### 1. PREAMBLE

In support of its mission as a Catholic university, the University of San Diego has developed standards of conduct and has implemented processes designed to hold students accountable to these standards of conduct. These standards and processes are set forth in the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities (the “Code”). A purpose of the Code is to maintain a safe environment for the campus community, one that supports the academic mission and provides a productive living and learning environment. The Code is also designed to foster the personal development of students and emphasizes students’ personal understanding of the impact of their behavior as well as their responsibilities to the community. Community responsibilities are uniquely grounded in the University’s core values. The Code is intended to support and reinforce those values of the University. Values of particular relevance to the Code include the University’s commitment to creating a welcoming, inclusive and collaborative community accentuated by a spirit of freedom and charity and marked by protection of the rights and dignity of the individual. Additionally, the Code supports the University’s efforts to provide a values-based education that informs the development of ethical judgment and behavior.

The University of San Diego also has an obligation to uphold the laws of the larger community of which it is a part. While the activities covered by the laws of the larger community and those covered by the University of San Diego’s rules may overlap, it is important to note that the community’s laws and the University of San Diego’s rules operate independently and that they do not substitute for each other. The University of San Diego may pursue enforcement of its own rules whether or not legal proceedings are underway or in process, and may use information from third-party sources, such as law enforcement agencies, news agencies, social media, and the courts, to determine whether University rules have been broken. Membership in the University community does not exempt anyone from local, state or federal laws. The University of San Diego has the right, and obligation, to hold students to a higher standard than the law and prohibit behavior that is illegal.

The Code is inspired by the principles of Catholic social teaching and of restorative justice. These include: (a) concern for individuals and communities that have been harmed and an approach that meaningfully responds to their

needs; (b) respect for the dignity of the individual, which includes a belief that harmed individuals should have a voice in the process and a belief that students who have caused harm should have the opportunity to express remorse, make amends and demonstrate personal responsibility; and (c) individual responsibility is primary, but there are often larger social conditions that promote or reinforce harmful conduct—the conduct process should attend to both individual and community obligations to support the common good. A restorative approach recognizes that each situation is unique and the conduct response may vary in order to best promote individual and community reparations and well-being.

The Code has been established in order to ensure community safety and well-being and to facilitate students’ unencumbered pursuit of education both inside and outside of the classroom. The Code includes the rules of conduct, University policies, procedures and outcomes related to students. Each student is responsible for reading, understanding and complying with the Code.

Membership in a community where rights and responsibilities are respected is a significant part of the university learning experience. Student conduct processes at the University of San Diego are intended to educate and foster a student’s development and reinforce the mission and values of the institution. The processes are also designed to identify and respond to harms and needs of impacted individuals and the community. When a student is found to have violated the Code, efforts are made to repair harm and rebuild trust between the student and the community through active accountability. There are times when a student’s behavior is so harmful, or is repeated without indication of learning, that it may lead to suspension or expulsion from the University to ensure the ongoing safety and welfare of the campus community. The rules, policies and procedures outlined in the Code provide a framework for community life at the University of San Diego. Recognized student organizations may establish rules and procedures for the purpose of self-regulation. Those rules and procedures may not be in conflict with the provisions of the Code and are not in place of the Code.

The University of San Diego reserves the right to amend, modify and revise the Code at any time. Changes to the Code shall be effective upon the approval of the Vice President of Student Affairs.

*(Approved July 1, 2021)*

For more information or inquiries,  
please contact the Office:

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and Restorative Practices**

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The complete Student Code of Rights  
and Responsibilities can be found at:

**[www.sandiego.edu/conduct](http://www.sandiego.edu/conduct)**



## RESERVATION OF THE RIGHT TO MODIFY

It is the policy of the University of San Diego to adhere to the rules and regulations as announced in this brochure or other University publications. The University nevertheless hereby gives notice that it reserves the right to expand or delete or otherwise modify this online publication whenever such changes are adjudged by it to be desirable or necessary. The content of this brochure was taken from the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities as of July 2024. Changes will be made periodically as needed.