

# The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Student Handbook



*Revised 2022*

**COVER:** Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University Reynolda Campus

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# The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

## Student Handbook

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## CAMPUS FACILITIES AND SERVICES

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### Bookstore

Textbooks and other items may be purchased online at [www.wfustores.com](http://www.wfustores.com) through WFU's University Bookstores. The "virtual" bookstore offers additional textbook choices for students, including new, used, rental and loose leaf editions with the ability to price compare online. Items can be shipped directly to you. [bkstr.com/wakeforeststore/home](http://bkstr.com/wakeforeststore/home)

### Deacon OneCards

The Deacon OneCard is the official Wake Forest University Student Identification Card. Students are required to carry their Deacon OneCard with them at all times. In addition to identification, it can also be used for:

- Card Access to University Buildings
- Deacon Dining
- Event Admission
- Library Privileges
- Reynolds Gym Privileges

New accepted students who have been given WIN (Wake Information Network) access, are required to submit their photo by logging into the Deacon OneCard online portal. Deacon OneCards are distributed to students prior to the first day of classes. Additional information regarding the Deacon OneCard can be viewed at: [rlh.wfu.edu/deacon-onecard/student-services/](http://rlh.wfu.edu/deacon-onecard/student-services/).

### Graduate School Offices

The Graduate School has two office locations. The Graduate School Cottage is located at 118 Reynolda Village. The Graduate School campus at Brookstown is located in downtown Winston-Salem, at 200 Brookstown Avenue.

### Z. Smith Reynolds Library

The Z. Smith Reynolds Library supports instruction and research at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The Library also houses the Graduate Student Lounge. Library resources may be found on their website – [zsr.wfu.edu/](http://zsr.wfu.edu/)

## GRADUATE STUDENT ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

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### PART 1: THE HONOR CODE

#### ARTICLE I. Preamble and Purpose

The purpose of this Graduate Honor Code (hereinafter "the Code" or "the Honor Code") is to provide guidance for student conduct with respect to academic pursuits.

The Code applies to all students enrolled in the Wake Forest University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences or the Divinity School of Wake Forest University. All forms of academic work performed by any graduate student enrolled on a part-time or full-time basis shall be subject to the stipulations of the Honor Code. Such work includes, but is not limited to, course work, lab work, thesis or dissertation work, research, and teaching. Upon acceptance for admission to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences or the Divinity School, entering students will be informed of the Code. It is the responsibility of new students to be adequately informed of the Code, including all key provisions, such as, but not limited to, the affirmative duty to report offenses, the scope and limits of the Honor Code, and the names of the current officers. New students shall be required to sign a statement indicating that they fully understand and will comply with the Honor Code. Changes in the Honor Code will be published and distributed to students upon adoption. Students are charged with notice of, and are bound by, this Code. Copies of the Code are available



from the offices of the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the Dean of the Divinity School. For students in the Graduate School, final decisions on sanctions due to violations of the Code rest with the Dean of the Graduate School. For students in the Divinity School, final decisions on sanctions due to violations of the Code rest with the Dean of the Divinity School.

The Code applies only to alleged misconduct identified in Article III or Article IV which occurs in academic pursuits or within the University community. Policies pertaining to other misconduct within the University community continue to apply, and the faculty and the administrations of the appropriate graduate program are responsible for enforcement of such other policies (See Article IX for a definition of “appropriate”).

## **ARTICLE II. The Code**

**We conduct our academic endeavors with honor, integrity and professionalism. We do our own work, credit the work of others, and provide the full truth about our work.**

## **ARTICLE III. Scope and Jurisdiction**

### **Section 1. Honor Council Original Jurisdiction**

The Graduate School Honor Council (hereinafter “the Honor Council”) shall have authority to hear and to determine charges of lying, cheating, stealing, vandalism, deception, research misconduct, or failure to report an Honor Code violation by any Graduate School or Divinity School student in his or her academic pursuits or within the University community. These terms should be construed to have their ordinary, non-legal meaning.

### **Plagiarism and Deception**

“**PLAGIARISM**” is a type of cheating. It includes: (a) the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without complete acknowledgment of the source; (b) the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by

another agency or person providing term papers or other academic materials; (c) the non-attributed use of any portion of a computer algorithm or data file; or (d) the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of online material without complete acknowledgment of the source.

Please refer to the Harvard University online tutorial on avoiding plagiarism:

<https://www.extension.harvard.edu/resources-policies/resources/avoiding-plagiarism>

“**DECEPTION**” includes any false or deceiving representation. In the academic context, such representations include: (a) any attempt to avoid meeting the stated course requirements, such as making false statements to avoid taking examinations at the scheduled times or to avoid turning in assignments at the scheduled times; (b) listing sources in a bibliography not directly used in the academic exercise; or (c) submitting falsified, invented, or fictitious data or evidence, or concealing or distorting the true nature, origin, or function of data or evidence.

### **Section 2. Faculty Retention of Jurisdiction**

All disputes will be handled by the Honor Council except in instances where the cases cannot be addressed by the Honor Council in a timely manner, such as between academic terms. In this situation the Graduate School or Divinity School administration and the relevant program faculty will have jurisdiction over the handling of the misconduct case.

## **ARTICLE IV. Duty to Report an Honor Code Violation**

A student, faculty member or staff member that reports an Honor Code violation is referred to as the Reporter. The individual accused of an Honor Code violation is referred to as the Respondent.

Any faculty or staff member may report an Honor Code violation or suspected violation to the Chairperson or Secretary of the Honor Council or, in the event such persons cannot be reached, to the Dean of the Graduate School or

Divinity School as appropriate. The Chairperson or Secretary should inform the relevant Dean that a violation has been reported, although no action on the part of the Dean is needed at this time.

Students who have knowledge of, have witnessed or reasonably believe that they have witnessed or have knowledge of an Honor Code violation should report the violation or suspected violation to the Chairperson or the Secretary of the Honor Council within a reasonable time, not to exceed five academic days (as defined in Article IX). This report should include the name of the Reporter and the Respondent, the date on which the report is submitted, the date of the violation of the Code, the charge and the description of the purported violations, and the names of other witnesses. If the Chairperson or Secretary cannot be reached to make a report, then the student should report to the appropriate Dean. The report may also be filed at a later date if the appropriate Dean determines that special circumstances existed that prevented the report from being filed within the five-day time period.

The failure of any student to comply with this affirmative duty to report (except in the circumstances referred to above) shall be a violation of the Code. Refusal to testify before the Honor Council, or failure to do so without good cause, is also a violation of the Code; however, no person shall be compelled to be a witness against himself or herself, or to testify against his or her spouse.

## **PART 2: THE HEARING, SANCTIONS AND APPEALS PROCEDURES**

### **ARTICLE V. Pre-Hearing Procedures**

When a report of an Honor Code violation or suspected violation is received, the Chairperson of the Honor Council shall convene, in a timely manner, a Pre-hearing Sub-committee composed of the Chairperson, the Secretary, one (1) faculty member from the Honor Council and two (2) students from the Honor Council.

