



UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG

POLICY DOCUMENT

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

WITS POLICY

Version No. 1

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Policy Title	Student Code of Conduct
Policy Officer	Ms Carol Crosley
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1. CONTEXT / BACKGROUND

The University of the Witwatersrand seeks to foster its reputation for excellence in teaching, learning and research and for service to the intellectual, professional and educational needs of its staff and students, and of society beyond the University. A university is a community where knowledge is sought and imparted. A university can consequently flourish only in an environment which fosters freedom of thought and expression, and respects the rights of all. It is the function of university discipline to protect this environment. The University's system of discipline, in line with these principles, will be administered fairly and reasonably.

This Code of Conduct reflects the core values of the University and should be read in conjunction with the rules and disciplinary codes of the University. The conduct of each student is important for sustaining an environment conducive to freedom of enquiry and the search for knowledge and truth. Hence, the University community requires a commitment from every student to act ethically, respectfully, responsibly and diligently.

2. PRINCIPLES

2.1. Ethical Conduct

1. Promoting:
 - a. in letter and in spirit the rules of the University and laws of the country
 - b. ethical treatment of people, animals and the environment
 - c. ethical use of resources and property
 - d. ethical practices including fulfilling obligations of teaching, learning, fair and accountable assessment, research and supervision
2. Preventing:
 - a. plagiarism and all forms of intellectual dishonesty
 - b. favouritism and nepotism
 - c. violation of confidentiality

2.2. Respectful Conduct

1. Promoting:
 - a. human rights and social responsibility
 - b. equity and equal opportunity
 - c. academic freedom and freedom of expression
 - d. trustworthiness
 - e. integrity
 - f. fairness
 - g. courtesy
2. Preventing:
 - a. discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, HIV status or any category as defined in the Constitution
 - b. the abuse of power
 - c. sexual, racial or other forms of harassment
 - d. disrespect for persons and property

2.3. Responsible Conduct

1. Promoting

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- a. Transparency
 - b. Inclusivity
 - c. Accountability
 - d. good practice
 - e. mutual responsibility for maintenance of an ethos and environment conducive to safety, security, health and wellbeing
2. Preventing:
 - a. misuse of personal and University information and property and the name of the University
 - b. improper financial dealings and improper conflicts of interest
 - c. practices threatening safety, security, health or wellbeing
 - d. actions which impinge on the rights of others

3. GENERAL RULES FOR STUDENT CONDUCT

1. Every student is subject to the Rules.
2. Misconduct may result in disciplinary action. It is defined thus:

Misconduct comprises behaviour within or without the precincts of the University, or whilst on official business of or representing the university, without just excuse, which

- 1) constitutes a breach of any statute, regulation or rule of the University; or
 - 2) constitutes a failure or refusal to comply with any punishment or order imposed or made under these rules; or
 - 3) constitutes a failure or refusal to obey a lawful order; or
 - 4) constitutes conduct that tends to bring the University or any part of it or a member of its staff or a student or any part of its student body into contempt or disrepute; or
 - 5) interferes with the governance and proper administration of the University; or
 - 6) interferes with the conditions necessary for teaching, learning or research.
3. Subject to limitations in the Constitution, protest does not constitute misconduct.
 4. A student shall not perform or participate in the performance of, or attempt to perform, or incite, instigate, command, advocate, advise or encourage the performance by any other person of any of the following acts or conduct within the precincts of the University:
 - a. Racist or sexist behaviour;
 - b. Assaults on or threats to any person;
 - c. Disruption of classes, meetings or any other activity of the University, unless such conduct is reasonably directed toward the exercise of the right to assemble, to demonstrate, to picket and to present petitions, peacefully and unarmed;
 - d. Taking weapons or dangerous objects into meetings.
 5. In any confidential information or matter that relates to the affairs or business (whether educational or otherwise) of the University, or any of its constituent parts, is conveyed, transmitted or otherwise disclosed to a student by any officer or employee of the University, or by any other student in the pursuance of any duty to convey, transmit or otherwise disclose such information or matter, that student shall not further convey, transmit or otherwise disclose that information or matter unless it is in the public interest or is otherwise permitted by law to do so.

6. Student must at all times when within the ^{*} precincts of the University carry his or her official University student card and produce it when called upon to do so by a member of staff. The card is required to gain access to precincts of the University and is for the sole use of the student to whom it has been issued.
7. A student shall not:
 - a. Bring any alcoholic beverage within the precincts of the University except with the written permission of the Registrar or, in the case of a hall of residence, the Residence Hall Coordinator.
 - b. Damage, either intentionally or negligently, or attempt to damage University property.
 - c. Smoke – In a place where smoking is prohibited by the University;
 - d. Within the precincts of the University have in his or her possession, supply to any other person, consume or be under the influence of any illegal substance which alters behaviour, except for a substance prescribed for that student by a registered health professional.
8. No student shall bring within the ^{*} precincts of the University, or have in his or her possession or control, or supply or dispose of to any person within the precincts of the University, any object which is capable of being used, and is intended by such student to be used, for the infliction of bodily harm.

VERSION HISTORY

Version	Date	Summary	Changed by
1	17/04/2015	Approved by the Council	
2	22/11/2017	Changes by the Registrar's Office – replaces C2014/540	Deputy Registrar