

UConn Student Code Violations

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Issue

What are the possible sanctions for conduct violating UConn's Student Code? How many times has UConn imposed each sanction in the last five academic years and for which offenses? This report updates OLR Report [2014-R-0222](#).

Summary

UConn's Student Code contains standards, rules, and regulations to which all UConn students and organizations must adhere. It contains four primary sanctions: warning, probation, suspension, and expulsion. UConn may also impose secondary sanctions in conjunction with the primary sanctions, including loss of privileges, restitution, removal from student housing, and participation in educational initiatives.

Under the code, sanctions may be imposed, individually or in various combinations, against any student or registered student organization found to have violated it. The code, with certain exceptions, generally does not provide any guidelines for sanctions that are tied to specific offenses. According to UConn's Office of Community Standards, which administers the code, any violation may result in a suspension or expulsion, depending on the case's factors and individual circumstances.

Tables 4 and 5 below list the number of times that UConn imposed each type of primary and secondary sanction, respectively, in the previous five academic years. Tables 6 and 7 provide additional details about suspensions and expulsions, respectively, including the offenses that led to these sanctions. The data, which are from reports by UConn's Office of Community Standards, do not list the offenses that resulted in other types of sanctions (e.g., warnings or probation).

Student Code Sanctions

Possible Sanctions

UConn’s Student Code contains four primary sanctions for code violations: warning, probation, suspension, and expulsion. UConn may also impose secondary sanctions in conjunction with the primary sanctions, including loss of privileges, restitution, removal from student housing, and participation in educational programming. Similar to individual students, violations of the Student Code by a registered student organization (RSO) may result in a warning, probation, loss of privileges, restitution, education initiatives, and suspension or loss of registration.

Table 1 describes the four primary sanctions against individuals, and Table 2 describes examples of secondary sanctions. Table 3 describes the types of disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed on RSOs.

Table 1: UConn Student Code: Primary Sanctions

Sanctions	Description
Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice that a student has violated university policy • Warning that another violation will likely result in a more severe sanction, which could include probation, suspension, or expulsion
Probation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indefinite period of time during which the student is given the opportunity to modify unacceptable behavior, complete specific assignments, and demonstrate a positive contribution to the university community in an effort to regain student privileges • Student may apply to Probation Review Committee for a review of his or her probationary status six months after being placed on probation; if the committee denies the application, student may re-apply six months after the denial • Student may be suspended or expelled if found responsible for a subsequent Student Code violation while on probation
Suspension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separation from the university for a designated time period, after which the student may apply for readmission • Prohibition on (1) being in or on any university-owned or –leased property without permission from the director of community standards or a designee and (2) participating in any university activity or program • “Suspension” notation placed on student’s transcript until graduation; student may petition director of community standards for earlier removal upon completing the suspension
Expulsion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent separation from the university • Prohibition on (1) being in or on any university-owned or –leased property and (2) participating in any university activity or program • Permanent “Expulsion” notation placed on student’s transcript

Source: UConn Student Code

Table 2: UConn Student Code: Selected Secondary Sanctions

Sanction	Description
Loss of Privilege	Denial of specified privileges for a designated period of time
Restitution	Compensation for loss of or damage to property or services rendered; may be through appropriate service or monetary or material replacement
Removal of Housing	Separation from university-approved housing for a designated period of time; removal may include loss of dining privileges
UConn Compass	Program promoting student engagement through co-curricular involvement
Educational Initiatives	Projects; participation in health or safety programs (the student may be required to pay a fee); service to the university or to the larger community; seminars; and other assignments as warranted