Members of the Pre-hearing Sub-committee may not be from the same department as the Reporter or Respondent; if the Chairperson or the Secretary is from the Reporter or Respondent's department, a member of the Honor Council will be asked to serve in that person's role for the pre-hearing and hearing procedures for the particular case. The Sub-committee will consider the report and make a decision as to whether the accusation falls under the prohibited conduct described in Article III, Section 1. If it does not, this decision will be conveyed promptly in writing by the Secretary to the Reporter, the appropriate Dean and the Chairperson. No further action will be taken. The Chairperson will destroy the report and any accompanying records.

If the Pre-hearing Sub-committee determines that the accusation does include an act or acts that may constitute a violation of the Honor Code, then a written report of the violation(s) as charged shall be prepared by the Secretary and provided to the Respondent promptly with copies to the Reporter, the appropriate Dean, the members of the Pre-hearing Sub-committee, the Respondent's Academic Advisor, and the Respondent's Program Director. This written report shall include the date, time and place of a hearing that will take place within four weeks from the date of notification. The report should contain a full description of the Respondent's hearing rights.

### **ARTICLE VI. Hearing Procedures**

#### **Section 1. Name and Purpose**

The Hearing will be an administrative, not a legal, proceeding. Its purpose is to arrive at the truth.

#### **Section 2. Hearing Procedures**

The Panel for the Hearing will consist of the Chairperson, the Secretary and four (4) additional faculty members and four (4) student members of the Honor Council with the numbers of student and faculty members from the two campuses being as similar as possible. The Chairperson shall appoint one of the faculty members as Solicitor who will coordinate the

exchange of information between the Reporter, the Respondent and the student and faculty members of the Honor Council before and at the Hearing. The Hearing shall be conducted by the Chairperson (who will not vote). The Secretary of the Honor Council shall not vote except in the case of a tie. The Solicitor does not vote.

### **Section 3. Time and Place of Hearing**

The Honor Council shall conduct its Hearing within four weeks after the Chairperson's receipt of the Pre-Hearing Sub-committee's conclusion that such a Hearing is warranted. The time and/or place of the Honor Council Hearing maybe changed by a majority vote of the members of the Panel. The Solicitor and the Respondent shall meet no less than a week prior to the Hearing to exchange witness lists and clarify the kinds of evidence to be presented. If a witness(es) is (are) to be involved at the Hearing, this should be mentioned at this meeting; a "witness" is someone who viewed or otherwise acquired information relevant to the alleged Honor Code violation. At that time the Respondent will also notify the Solicitor if he or she will have a representative (as defined in Article VII) for the Hearing. The Honor Council Hearing shall be closed to the public.

The Chairperson and the Secretary shall make the selection of the Panel no later than a week before the beginning of the Hearing. Panel members shall not be from the same department as the Respondent or the Reporter. The members of the Panel will be supplied with the report against the Respondent when they are notified of their selection for the Panel. Should the Chairperson or the Secretary be unable to attend a Hearing or if the Chairperson and/or Secretary are from the same department as the Reporter or Respondent, the Panel shall select an appropriate member of the Honor Council to serve in the Chairperson's or Secretary's role for the duration of the Hearing.

Should any member of the Panel conclude, upon reviewing the report and learning the identity of the Respondent, that he or she

cannot render an impartial decision, then he/she shall notify the Chairperson and withdraw. In the event of a withdrawal, a new Panel member will be chosen by the Chairperson.

The Secretary of the Honor Council will make a summary record of the Hearing. An audio recording, video recording, or comparable recording will be made of the Hearing. This recording will be available to the Panel during their deliberations, to the Secretary in preparing the summary report, to the appropriate Dean for review of the Sanction or during the appeals process, and to the Respondent if he or she requests an appeal. The recording will become a part of the file to be kept by the appropriate Dean.

### **Section 4. Chairperson's Duties**

1. The Chairperson of the Honor Council shall preside at all Honor Council meetings and Hearings.
2. The Chairperson may require any person disrupting the orderly proceedings of a Hearing to leave.
3. The Chairperson shall have the right to declare a recess at any point in the Hearing.
4. The Chairperson shall inform the Panel, the Reporter and all others present at the Hearing that they shall not divulge any information about the accusation or the Hearing.
5. The Chairperson shall appoint a faculty member serving on the Honor Council to serve as the Solicitor for each Hearing.
6. The Chairperson shall limit evidence as described in Section 7 of the Policy.

### **Section 5. Secretary's Duties**

1. The Secretary of the Honor Council will notify in writing the Chairperson, the Dean of the Graduate School or Dean of the Divinity School and the Reporter of the Pre-hearing Sub- committee's decision about whether an alleged offense or offenses falls within the Honor Code's prohibited conduct.
2. The Secretary will provide to the Respondent a written report of the alleged

offense(s); the time, date and place of the hearing; and the rights of the Respondent within 48 hours after the Pre-hearing Subcommittee finds that an allegation or allegations does fall within the Honor Code's prohibited conduct. Copies of this written report will also be given to the Chairperson, the Reporter, and the appropriate Dean, the members of the Pre-hearing Sub-committee, the Respondent's Academic Advisor, and the Respondent's Program Director.

3. The Secretary will make a summary record of the Hearing.
4. The Secretary will cast the deciding vote in the case of a tie vote in the Panel Hearing and in the Sanctions Hearing.

### **Section 6. Solicitor's Duties**

1. The Solicitor will coordinate the exchange of information between the Reporter, the Respondent and the members of the Hearing Panel.
2. The Solicitor will begin questioning the Reporter, the Respondent and any witnesses as appropriate.

### **Section 7. Conduct of the Hearing**

The Chairperson shall call the Hearing to order by reminding the Respondent and all witnesses that they are honor bound to tell the truth before the Council. Any witness who is not bound by the Honor Code will be sworn in or affirm before he or she testifies. The Honor Council will create and maintain an appropriate oath and affirmation.

The Hearing shall be limited in scope to a determination of whether an honor code violation has taken place. All sources of evidence that may reasonably be supplied and are likely to be helpful in establishing the veracity of the claim should be brought to such a hearing, with materials being distributed by the secretary beforehand to the solicitor, the Reporter, the Respondent, and the student and faculty members of the Honor Council. The Chairperson shall have the authority to limit evidence (in any form) that, in the opinion of

the Chairperson, has minimal relevance to the issues in the matter or is redundant.

The Secretary shall read the written report to the Panel. If the Respondent admits to the charge(s) and stipulates to the facts as written in the report, then the Panel will only consider the question of sanctions, in a Sanctions Hearing.

If the Respondent does not admit to the charges, presentation of evidence and questioning will begin. The Reporter and any other witnesses shall be questioned by the Solicitor regarding the charge(s). At the conclusion of the questioning of each witness called by the Solicitor, the Secretary and each member of the Panel shall be given the opportunity to ask questions. Then, the Respondent or a representative chosen by the Respondent may ask additional questions. Questioning shall proceed until all parties are satisfied that, or in the opinion of the Chairperson, the witnesses can furnish no further relevant information.

### **Section 8. The Respondent's Rebuttal**

At the conclusion of the evidence in support of the charges, the Respondent or the Respondent's representative may present evidence, including witness testimony, rebutting the charges of an Honor Code violation. At the conclusion of the testimony of each witness called by the Respondent, the Solicitor, the Secretary and each member of the Panel shall be given the opportunity to ask questions. Questioning shall proceed until all parties are satisfied that, or in the opinion of the Chairperson, the witnesses can furnish no further relevant information.

