Article VII. Student Conduct Proceedings

Unless stated otherwise, the student conduct proceedings will govern alleged violations of the SCoC. If the alleged Code violations include sex-based misconduct, then the student conduct proceedings will defer to the Student Sexual Misconduct Process. Additionally, allegations of academic misconduct will be adjudicated through the proceedings described in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.04: Procedure for Student Academic Misconduct Cases. The Student Sexual Misconduct Process and the procedure for Student Academic Misconduct Cases, as well as flow charts for all student conduct processes, can be found online at studentconduct.tamucc.edu.

1. Process:
   Below is a summary of the steps contained within the Student Conduct Process
   a. Alleged incident occurs
   b. Report is submitted to Student Conduct & Community Standards
   c. Charges may be issued
   d. Student Conduct Conference
   e. Notification of finding and if applicable, sanctions are assigned
   f. Student accepts or denies Student Conduct Conference outcome
   g. Formal hearing, if needed
   h. Notification of finding and if applicable, sanctions are assigned; assigned sanctions will go in effect at the expiration of the appeal period
   i. Student may choose to appeal formal outcome, if appealable
   j. Notification of appeal finding and if applicable, sanctions

2. Charges:
   a. Any individual may submit an incident report to the Student Conduct Officer regarding alleged student misconduct. Incident reports should be submitted as soon as the reporter is aware of the alleged violation. For incidents which may be adjudicated under the Student Sexual Misconduct Process or the Procedure for Student Academic Misconduct Cases, additional information on specific timelines can be found online at studentconduct.tamucc.edu.
   b. The Student Conduct Officer may conduct an investigation to determine if the incident report merits further review and/or if the matter can be resolved administratively by mutual consent of the parties in a manner acceptable to the Student Conduct Officer. Such resolution shall be final with no subsequent proceedings. If the incident report cannot be resolved by mutual consent, the Student Conduct Officer may later serve in the same matter as the Hearing Body or member thereof.

   Note – This process is for individual behavioral student conduct issues. In incidents concerning the Student Sexual Misconduct Process or Student Organization Conduct matters, investigation will be conducted by the Title IX Coordinator and/or Student Activities Office respectively.
   c. If the incident report contains sufficient information, written charges will be presented to the accused student electronically via official University email address. A hard copy may be provided upon request or as deemed necessary. A time shall be set for an Student Conduct Conference, not less than one, but not more than fifteen business days after the notification has been provided. Time limits for scheduling of meetings may be extended at the discretion of the Student Conduct Officer. Students may request that an alternative
date/time be selected for their Student Conduct Conference, these requests will be reviewed at the discretion of the hearing body.

3. **Student Conduct Conference**: Prior to a formal conduct hearing, the accused student may have the opportunity to meet with a Student Conduct Officer in an Student Conduct Conference to review a summary of the student’s rights. The Student Conduct Officer may use this meeting to conduct further investigation of the alleged conduct violations. During this meeting, the student will be afforded the opportunity to respond to all charges and may participate in an informal resolution. In cases where a threat to the safety of the campus community is concerned a Student Conduct Conference may not be available. If the option of an Student Conduct Conference is available, the Student Conduct Officer will serve as the hearing body and will discuss the events of the alleged incident with the student to make a determination regarding the outcome of the case. The student will be sent an outcome letter within five business days.

The student may accept the outcome of the Student Conduct Conference process and comply with the assigned sanction(s). Alternatively, the student may deny the outcome and complete the necessary paperwork attached to the letter to request a formal hearing. Students will have five business days from the date of the outcome notification to deny the outcome of the Student Conduct Conference. For students who do not attend the Student Conduct Conference a decision will be made in their absence. The student will still have the option of denying the outcome of the Student Conduct Conference. When a formal hearing is scheduled, the hearing may occur not less than three days, but not more than 15 business days after hearing notification has been sent to the student. The Office of Student Conduct & Advocacy presumes that students are receiving all communications sent to their official University email address and/or other means of communication provided to Office of Student Conduct & Advocacy by the student. Students may request to waive the three-day waiting period for formal hearing, when available, at the discretion of the Student Conduct Officer. Time limits for scheduling of hearings and outcome notifications may be extended at the discretion of the Student Conduct Officer.