Source: UConn Student Code

Table 3: Registered Student Organizations: Disciplinary Sanctions

Sanction	Description
Warning	A written, formal warning is sent to the student organization leadership and saved in the organization's electronic file. Further violations may result in additional sanctions.
Probation	An organization is placed on probation. Organizations on probation may be required to meet additional sanctions or requirements before being removed from probation. Further violations occurring during the probationary time period may result in additional sanctions.
Loss of Privileges	A student organization may face a loss of privileges on campus. Privileges may include meeting and event space reservations, funding support, the ability to recruit new members, eligibility for the involvement fair, use of the student facilities, suspension of banking or financial advisement support, and public listing with UConncontact.
Restitution	A student organization may be required to repay all monetary costs associated with damages that occurred at an event hosted or attended by the organization. Additionally, restitution may take the form of work or service required to repair, replace, improve, or otherwise restore or enhance property or persons impacted by the organization's behavior. A student organization is responsible for performing restitution in a timely manner, and failure to do so will result in additional sanctions.
Educational Initiatives	Student organization leaders may be required to participate in educational initiatives that may include workshops, seminars, or community service projects.
Suspension or Loss of Registration	A student organization may be subject to suspension or loss of registration for a defined period. Suspended organizations are disallowed from any affiliation with UConn, direct or indirect, and are not allowed to re-activate as an organization without prior written permission from the Department of Student Activities. A suspended organization must apply for reinstatement following the term of the suspension by submitting a letter to the Department of Student Activities.

Source: Blueprints – A Manual for Registered Student Organizations

Sanction Guidelines

The code, with certain exceptions, generally does not provide any guidelines for sanctions that are tied to specific offenses. The exceptions are academic misconduct and sexual misconduct.

The code specifically outlines sanctions for academic misconduct (e.g., cheating and plagiarism). The code notes that any grading punishment is up to the course instructor, with the student able to appeal to a hearing board. According to the code, failing the course is generally the appropriate sanction for serious offenses. For offenses involving small portions of coursework, the code suggests giving the student a failing grade for those portions and requiring the student to repeat them for no credit.

The Office of Community Standards also provides specific guidance on sexual misconduct cases in a supplement to the Student Code. Generally, if a student is found responsible for a sexual misconduct violation, it is highly unlikely that the student will receive a warning. The precedent regarding sexual misconduct and assault is expulsion.

Examples of Typical Sanctions

Although the Student Code generally does not establish sanction guidelines, the Office of Community Standards' website provides some examples of typical sanctions for certain offenses. The examples include typical sanctions for alcohol and drug violations, assault or threatening behavior, and damage. For instance, underage possession of alcohol may result in a warning if there are no aggravating factors, while procuring alcohol for minors typically results in a suspension.

Violations may be deemed aggravated if they are directed toward an individual or group due to race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender identity, age, physical or mental disabilities, and past or present history of mental disorder. Student conduct officers or hearing bodies may enhance sanctions in this case.

According to the office, violations that generally result in suspension or expulsion include:

1. committing any violation while on university probation;
2. participating in or inciting others to participate in the violent disruption of any university activity;
3. committing an act of physical assault or abuse;
4. driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol;

5. possessing or using illegal drugs;
6. selling or distributing (or intending to sell or distribute) controlled substances or drugs;
7. distributing alcohol or drugs to minors;
8. committing an act of sexual misconduct;
9. committing serious or multiple cases of academic misconduct; and
10. falsifying university information.

Sanction Data

Tables 4 and 5 show, for each of the past five academic years, the number of primary and secondary sanctions, respectively, imposed by UConn for Student Code violations for individual students. The Office of Community Standards does not provide information on RSO sanctions.

Table 4: Number of Primary Sanctions Imposed by UConn

Type of Sanction	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Warning	942	1418	1269	992	910
Probation	204	182	231	235	312
Suspension	7	11	11	18	19
Expulsion	19	20	21	22	10

Source: UConn Office of Community Standards

Table 5: Number of Secondary Sanctions Imposed by UConn

Type of Sanction	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
UConn Compass (engagement component)	214	232	247	159	134
UConn Compass (suspension component)	7	11	11	18	19
Wellness and Prevention: Alcohol	382	364	294	260	258
Wellness and Prevention: Drugs	123	143	135	188	173
Banned from University Building(s)	14	18	21	18	24
Building Blocks of a Residential Community	N/A	18	71	91	102
Educational Project	275	318	481	459	497
Living Your Values Workshop	118	137	123	102	86
Loss of Privileges	40	62	77	12	19
Meeting with UConn Staff Member	138	170	146	102	115
Off-Campus Workshop	N/A	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Removal From Housing	22	26	35	22	28
Restitution	35	22	34	18	15

Source: UConn Office of Community Standards

Suspensions and Expulsions

Tables 6 and 7 show, for suspensions and expulsions, respectively, in each of the previous five academic years, the (1) number of students punished, (2) number of punished students who had a prior student conduct history, and (3) offenses that led to the punishments.