### **Section 9. Summary Statements**

A summary statement may be given by the Respondent or the Respondent's representative. A summary statement may be given by the Solicitor.

### **Section 10. Panel Duties**

The Chairperson shall instruct the Panel as to the charge and the factors to be considered



during the deliberation on the charge(s). Upon the conclusion of such instructions the Chairperson shall adjourn this phase of the Hearing. The Panel shall promptly conduct its deliberations in private and reach a decision on the charge(s).

A decision that a violation of the Code has occurred shall require a simple majority vote by the Panel that the charge(s) have been proven by a preponderance of the evidence. An abstaining vote is not a vote confirming the violation. In the case of a tie the Secretary shall vote. If there are not at least four (4) votes finding a violation of the Honor Code, then the charge(s) have not been proven. In determining whether there was a violation of the Code, the Panel should only consider evidence and testimony that was presented at the Hearing.

Upon reaching their decision, the Panel shall inform the Chairperson in writing. The decision shall then be reported by the Chairperson to the Reporter and the Respondent. The Chairperson will then dismiss the Panel by reminding each member that he or she is forbidden to divulge any information about the Hearing.

### **Section 11. The Sanction Hearing**

If the Panel finds that there was a violation of the Code, the Chairperson shall reconvene the Panel for a Sanction Hearing, providing the Respondent with the opportunity to be present. This hearing may be held directly following the Hearing but must take place within five days and should be held in private. First, the Solicitor may present facts, evidence, and arguments as to the sanction(s) being sought. Second, the Respondent or the Respondent's representative may present mitigating facts, evidence and arguments. At the conclusion of the arguments the Chairperson shall adjourn the Panel to deliberate regarding the sanctions to be recommended. The Panel shall promptly conduct its deliberations in private and shall reach a decision.

Decisions regarding a particular sanction shall require a simple majority vote in favor of the

sanction. In the case of a tie, the Secretary shall vote. A Panel may not decide that no sanction be imposed. Once a decision as to a particular sanction is reached, the Panel shall announce its decision regarding the recommended sanction to the Chairperson. Before releasing the Panel, the Chairperson shall remind the members of the Panel that they are forbidden to divulge information about the hearing or the Panel's decision.

### **Section 12. Notifications of Findings**

The Panel's findings and recommended sanction(s) shall be promptly conveyed to the Respondent by the Chairperson of the Honor Council. The findings and recommended sanction(s) shall be reported to the appropriate Dean in a timely manner. All copies of the record, findings and recommendations shall be transferred to the appropriate Dean for retention in accordance with applicable Graduate School or Divinity School policies, and for a final decision in accordance with Section 14 of this Code.

### **Section 13. Appeals Procedure**

A student found in violation of the Honor Code may appeal the decision or the sanction recommendation of the Panel to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. Written notice of appeal from the Respondent or his/her representative shall be given to the Secretary of the Graduate Council within 10 academic days after the Sanction Hearing. The Graduate Council consists of 6 elected faculty members from the Reynolda campus, 6 elected faculty members from the Bowman Gray campus and two Graduate Student Representatives. The Dean and Associate Deans of the Graduate school are ex-officio members of the Graduate Council and will not take part in the appeals procedure. The Dean of the Divinity School is not a member of the Graduate Council.

The Graduate Council will be provided with a copy of the written report of the charge, the summary records kept by the Honor Council Secretary during the hearing, and the written appeal of the Respondent. The Graduate Council will meet in a timely manner to consider

the Honor Council's decision and the appropriateness of the recommended sanction. The Graduate Council will decide whether to support the findings and recommended sanctions of the Honor Council or whether to recommend changes. A written notice of their decision will be given to the appropriate Dean by the Secretary of the Graduate Council in a timely manner.

#### **Section 14. Final Disposition**

The appropriate Dean shall consider the findings and recommended sanction(s) of the Hearing Panel and the recommendations of the Graduate Council in the case of a Respondent's appeal, and any alleged exceptional circumstances, and shall make a decision to accept or alter either the findings and/or the recommended sanction(s). The office of the appropriate Dean, or his or her designee, shall be responsible for processing and supervising the imposition of sanction(s). In the case of ongoing "external" investigation of the Honor Code violation, the Dean of the Graduate School may delay the final decision until formal findings are provided. The decision of the Dean shall be final.

#### **Section 15. Sanctions**

In the event of a finding of an Honor Code violation, the Panel shall consider and recommend to the appropriate Dean that one or more of the following sanctions be imposed. This list is not exhaustive, and the Panel may recommend alternative sanctions not included in the following list if the Panel determines that alternative sanctions are appropriate. In the event of a question about the application or meaning of a sanction recommended by the Panel or imposed by a Dean, the appropriate Dean shall be consulted and the decision of the Dean shall be final.

The sanctions which may be imposed in the case of a Honor Code violation will ordinarily be selected from the following (more than one of the sanctions may be imposed when deemed appropriate):

- a. **Notice and Censure:** A written reprimand that continuation of conduct in violation of the Honor Code may be cause for more severe disciplinary sanctions. This may include a warning or more severe disciplinary sanction in the event of the determination of a subsequent violation within a stated period of time.
- b. **Restitution:** Reimbursement for defacement, damage to, or misappropriation of property, whether that of the University, any member of the University community, any guest or visitor of the University or any third party.
- c. **Suspension:** Exclusion from classes, removal from facilities and termination of any associated access rights (including but not limited to computers, computer networks, laboratories, identification cards, keys, libraries and parking), termination of faculty and staff mentoring and other privileges and activities (including but not limited to stipends and health insurance subsidies) with forfeitures of academic credits as set forth in the notice of suspension from the appropriate Dean. Sanctions for the Honor Code violation of cheating shall ordinarily include a recommended F or failing grade in the course involved and authorized withdrawals in the student's other courses, regardless of the semester when the offense was committed. If a suspension is more than one semester, the suspension shall begin immediately and shall be served in consecutive semesters. Suspension does not extend the total allowable time for completion of the degree.
- d. **Expulsion:** Termination of student status, with readmission subject to the approval of the program faculty and the appropriate Dean. No petition for readmission may be considered before the expiration of one calendar year from the date of expulsion. Sanctions for the Honor Code violation of cheating shall ordinarily include a recommended "F" or failing grade in the

course involved and authorized withdrawals in the student's other courses, regardless of the time in the semester that the offense was committed.

#### **ARTICLE VII. Rights of the Respondent**

The Respondent shall have the following rights:

1. A right to have the charges against him or her submitted in writing and to receive the written charges before the beginning of the hearing.
2. A right to a copy of procedures established by the Honor Code for the hearing of alleged Honor Code violations. This shall be given to him or her at the same time as the notice of the charge or charges.
3. A right to separate hearings where two or more students are reported to have participated jointly in a violation. If none of those accused of joint participation request separate hearings, they may have a joint hearing or separate hearings as the Pre-Hearing Sub-committee determines.
4. A right to know the nature of the evidence and, when practical, to examine the evidence before the hearing.
5. A right to appoint a Representative to question witnesses, to give a summary statement at the Hearing and to be present at the Sanctions hearing. The Representative will be a faculty member, staff member or student from the Wake Forest University Graduate School. Legal counsel can attend the hearing and advise the Respondent, but may not participate in the hearing. Law students are not permitted to assist the Respondent or to participate in the Hearing.
6. A right to summon witnesses and to testify on his or her own behalf, but the number of character witnesses, if any, may be reasonably limited by the Chairperson of the Honor Council.
7. A right to meet with the witnesses, and to question them during the Hearing, subject to limitation by the Chairperson of the Honor Council.

