Student Conduct

Graduate students are obligated to observe the regulations governing all Wilkes University students relative to:

1. Academic honesty and integrity;
2. Respect for the rights of others relative to their safety, welfare and educational commitments;
3. The safety and security of the entire community.

Any disciplinary cases arising from a lack of observance of these regulations will be adjudicated by the Dean of the appropriate college or school and the Office of Student Affairs. Appeals from the decisions of this Committee may be made in written form to the Provost.

Policies regarding student conduct and additional grievance procedures are published in the Wilkes University Graduate Student Handbook, which is available on the web site at www.wilkes.edu. Students enrolled at the Mesa Center for Higher Education must reference the Handbook for the Mesa site for information specific to Arizona.

Anti-Hazing Policy

Wilkes University does not condone hazing of any kind. Hazing, is defined as follows:

any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any organization operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by an institution of higher education. The term shall include, but not be limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property. For purposes of this definition, any activity as described in this definition upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be “forced” activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

This policy applies to all University organizations, groups and individuals and is equally applicable on and off campus.

Any alleged act of hazing brought to the attention of University officials will be fully investigated and those individuals and/or groups accused will be brought before the University’s Student Affairs Cabinet for adjudication.

Anyone found in violation of the Hazing Policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

The severity of the sanctions will depend on the circumstances surrounding the violation. Disciplinary action by the University will be in addition to any penalties impose by civil authorities for violations of state law.

Graduate Disciplinary Process Flowchart

- Incident/Alleged policy violation takes place.
- Report submitted to Student Affairs for investigation.
- No policy violation or suspect found. End of process.
- Investigation finds policy violation and alleged suspect.
- Conference held with alleged violator
- Charges and sanctions agreed upon by Assoc. Dean of Student Affairs (or designee for off-campus locations) and alleged violator. End of process.
- Assoc. Dean of Student Affairs (or designee for off-campus locations) and alleged violator do not agree upon charges and sanctions.
- Process is determined
- Administrative hearing held by the Assoc. Dean of Student Affairs (or designee for off-campus locations), if the policy violation does not appear to warrant dismissal or suspension from the University.
- Graduate Studies Committee, if the policy violation could result in dismissal or suspension from the University.
- Decision is made regarding the violation/sanction.
- Student is determined not to be in violation of a University policy. End of process.
- Student is found guilty of violation and accepts the sanction imposed. End of process.
- Student is found guilty of violation and does not accept sanctions.
- Student requests an appeal of the decision through the Office of the Provost
- The appeal is denied. The process ends.
- The appeal request is approved.
- The Office of the Provost reviews the case.
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• The original decision is upheld. End of Process.
• It is discovered that there was:
  • Procedural error;
  • New evidence;
  • Inappropriate sanction.
• The case returns to the original Graduate Studies Committee group or another group, as determined by the Dean of the respective school or college, based on findings.

Grievance Policy/Internal Complaint Procedure

The purpose of this policy is to serve as a guide for students who wish to file a complaint about any aspect of Wilkes University’s operations/policies/procedures or about the actions of any student, visitor, or employee of Wilkes University. This policy is to be implemented only when dealing with circumstances not covered by existing academic or student conduct procedures.

Procedures and Guidelines

1. Complaints, other than those being filed against persons, should be directed, in writing, to the appropriate Administrator (Director/Dean)/Department Chair/Faculty Member). It is the responsibility of that person to address the situation and, if possible, see that it is corrected. This must be done within a reasonable amount of time which will of course, depend upon what must be done to rectify the situation. The Administrator (Director/Dean)/Department Chair/Faculty Member should inform the student in writing of the measures that were taken or are being taken to address the issue. If a student does not receive a response from the Administrator, Department Chair, Faculty Member within two weeks from the date of originally filing the complaint, the student may then bring the complaint to the appropriate Vice President or the Provost.

2. Complaints being filed against a person, should be directed, in writing, to that person’s immediate supervisor. If it is a sexual discrimination (including sexual harassment and sexual violence) complaint, the procedures outlined in the Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures should be followed. Information regarding these procedures can be found at: http://www.wilkes.edu/sexualmisconduct. If the complaint is not one of sexual harassment, then it is the responsibility of the supervisor to address the issue with the respondent. The supervisor must inform the student, in writing, of the measures that were taken or are being taken to address the issue. If the student does not receive a response from the supervisor within two weeks from the date of originally filing the complaint, the student may then bring the complaint to the appropriate Vice President or Provost.

3. In all instances of a student filing a complaint, the student must be assured in writing that no adverse action will be taken against the student for filing a complaint.

4. All documentation regarding a complaint, as well as its disposition, must be securely stored in the office of the person who received the complaint and acted upon it. These records must be maintained for a period of six (6) years from the date final action was taken on said complaint.

5. If a student feels that a response to a complaint is unacceptable and/or unreasonable, the student may bring the complaint to the immediate supervisor of the person who initially acted in response to the matter. If a student does not receive a response from that supervisor within two weeks from the date of originally filing the complaint with that person, the student may then bring the complaint to the appropriate Vice President or Provost.

Additional Notice to Arizona residents enrolled at Wilkes University

If the complaint cannot be resolved after exhausting the institution’s grievance procedure, the student may file a complaint with the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education. The student must contact the State Board for further details. The State Board address is 1400 W. Washington Street, Room 260, Phoenix, AZ 85007, phone # 602-542-5709, website address: www.azppse.gov