Table 6: UConn Student Suspensions

Academic Year	Number of Student Suspensions	Number of Students with Prior Conduct History	Offenses that Resulted in Suspension
2012-2013	7	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possessing alcohol and drugs while on university probation (2) • Altercation (1) • Damage to property and dangerous behavior (1) • Driving under the influence of alcohol (1) • Sexual misconduct (1) • Significant possession of drugs (1)
2013-2014	11	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug-related and disruption (3) • Altercation (2) • Relationship violence (2) • Disruption of environment (1) • Driving under the influence of alcohol (1) • Sexual misconduct (1) • Theft (1)
2014-2015	11	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug possession (4) • Driving under the influence (2) • Threatening behavior (2) • Large, off-campus party and uncooperative with police (1) • Physical altercation (1) • Provided false information to gain an academic opportunity over others (1)

Table 6 (continued)

Academic Year	Number of Student Suspensions	Number of Students with Prior Conduct History	Offenses that Resulted in Suspension
2015-2016	18	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruptive off-campus party while on university probation (2) • Multiple thefts of university property and attempting to sell the stolen items (2) • Physical altercation while on university probation (2) • Dating violence - verbal (1) • Disruptive off-campus party and uncooperative/physical contact with police (1) • Driving under the influence while on university probation (1) • Excessive use of alcohol underage and uncooperative with police while on university probation (1) • Motor vehicle accident while driving under the influence of alcohol and a second alcohol related incident in the span of several days (1) • Motor vehicle accident while driving under the influence of alcohol while on university probation (1) • Physical assault (1) • Physical assault and damage to property (1) • Physical assault and theft of prescription medication (1) • Possession of marijuana while on university probation (1) • Possession and use of prescription medication not prescribed to the student, engagement in a set up to harm another student, and theft (1) • Threatening and disruptive behavior (1)
2016-2017	19	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug use (5) • Driving under the influence (4) • Sexual misconduct (4) • Drug distribution (2) • Hosted large off-campus party (2) • Physical assault (2)

Source: UConn Office of Community Standards

Table 7: UConn Student Expulsions

Academic Year	Number of Student Expulsions	Number of Students with Prior Conduct History	Offenses that Resulted in Expulsion
2012-2013	19	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug distribution (12) • Driving under the influence of alcohol and striking a pedestrian (2) • Sexual misconduct (2) • Assault (1) • Possessing drugs while on university probation (1) • Major theft (1)
2013-2014	20	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Four-related incidents (9) • Drug distribution (6) • Sexual misconduct (3) • Significant disruption of the academic and living environment (2)
2014-2015	21	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual misconduct (9) • Drug distribution (6) • Robbery, received stolen goods, drug possession (2) • Assault (1) • Provided false information for academic and financial gain (1) • Solicited a hacker for academic gain (1) • Threatening behavior (1)
2015-2016	22	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug distribution (4) • Sexual assault (3) • Stalking (2) • Disruptive, uncooperative and physical with staff (1) • Drug distribution and assault (1) • Drug distribution, use of marijuana and assault (1) • False reporting of an incident which caused a significant disruption (1) • Forging university documents and providing false information (1) • Harassment and disruptive behavior while on university probation (1) • Harassment directed at sexual identity (1) • Intentionally contaminating the water of research animals (1) • Physical assault which was ethnically motivated (1) • Physical assault and assisting others in assault (1) • Physical assault and theft (1) • Stalking and dating violence (1) • Used a professor's identity to enter grading system and changed grades (1)
2016-2017	10	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual misconduct (6) • Falsification of university documents/misuse of university procedures (2) • Drug distribution (1) • Physical assault (1)

Source: UConn Office of Community Standards

Additional Resources:

UConn Student Code: <https://community.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/523/2016/06/1718-The-Student-Code.pdf>

UConn Student Conduct Statistics: <http://community.uconn.edu/student-conduct-statistics/>

Blueprints A Manual for Registered Student Organizations: <https://solid.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/471/2014/05/Blueprints-2017.pdf>

Sexual Misconduct Cases Involving a Student Respondent: <https://community.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/523/2016/07/Sexual-misconduct-information-for-involved-parties.pdf>

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