8. A right not to be compelled to testify against himself or herself.
9. The Respondent's spouse cannot be compelled to testify against him or her.
10. A right to present evidence of extenuating circumstances, subject to limitation by the Chairperson of the Honor Council.
11. A right not to be tried for one offense, and convicted of another, e.g., lying before the Council, without the same opportunity to defend against the other charge.
12. Until the Hearing and Appeals processes are complete, the Respondent has the right to participate in any University function except the following: participating in graduation exercises, receiving a degree, or receiving academic credit for courses taken during the semester in which the violation is alleged to have occurred, or other activities specifically prohibited by the appropriate Dean.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. Organization of Honor Council**

##### **Section 1. Membership and Election**

The membership and election of the Honor Council shall be determined as follows:

- a. The Honor Council shall be comprised of sixteen (16) faculty members, eight (8) each from the Bowman Gray and Reynolda campuses and one (1) student from each department or program.
- b. Faculty members of the Honor Council will be appointed by the appropriate Dean. Appointments are effective September 15th of each calendar year. Members of the Graduate Council may not be appointed to the Honor Council.
- c. Student members of the Honor Council are appointed by the chair or program director of each department or program, one (1) from each department or program. Appointments are effective September 15th of each calendar year. Graduate Student Association chairs and representatives may not be appointed to the Honor Council.

- d. A student appointed to the Honor Council serves a one-year term. A faculty person appointed to the Honor Council serves a two-year term. Students and faculty may be appointed for up to three consecutive terms.

### **Section 2. Election of Officers**

After appointment of new members, the Honor Council as a whole shall elect one (1) faculty member to serve as Chairperson and one (1) faculty person to serve as Secretary through September 14th of the following calendar year. The Chair and the Secretary should not be from the same department.

### **Section 3. Pre-hearing Sub-committee Selection**

The Pre-hearing Sub-committee will consist of the Chairperson, the Secretary, one (1) faculty member of the Honor Council and two (2) student members of the Honor Council. The Chairman and Secretary will choose these three members, ensuring as equal a representation of the two campuses as possible and ensuring that the members to do not come from the same department or program as the Reporter or the Respondent. A faculty member of the Honor Council shall act as Solicitor.

### **Section 4. Hearing Panel Selection**

The Panel will be comprised of the four (4) faculty members and four (4) student members of the Honor Council chosen by the Chairperson and the Secretary. The faculty members and students will be chosen to ensure as equal a representation between the two campuses as possible and to ensure that no member of the Panel is from the same department or program as the Reporter and the Respondent. To assure fairness to the Respondent and to equalize the burden of members of the Honor Council, ordinarily members chosen to serve on a Panel will be removed from the pool for the remainder of the calendar year, unless all council members have served, at which time all members will be returned to the list of potential jurors.

### **Section 5. Maintaining Readiness**

Members of the Honor Council accept the duty of developing and maintaining their understanding of the Honor Code.

### **Article IX. Miscellaneous**

“Appropriate Dean” refers to the Dean charged with the primary responsibility for overseeing the program in which the Respondent is enrolled.

An academic day is a day on which regularly scheduled classes are held, not including summer sessions.

Research misconduct is covered by an on-line document:

(<https://prod.wp.cdn.aws.wfu.edu/sites/193/2019/08/Research-misconduct.pdf> WFU Policy on Research Misconduct).

While this policy is written for scientific research misconduct, for the purposes of this document, the policy applies to research misconduct in any field.

## **NON-ACADEMIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

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Membership in the wider Wake Forest University campus community requires graduate students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences to be aware of the general student conduct expectations and campus standards found in the Wake Forest Student Code of Conduct available online at [deanofstudents.wfu.edu](http://deanofstudents.wfu.edu), and in hard copy at the Office of Dean of Students, 139 Benson University Center.

The Graduate School expects good citizenship and responsible behavior from students. When these expectations are not met, the non-academic misconduct process may be used to redirect students into more acceptable patterns of behavior. This process encourages students

to take responsibility for their choices and actions, while also allowing the University to determine an appropriate disciplinary response.

Misconduct cases may result in a formal reprimand and the imposition of an educational condition, or a more severe level of sanction, including disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion. Students need to be aware that certain types of behaviors may be deemed incompatible with membership in the School's community, and that choices they make can compromise their education and future.

Set forth below are the types of prohibited conduct for which students are subject to disciplinary actions:

- a. Actual or threatened physical injury to any person on University-owned or -controlled property or at a University-sponsored or supervised function, or conduct that endangers the health or safety of any person.
- b. Engaging in individual or group conduct that is violent, abusive, indecent, or unreasonably loud, or similar disorderly conduct that infringes upon the privacy, rights, or privileges of others by disturbing the peace or the orderly process of education on campus.
- c. Unauthorized use, possession, or storage of any weapon or explosive (including fireworks) on University premises or at University-sponsored activities.
- d. Forgery, counterfeiting, alteration, or misuse of any University record, document, or identification card.
- e. Unauthorized entry into, or alteration of, any University computer records, or violation of computer use policies, including illegal use of University computer resources (or otherwise violating the ethical use of computing policy).
- f. Sending threatening, obscene, or defamatory messages to another student or individual via e-mail, phone, voice-mail, or social media.
- g. Knowingly filing a false report to any University authority: including police, human resources, student grievance, honor code, or non-academic honor code bodies.
- h. Misrepresentation in seeking financial aid or University benefits.
- i. Unlawful possession, use, distribution, or sale of any illegal narcotic or illegal dangerous drug as defined by the statutes of the State of North Carolina.
- j. Theft of, or unwarranted damage to, University property or property of any member of the University community.
- k. Failure to comply with housing regulations.
- l. Failure to comply with the lawful directives of University employees or non-University contract employees acting within the scope of their duties; including those directives issued by a University administrator, police, or security officer to ensure the safety and well-being of students.
- m. Entry into, or use of, any building, facility, room or other University property or grounds without authorized approval. This also includes the unauthorized possession or use of University keys, lock combinations, or other access codes.
- n. Participation in illegal gambling activities on University-owned or -controlled property or at a function identified with the University.
- o. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in contradiction of state law and/or University policy.
- p. Entering or attempting to enter any event without proper credentials for admission (e.g., ticket, identification card, or invitation).

