STATEMENT OF STANDARDS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR STUDENTS

Approved by the University Senate on April 24, 2006
Approved by the President on April 27, 2006

PREAMBLE

As a scholarly community, the University of Maryland is committed to intellectual exchange and inquiry, civility, diversity, the discovery and creation of knowledge, and the improvement of society. The University seeks to graduate individuals with the capacity to serve as constructive and ethical citizens, scholars, and leaders within a modern, pluralistic, multicultural democracy. Standards and responsibilities must be consistent with and complement the purposes of the University. The University sets high standards for all who participate in its community. Students who join the University accept its standards and responsibilities.

This Statement sets forth standards and responsibilities for students which are implemented by the administration, staff, students and faculty. Through properly adopted and disseminated policies and procedures and consistent with applicable law the University and its representatives will seek to ensure our standards and responsibilities. The standards and responsibilities noted in this statement are defined by law or made necessary for the successful operation of the University and have been established by procedures agreed upon by the University.

Many of these standards and responsibilities are embodied in existing policies and regulations. These¹ include the Code of Academic Integrity (Policy III-1.00(A)), Human Relations code (VI-1.00(B)), the Code of Student Conduct (V-1.00(B)), the Residence Life Rules, (V-1.00(C)), Policy on Arbitrary and Capricious Grading (III-1.20), the Statement of Freedom of Expression (http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/foe.html) and the campus policy on Sexual Harassment (VI-1.20(A)). In addition to the responsibilities noted below and specified in the codes and policies of the campus, students are expected to conduct themselves in ways consistent with law and campus policies and with the mission of an educational institution. The Statement shall not be construed to offer rights or to impose obligations different from those established by law and duly adopted policies and procedures of the University. Nothing in this Statement alters any code or other rule established by the University.

I. EXPRESSION AND INQUIRY

Subject to specified limitations of time, place and manner established by the University, students may freely express opinions on all subjects but will be individually responsible for the consequences of any abuse of this freedom. Students may not be prevented from appropriately exercising the right of expression or inquiry because of the content or topic of the expression or the inquiry. In exercising these freedoms, no student may violate the civil rights of others.

¹ For a more comprehensive list of campus policies that are directly related to campus standards and responsibilities see http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/
II. PARTICIPATION, ASSOCIATION, AND ASSEMBLY

Students may participate in the intellectual, cultural, political, and social life of the University community, and may peaceably assemble on campus subject to specified limitations of time, place and manner established by the University. Students have the right to informed participation in the University Senate and other campus policy-making bodies as specified in the constitution and bylaws of those organizations. Consistent with University policies and procedures, students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that neither poses a threat to the health, safety or security of the University community, nor interferes with the freedoms of other members of the community or the mission of the University.

III. THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE, AND RELIGION

Students have the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. This includes the freedom to manifest one's religion or belief in discussion, practice, worship and observance, either individually or in community with others. No student may be compelled to attend, or be prohibited from attending, any religious service or observance. Students may not be harassed or molested on account of their religious persuasion, profession, or practice; neither will any student, under color of religion, disrupt the order or safety of the campus community or infringe upon the civil or religious rights of others. The University excuses the absences of students that result from causes specified by University policy, including religious observance where the nature of the observance prevents the student from being present during the class period. It is each student's responsibility to become familiar with the policy and to comply with it as it applies to each course in which the student is enrolled.

IV. PRIVACY AND AUTONOMY

Students can, as defined by law and campus policies, expect to be secure in their persons, dwellings, papers, communications, and effects. Every student will be informed when University policy stipulates that a search of his or her property, dwellings or papers requires his or her consent. Every student is responsible for knowing the applicable laws and policies and for acting in compliance with them.

V. DISCIPLINE AND DUE PROCESS

In all student disciplinary proceedings, students will be informed of the charge, promptly receive a copy of the complaint, and have access to relevant material to be introduced in order to enable them to prepare a response. Students will have the right to be assisted without prejudice by an advisor, to have access to procedures for securing the appearance of witnesses, to examine all witnesses in disciplinary hearings, and to receive a timely and impartial hearing. All students will be presumed not responsible until proven responsible by clear and convincing evidence. If a student chooses to testify, a negative inference may be drawn from failure to respond to relevant
questions in a judicial proceeding. Each student is responsible for the consequences of his or her actions and will comport himself or herself in accordance with the University policies and procedures that regulate student conduct.

VI. EQUALITY OF RIGHTS AND EQUAL PROTECTION

Equality of rights and equal protection under the rules and regulations of the University will not be abridged or denied because of race, color, creed, gender, marital status, personal appearance, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, citizenship status, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, or personal beliefs and associations. Consistent with campus policies students are expected to respect the personal dignity of other members of the University community.

VII. COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING

Students have the right to a clear statement of the requirements of their courses and the basis on which, and the manner in which, they will be evaluated and graded. Students may appeal grades as specified in the policy on Arbitrary and Capricious Grading. Students have the obligation to know and complete the requirements of their courses in the time and manner prescribed and to submit to evaluation of their work. Students will make all reasonable efforts to prevent the occurrence of academic dishonesty.

VIII. DISSEMINATION AND AWARENESS

Members of the University community will be made aware of this Statement and accompanying documents upon entering the University, and at other reasonable times. All members have the responsibility to be aware of and abide by University policies and procedures.

IX. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this statement must be approved by the University Senate and the President.