4. **Student Conduct Hearing**: Every student in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi community has the right to a hearing. Sanctions may not be imposed upon any student without a Student Conduct Conference or a hearing. Hearings shall be conducted by a Hearing Body according to the following guidelines:
   a. Hearings are conducted in a closed setting and admission of any person to the hearing shall be at the discretion of the Student Conduct Officer.
   b. In hearings involving more than one accused student, generally all students may participate in one hearing together. In special circumstances, upon request by the involved parties, the Student Conduct Officer may choose to schedule the hearings concerning each student separately.
   c. The respondent is responsible for presenting their own case. In addition, the respondent, the complainant, and witnesses all have the right to be assisted by an advisor of their choice and at their own expense. The advisor:
      i. May be an attorney, friend, family member, faculty member, etc.
      ii. Is restricted to an advisory role and is not permitted to participate directly in any hearing, directly address an involved university official, or advocate on behalf of the student Advisors may communicate ONLY with the student they are assisting. This communication may be written or verbal. Advisors may not communicate with any other participant in the hearing.
iii. Is required to maintain privacy regarding information provided at the conduct proceedings.

iv. The advisor may not be a witness, involved party, or have any other conflicting role in the incident in question.

Students should select an advisor who’s schedule will not conflict with the scheduled date and time of the Student Conduct Hearing. Student Conduct Hearings will not typically be delayed due to scheduling conflicts of an advisor.

An advisor, witness, or other participating party who is verbally abusive, disruptive to the process, or persists in trying to inappropriately and substantively participate in the process after being warned to cease and desist may be asked to leave and may be precluded from attendance at future meetings. The University has the right at all times to determine what constitutes appropriate behavior on the part of an advisor.

d. The Student Conduct Officer, the complaintant, the respondent and the Hearing Body may request witnesses and have the right to communicate questions to one another, if present, only through the Chair of the Hearing Body. It is the responsibility of the individual requesting the witness(es) to notify the individual(s) of the hearing date, location and time.

e. Relevant documentary information may be accepted as evidence for consideration by a Hearing Body at the discretion of the Chair of the Hearing Body.

f. All procedural questions are subject to the final decision of the Student Conduct Officer.

g. A hearing packet will be available at least three business days prior to the hearing, for any case including alleged violation(s) which may lead to suspension or expulsion. When possible, a digital, redacted copy of the hearing packet may be provided via email to the respondent and the complainant at the discretion of the Student Conduct Officer. Relevant information, not known and/or not available at the time the hearing packet was prepared, may be presented at the hearing. In cases that are unlikely to result in suspension or expulsion, the student may request a packet to review, but one will not automatically be generated. This request should be made to the Student Conduct Officer no less than three business days prior to the scheduled hearing.

h. The Hearing Body shall determine (by a simple majority vote if the Hearing Body consists of more than one or two persons) whether the student has violated the SCoC. The respondent will typically be sent notification of the hearing outcome within 5 business days, unless extenuating circumstances require additional time for notification.

i. The Hearing Body’s determination will be made on the basis of “preponderance of information” (more likely than not standard). A determination as to “in violation” or “not in violation” of the alleged offense will be based upon the information presented at the hearing. If one or more violations are found, sanctions may be assigned.

j. A confidential record will be kept of all hearings adjudicated by the Office of Student Conduct & Advocacy. Hearings may be recorded by the University, at the discretion of the Student Conduct Officer. Any and all recordings are the property of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

k. If a student fails to appear for a hearing, information regarding the charges may be presented, considered, and a decision may be rendered in the student’s absence.