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences shall have the authority to hold students accountable under this Code of Conduct for certain off-campus behaviors (i.e., behavior that does not occur on University premises or in the context of a University, School, or student organization sponsored event or activity) that adversely affects a substantial University or School interest. In determining whether the conduct adversely affects a substantial University or

School interest, the following shall be considered:

- a. Whether the conduct constitutes or would constitute a serious criminal offense, regardless of the existence of any criminal proceedings.
- b. Whether the conduct indicates that the student presented or may present a danger or threat to the health, safety, or wellbeing of any person.
- c. Whether the conduct demonstrates a pattern of behavior that impairs the University's, the School's, or the Program's ability to fulfill its mission or negatively impacts the learning environment.
- d. Whether the conduct is disruptive to the ability of faculty to carry out the academic mission of the University.

The disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed for violations of this Code of Conduct may include any of the following actions:

- a. A written reprimand.
- b. Denial of specified University privileges.
- c. Payment of restitution.
- d. Educational or service sanctions, including community service.
- e. Disciplinary probation.
- f. Imposition of reasonable terms and conditions on continued student status.
- g. Removal from a course in progress, or temporary or permanent removal from campus, including public areas.
- h. Enrollment restrictions on a course or program.
- i. Suspension.
- j. Dismissal.

Students who are accused of performing or contributing to misconduct will be subject to a review process that will include a review of the allegation, a hearing before a committee of the student's peers and faculty, and potential disciplinary action. These procedures will be undertaken by the Graduate School Honor

Council, following the guidelines for the honor code as set forth in this Student Handbook. However, in deciding each case, the Honor Council will use the guidelines of this document to determine if there was a violation of the institution's Code of Conduct as opposed to the Honor Code. The Honor Council will make a final and formal recommendation to the Dean. As outlined in the Honor Code guidelines, the student may appeal the decision to the Graduate Council within 10 days of the sanction hearing. The Graduate Council will review all pertinent information and make a recommendation to the Dean, who will consider the recommendations by the Honor Council and the Graduate Council, in the event of an appeal. The Dean will consider all recommendations, and may accept the sanction recommendation, but has the discretion to alter the recommendation. The decision of the Dean is final.

## DISABILITY PROCEDURES

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Wake Forest University is an equal access institution which admits qualified applicants without regard to disability. When a student with a disability is admitted, the University seeks to accommodate those needs that are determined to be reasonable and that do not compromise the integrity of the curriculum.

### Disability Officers

For medical or mobility  
 Dr. Cecil Price  
 Student Health Services  
[shs.wfu.edu/](https://shs.wfu.edu/)

For learning issues  
 Dr. Michael Shuman  
 Learning Assistance Center  
 Room 118 Reynolda Hall  
[lac.wfu.edu/](https://lac.wfu.edu/)

### Making the Disability Known



The student is responsible for notifying the appropriate Graduate School office of any disabilities prior to/or during orientation for which an accommodation is needed.

If a student develops a disability after matriculation for which he/she needs an accommodation, then it will be the responsibility of the graduate student to inform the Graduate School of this fact.

In all cases, a disability notification is used to arrange future accommodations but cannot be used as a basis for retroactively changing academic evaluations or grades. Furthermore, accommodations are made not to waive requirements but to give the student equal opportunity to meet those requirements.

The information given to the disability officer will be treated confidentially and will be shared with university administrators and faculty members only to the extent necessary to reach decisions and take actions on requests for accommodations.

#### **Procedure for Handling Requests for Accommodations**

Accommodations for disabilities should be based on recommendations from the appropriate campus disability officer, not program directors or individual faculty.

A student with a disability for which he/she wishes an accommodation should make an appointment with the appropriate campus disability officer as soon as possible. It is assumed that this appointment will be made before the semester begins if at all possible. At least ten working days before this first meeting, the student should send documentation of the disability and a set of specific accommodations requested for the disability. The documentation should follow the guidelines found at the website [www.wfu.edu/campuslife/lac](http://www.wfu.edu/campuslife/lac).

Wake Forest University reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of submitted documentation and requests for accommodation on a case by case basis, using

the professional judgment of the disability officer. Additional information may be requested to verify the disability and to make a decision on accommodations.

If the disability officer determines that accommodations are appropriate, a letter describing these accommodations will be written. A new letter will be required for each academic year. The student has the responsibility of showing this letter each semester of the academic year to any supervising persons in order to receive the accommodation. The student should be careful to do this over various courses, lab assignments, etc.

A supervisor who is shown this letter should discuss the accommodation with the student and make appropriate arrangements. If there are any questions, the supervising person should discuss the accommodation with the appropriate contact person.

## **STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY OF THE MENTORING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GRADUATE STUDENTS AND ADVISORS**

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Masters and doctoral graduate student training are comprised of both classroom instruction and an apprenticeship relationship with one or more faculty members. Each individual who pursues a graduate degree has ultimate responsibility for his/her education and professional development. Likewise a faculty member who advises a student has a responsibility to foster the successful development of the student into a member of the profession. Additionally, Wake Forest University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences has responsibilities to both the student and the faculty advisor to maintain and promote an

environment that supports quality training programs.

This document serves as a Statement of Philosophy about the mentoring relationship between graduate students and their faculty advisors, as well as the institutional responsibilities to facilitate that relationship. The purpose of this document is to function as a statement of guiding principles that can promote the student's successful completion of training, and guide their mentors' efforts. It does not supersede institutional rules and regulations.

### **Core Tenets of Graduate Training**

#### *Institutional Commitment*

Institutions that train graduate students must be committed to establishing and maintaining high-quality training programs that ascribe to scientific, humanistic and ethical professional standards. WFU will work to ensure that students who complete its programs are well-trained and possess the foundational skills and values that will allow them to mature into independent professionals with integrity. WFU's commitment in this regard includes provision of oversight for length of training, maintenance of scholarly integrity, appropriate financial support, established procedures for addressing grievances, and various professional development-related opportunities. These opportunities can include effective and regular career guidance activities, reasonable access to institutional services, and other matters relevant to the education and professional development of graduate students. Additionally, WFU will strive to recognize and reward its graduate training faculty in support of their education of graduate students.

#### *Program Commitment*

The WFU Graduate School endeavors to establish and maintain robust training programs that provide students with the knowledge and career skills needed to function and succeed as independent professionals in their chosen fields. This commitment implies the maintenance of relevant course offerings and appropriate research opportunities. Each

program of study in the Graduate School should have clearly defined procedures for assessment of students and closely monitor the progress of students during their courses of study.

#### *Commitment to Outstanding Faculty Mentoring*

Effective mentoring is crucial for graduate school trainees as they prepare for their careers. Faculty mentors should understand that such mentoring requires a commitment of substantial time and energy in order to ensure each student's professional and personal development. Furthermore, the mentor must recognize that the success of the relationship hinges on mutual trust and respect. Effective mentoring should include teaching the method of inquiry for the specialty, providing regular constructive feedback and constructive criticism to foster professional maturation, teaching the conventions of the field of study, and promoting students' careers by providing appropriate opportunities for independent work and recognition. Effective mentors should strive to facilitate the student's completion of his or her thesis/dissertation, to help guide the student through the requirements for completion of the degree, and to advise the student to be knowledgeable of and act in accord with all university policies and procedures. Graduate student mentors should encourage students who seek to take a novel approach to achieving personal success. Good mentors should possess and exemplify high ethical standards, competent communication skills, recognize the contributions of students in all endeavors including publications and development of patentable devices or methods, and have a strong commitment to original research and scholarship. Good mentors should work to provide their students with an environment that is intellectually stimulating, emotionally supportive, safe and free of harassment. Lastly, where appropriate, the mentor should maintain or identify financial support that is appropriate for the program of study, and that will allow the student to complete the requirements for the degree.

#### *Commitments of Graduate Students*

Effective mentoring is a dynamic relationship between the faculty advisor and the graduate student. As such, in addition to the desired commitments of faculty members, students share an equal responsibility for their educational success as they prepare for their careers. First and foremost, students have the primary responsibility for the successful completion of their degree. Towards that end, students need to dedicate themselves to their scholarship and research, as advised by the faculty mentor. This includes pursuing opportunities to develop the necessary skills to succeed in the desired field of study and chosen profession, and when appropriate, taking advantage of the various resources that are made available for personal and professional development. The student must also recognize that the success of the mentoring relationship with their faculty advisor hinges on mutual trust and respect. Similar to their faculty advisor, students should possess and exemplify high ethical standards, strive to manifest competent communication skills, recognize contributions of fellow students, and have a strong commitment to original research and scholarship. Students should also work to provide themselves, fellow students, staff, and faculty with an environment that is intellectually stimulating, emotionally supportive, safe and free of harassment. The student is to be knowledgeable of and act in accordance with all university policies and procedures. Lastly, where appropriate, the student should work with his or her mentor to identify financial support that is appropriate for the program of study, and that will allow the student to complete the requirements for the degree.

## GRADUATE STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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### Introduction

Wake Forest University exists for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students, and the well-being of society. Free inquiry and free

expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences is committed to providing an environment which will encourage graduate students to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. The Graduate School is also dedicated to the principles of honor, mutual respect, and trust among the faculty and students. The common observance of professional ethics is basic to the study and research in which we are engaged.

### a. Rights

The minimal standards of academic freedom of graduate students outlined below are essential to any community of scholars. Any violations of these standards may be grounds for a student to initiate the grievance process.

#### 1. Freedom of Access to Higher Education:

The facilities and services of the University should be open to all of its enrolled students, and the University should use its influence to secure equal access for all graduate students to public facilities in the local community.

#### 2. The Classroom and Research Environment:

Graduate student performance will be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards.

##### a. *Protection of Freedom of Expression*

- Graduate students are free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study or research activity and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.

##### b. *Protection Against Improper Academic Evaluation* - Graduate students have protection through orderly procedures (described in the section on Grievance

- Procedures) against prejudiced or capricious academic evaluation. At the same time, they are responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for the program in which they are enrolled.
- c. *Protection Against Improper Disclosure* - Information about graduate student views, beliefs, and political associations which professors acquire in the course of their work as instructors, advisors, and counselors is considered confidential. Protection against improper disclosure is a serious professional obligation. Judgments of ability and character may be provided under appropriate circumstances, always with the knowledge or consent of the graduate student.
  - d. *Protection Against Harassment* - Graduate students have protection through orderly procedures (described in the section on Grievance Procedures) against physical (sexual, etc.) harassment and/or psychological abuse.
3. **Student Records:**  
To minimize the risk of improper disclosure, access to academic and disciplinary records should be considered separately. Transcripts of academic records will contain only information about academic status. Information from disciplinary or counseling files will not be available to unauthorized persons on campus, or to any person off campus without the written consent of the graduate student involved, except where a judicial order of subpoena compels disclosure or health safety emergency cases are involved. No records will be kept which reflect the political activities or beliefs of graduate students. The Dean of the Graduate School should make provision for periodic review and possible destruction of non-current disciplinary records. Administrative staff and faculty members should respect confidential information about graduate students which they acquire while working with them.
  4. **Student Affairs:**
    - a. *Freedom of Association* - Graduate students bring to the campus a variety of interests previously acquired and develop many new interests as members of the academic community. They are free to organize and join associations to promote their common interests.
    - b. *Freedom of Inquiry and Expression* - Graduate students and their organizations are free to examine and discuss all questions of interest to them, and to express opinions publicly and privately. They are free to support causes by orderly means which do not disrupt the regular and essential operation of the University.  
  
Graduate students and their organizations will be allowed reasonable access to University facilities for academic purposes, organizational meetings, sponsored lectures, etc. Those routine procedures required by the University for obtaining access to facilities are designed only to insure that there is orderly scheduling of facilities as well as adequate preparation for the event, and that the occasion is conducted in a manner appropriate to an academic community. Graduate students and their organizations are allowed to invite and to hear any person of their own choosing. The University's control of campus facilities cannot be used as a device of censorship.
    - c. *Student Participation in University Government* - As constituents of the academic community, graduate

students are free, individually and collectively, to express their views on issues of University policy and on matters of general interest to the graduate student body.

5. Off-Campus Freedom of Students:

If activities of graduate students upon occasion result in violation of law, University officials should be prepared to apprise students of sources of legal counsel and may offer other assistance. Graduate students who violate the law may incur penalties prescribed by civil authorities. Only where the University's interests as an academic community are clearly involved should the special authority of the University be asserted to consider off-campus violations. The graduate student who incidentally violates University regulations in the course of his/her off-campus activity is subject to no greater penalty than would normally be imposed for such infractions.

b. Responsibilities

The faculty expects students to be mature and responsible members of the community, offers guidance in their freedom to learn, and subscribes to the statement of their rights. Those rights are linked to the student's commitment to academic integrity and responsible behavior as a member of the University community.

Infractions of academic integrity include plagiarism, cheating on examinations, misrepresentation of the work of other scholars, and the falsification or fabrication of data in reporting one's own research. These infractions, as well as acts that disrupt the educational environment and any violations of local or federal law which occur on the university campus or during University sponsored activities, can be grounds for disciplinary action which may include dismissal from graduate school.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ACT

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Wake Forest University is committed to administer all educational and employment activities without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, veteran status, handicapped status or disability as required by law. In addition, Wake Forest University rejects hatred and bigotry in any form and adheres to the principle that no<sup>13</sup> person affiliated with Wake Forest should be judged or harassed on the basis of perceived or actual sexual orientation.

In affirming its commitment to these principles, Wake Forest does not limit freedom of religious association or expression, does not presume to control the policies of persons or entities not affiliated with Wake Forest, and does not extend benefits beyond those provided under other policies of Wake Forest. The University has adopted a procedure for the purpose of resolving discrimination complaints. Inquiries or concerns should be directed to Human Resources ([hr.wfu.edu/](http://hr.wfu.edu/)), or to the Title IX Coordinator ([titleix.wfu.edu/](http://titleix.wfu.edu/)).

## THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

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The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. They are:

1. Right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access. Students should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The University official will make arrangements for access and notify the students of the time and place where the

records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the University official to whom the request was submitted, that official will advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be made.

2. The right to request amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Students may ask the University to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of their privacy rights. The student should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify the reason for the request. If the University decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the University will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to provide written consent before the University discloses personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. For example, FERPA permits disclosure without consent to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position (including law enforcement personnel and health staff); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks; or a person, company, or governmental unit with whom the University has contracted to perform duties or services involving

education records. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the University discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

The following information regarding students is considered directory information: (1) name, (2) address, (3) telephone number, (4) electronic mail addresses, (5) date and place of birth, (6) major field of study, (7) enrollment status (undergraduate or graduate, full or part-time), (8) class level, (9) participation in officially recognized activities and sports, (10) weight and height of members of athletic teams, (11) dates of attendance, (12) degrees and awards received, (13) the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, and (14) other similar information such as a photograph. Directory information may be disclosed by Wake Forest University for any purpose in its discretion without the consent of the student. Students have the right to refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the above information as directory information. In that case, the information will not be disclosed except with the consent of the student, or as otherwise allowed by FERPA.

Any student refusing to allow disclosure of any or all of the designated directory information must file written notification to this effect with the University at the Office of the University Registrar, 110 Reynolda Hall. Forms are available at that office.

If written notification is not filed, Wake Forest University assumes that the student does not object to the release of the directory information designated.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the University to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and



address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, DC 20202-4605.

## GRADUATE STUDENT NON-ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

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Grievances of a non-academic nature, such as discrimination or harassment, should be taken to the Graduate Program Director, to the Associate Dean for Students in the Graduate School, to Human Resources ([hr.wfu.edu/](http://hr.wfu.edu/)), or to the Title IX Coordinator ([titleix.wfu.edu/](http://titleix.wfu.edu/)).

## GRADUATE STUDENT ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

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*Throughout this document, it is understood that "faculty member" and "student" may refer to more than one person.*

*The "days" referred to in the timing of the grievance processes represent days during the academic year, not including summer sessions or summer, winter, or spring breaks.*

### 1. Initial Response to Perceived Academic Grievance:

Situations may arise in which a student believes that he or she has not received fair treatment from a faculty member in an academic matter. In such cases, within two weeks of the student's awareness of the treatment he or she should talk with the faculty member. If the student and faculty member cannot resolve the problem, the

student should immediately consult his or her advisor and the Director of the Graduate Program in order to initiate any internal grievance procedure if one exists (procedures may vary from department to department). If a resolution satisfactory to both parties cannot be reached in a reasonable time, which can vary according to the complexity of the matter, the student may choose to initiate the Graduate Student Academic Grievance Procedure. Initiation of the procedure must be no later than three months after failure to achieve resolution within the department. Failure to initiate the procedure within three months forfeits the student's right to file a grievance with the Graduate School.

### 2. Liaison for Student Grievances:

The student should first contact the Associate Dean for Students, who serves as Faculty Liaison for graduate students wishing to file a grievance. The Associate Dean serves as counsel for the student, and is available to advise the student concerning academic problems and grievances and to help the student initiate and continue with the grievance procedure. At the student's request, the Faculty Liaison may be present during any hearings by the Grievance Committee in order to monitor the proceedings and to insure fair treatment of the student. Graduate students interested in filing a grievance are also encouraged to speak with the chair(s) of the Graduate Student Association or other of its officers to seek advice regarding the grievance procedure. Names of the GSA chairs can be obtained from the Graduate School office.

### 3. Written Petition:

After consulting with the Faculty Liaison, the student should submit to the Dean of the Graduate School a written petition requesting initiation of the Graduate Student Academic Grievance Procedure. The petition must include the name of the faculty member against whom the grievance is filed, the specific charge,

information about the grievance, and the action or remedy requested by the student. If appropriate at this time, documentary material may be submitted in support of the grievance, although such material may be reserved until requested by the Chair of the Grievance Committee. At the time the grievance is submitted, the Dean of the Graduate School shall confer with the student to ensure that the student has spoken with the faculty member involved, gone through the department grievance procedure, and contacted the Faculty Liaison.

4. Grievance Committee:

After receiving a grievance petition, the Dean of the Graduate School shall appoint a five-member Grievance Committee composed as follows: a Chair who is a member of the Graduate Council; two faculty members from the graduate faculty at large; and two graduate students selected from a list provided by the Graduate Student Association. Both the student filing the grievance and the faculty member against whom it is filed shall be informed of the names of all members of the Grievance Committee. In appointing members of the Grievance Committee, the Dean of the Graduate School will ensure that no conflict of interest will occur. A new committee shall be appointed for each grievance.

5. Grievance Procedure:

The Dean of the Graduate School will forward copies of the grievance petition to the Grievance Committee, the Faculty Liaison with whom the student has consulted, and the faculty member against whom the grievance is filed. The faculty member will then have fourteen days to respond in writing to the grievance. This response will be returned to the Dean of the Graduate School, who will forward copies to the Grievance Committee, the Faculty Liaison Person, and the student filing the grievance.

Within fourteen days of receiving the faculty member's response to the grievance, the Chair shall convene the Grievance Committee to review the charges, to determine if more information and documentation are needed, and to plan and schedule the Grievance Hearing. The Hearing shall be scheduled no sooner than fourteen days but no later than twenty-eight days after the initial committee meeting. The Chair of the Grievance Committee shall ask the parties involved to submit to the Graduate School any further documentation. In addition, each party will submit a list of witnesses who will appear at the Hearing in support of their position, with a one-sentence summary of the information each witness will present. All documentation and the list of witnesses must be submitted at least seven school days prior to the scheduled Hearing. After that time, no additional material or witnesses may be introduced or presented, unless of a compelling nature relevant to either the student or faculty member. In such cases the Chair of the Grievance Committee may allow the additional material or witnesses. The Graduate School shall insure that each committee member and both parties involved receive copies of all material and a list of witnesses at least five school days before the scheduled Hearing, and immediately if additional material or witnesses are allowed.

6. Grievance Hearing:

The Chair shall preside over the Grievance Hearing, and will vote only to break tie votes of the Grievance Committee. All voting shall be done by secret written ballot. All proceedings during the Hearing shall be recorded on equipment provided by the Graduate School. At all times during the Hearing, the student may have the Faculty Liaison Person present, and both parties may be represented by legal counsel or another representative. The purpose of the Hearing is to obtain information which the Grievance Committee can use to make a final

evaluation and recommendation to the Dean of the Graduate School. At all times the Chair of the Grievance Committee shall maintain a civil, reasonable atmosphere.

The Hearing shall proceed in the following manner. First the student who filed the grievance, or a representative, will be given the opportunity to discuss the grievance and to review the documentation submitted by both parties, including the response by the faculty member to the grievance. The faculty member, or representative, will then have the opportunity to ask questions of the student, after which any or all members of the Grievance Committee may ask questions. The student may then present witnesses, who can be asked questions by the faculty member and the Grievance Committee.

When the student has presented all of his or her material and witnesses, the faculty member, or representative, will be given the opportunity to discuss the grievance and to review the documentation submitted by both parties, including the original grievance petition. The student, or representative, may then ask questions, followed by questions from the Grievance Committee. The faculty member may then present witnesses, who can be asked questions by the student and the Grievance Committee. Reasonable variations of this general procedure may be allowed by the Chair of the Grievance Committee. During the Hearing witnesses will be present only while they are giving information to the Hearing and being asked questions. They will wait outside the hearing room until called by the Grievance Committee, and leave the Hearing after they have spoken.

If at any time during the Hearing either side, in the opinion of the Chair, in any way violates civil, reasonable conduct, the Chair may recess the Hearing for ten minutes. If such behavior continues, the Chair may

postpone the Hearing for a maximum of one week.

After all material and witnesses have been presented by both sides, the faculty member and then the student, or their representatives, may make a concluding summary statement, touching on all matters they consider relevant to the grievance as filed. Following the student's summary statement, the Hearing will adjourn and the Grievance Committee shall deliberate.

The Grievance Procedure may be stopped at any time upon request of the student to withdraw the grievance. Once withdrawn, that grievance cannot be reactivated. The grievance procedure may be postponed only if either party has an emergency that prevents their preparing for or appearing at a Hearing. The party with the emergency must notify the Chair of the Grievance Committee, with documentation of the nature of the emergency, as soon as possible, and the Chair will determine if a postponement is justified.

7. Recommendation to the Dean of the Graduate School:  
Within three days after completion of the Grievance Hearing, the Grievance Committee will make a recommendation which will be sent in writing to both parties and to the Dean of the Graduate School.
8. Decision by the Dean of the Graduate School:  
From the time the recommendation is received by the involved parties and the Dean of the Graduate School, either party will have five days to appeal to the Dean of the Graduate School, in writing, the recommendation of the Grievance Committee. Within two weeks after receiving the recommendation, the Dean of the Graduate School will make a decision and provide a written explanation of the reasons for the decision to the Chair of the Grievance Committee and to the parties involved. The Dean of the Graduate School

will also convey the decision to the Director of the Graduate Program involved. The decision of the Dean of the Graduate School is final.

9. Records:

All material related to the Grievance Hearing, including tapes of all sessions, shall be placed on confidential file in the Graduate School office for two years. After that time, all material except the written decision of the Dean of the Graduate School shall be destroyed.

## POLICY ON SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS FOR FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

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To determine continuing financial aid eligibility, the student's academic progress is evaluated at the end of each semester. The receipt of federally-controlled aid requires half-time enrollment (4.5 or more hours) in a degree seeking program during the fall and spring semesters and a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on work attempted in the Wake Forest University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Certain programs have higher academic requirements, which are communicated directly to the students by the program. The Dean may revoke institutionally-controlled financial aid for violation of University regulations, including its honor codes, or for violation of federal, state, or local laws.

### Federal Financial Aid

The Higher Education Act mandates that institutions of higher education establish minimum standards of satisfactory academic progress for students receiving federal aid. Wake Forest University makes these minimum standards applicable to all programs funded by the federal government. Certain federal aid programs have higher academic and/or other requirements, which are communicated to

recipients. To maintain academic eligibility for federal aid, a student must:

- Complete the requirements for a master's degree or a doctor of philosophy degree in the maximum time frame as defined in the Wake Forest Graduate School of Arts and Science Bulletin section 'Requirements for Degrees' for his/her program. A student becomes ineligible for aid at the point it is determined that he/she can no longer complete degree requirements within the remaining maximum time frame.
- Maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average on all graded hours attempted.
  - Incompletes count as hours attempted, unless from a non-credit course.
  - Audited classes do not count as hours attempted.
  - The grade point average calculation excludes satisfactory/unsatisfactory and pass/fail courses.
  - In cases where a student repeats a course for which he or she received a grade of B- or lower, the cumulative grade point average is calculated by considering the course as attempted only once, with the grade points assigned reflecting the highest grade received. However, this provision does not apply to any course for which the student has received the grade of F in consequence of an honor code violation.
  - During a semester in which a student drops courses or withdraws, all graded hours attempted in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences includes those graded hours attempted before (1) the withdrawal date, or (2) the last day to drop a course without penalty (as published in the academic calendar).
- Maintain a grade of Satisfactory "S" in research courses. Adequate progress is determined by the standards of the program in which the student is enrolled.

The policy on satisfactory academic progress applies only to the general eligibility for aid consideration. There are other federally-mandated requirements a student must meet to receive federal aid. For instance, certain federal loan programs also require either the passage of a period of time or the advancing of a grade level between annual maximum borrowing, regardless of general eligibility for aid. Other general student eligibility requirements for a student to receive federal financial aid are listed in Funding Your Education: The Guide to Federal Student Aid, a publication of the U.S. Department of Education.

A student who is not making satisfactory academic progress due to one of the reasons outlined above will be placed on probation by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Students placed on academic probation will be notified in writing, along with the Program Director and will be given one semester to resume satisfactory academic standing.

During the probationary period, students will be placed on financial aid warning for one semester and remain eligible to receive federal and institutional assistance during that semester (except when they have exceeded their degree deadline). At the end of the probationary period, progress will be reviewed. If a student cannot re-establish satisfactory academic standing during the probationary semester, the student will become ineligible to receive financial aid and may be dismissed or withdrawn from the Graduate School.

### Appeal Procedure

**Denial of aid** under this policy may be **appealed in writing** to the Dean of the Graduate School.

The Dean may grant a **probationary reinstatement** of one semester to any student, upon demonstration of extenuating circumstances documented in writing to the

satisfaction of the committee. Examples of extenuating circumstances and appropriate documentation include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: illness of the student or immediate family members – statement from physician that illness interfered with opportunity for satisfactory progress; death in family – statement of student or minister; temporary or permanent disability – statement from physician. During a probationary period, students are considered to be making satisfactory academic progress under this policy and may continue to receive aid. A determination of satisfactory academic progress for any period of enrollment after the probationary period is made at the end of the probationary period. **Reinstatement** after probation can be made only after the student has received credit for the appropriate percentage of work attempted with the required cumulative grade point average.

## WFU STUDENT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY

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Wake Forest University expects all members of its community to act in respectful and responsible ways towards each other. Wake Forest University is committed to providing programs, activities and an educational environment free from discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

This Student Sexual Misconduct Policy as set forth describes prohibited conduct, establishes procedures for responding to reports of sexual misconduct as defined in this policy, and outlines resources available to students: [safeoffice.wfu.edu/](https://safeoffice.wfu.edu/)

As a recipient of Federal funds, Wake Forest is required to comply with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S. C. § 1681 et seq. ("Title IX"), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities. Sexual misconduct, as

defined in this Policy, is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX. As explained in Section III of this Policy, sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, and sexual intimidation are all forms of misconduct prohibited by this Policy. All such forms of misconduct are referred to generally as “sexual misconduct” throughout this Policy.

This policy addresses complaints of sexual misconduct where the respondent is a student of Wake Forest University as defined in this policy. Complaints relating to sexual misconduct by a member of the University faculty, staff or community may be reported to the University’s Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator is a University employee charged with overseeing response to an investigation of allegations of sexual misconduct as well as remedying the effects of a hostile educational environment resulting from sexual misconduct if such an environment is determined to exist.

## PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

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Students and Organizations must comply with all University policies and expectations implemented in response to public health emergencies, as declared by Wake Forest University. These policies and expectations pertain to student conduct on-campus and off-campus and may address guest policies, curfews, travel restrictions, personal protective equipment, isolation and quarantine requirements, and more. If a public health emergency is declared, the policies and expectations can be found at [wakeready.wfu.edu](http://wakeready.wfu.edu) or from the main Wake Forest University home page ([wf.edu](http://wf.edu)).