

OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY

BULLETIN 2012-2014

11.1. Campus Life Policies, Procedures and Requirements

Several policies, procedures and requirements which relate to students and student conduct are given in Sec. 2.6., including (but not limited to) the following:

- Disability Programs and Services (Sec. 2.6.2.2.)
- Policy Prohibiting Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation (Sec. 2.6.2.3.)
- Civility Statement (Sec. 2.6.3.1.)
- Consensual Relationship Policy (Sec. 2.6.3.3.)
- Ongoing Requirements for Students to Report on Disciplinary and Criminal Matters (Sec. 2.6.3.4.)
- United States Copyright Law Requirements (Sec. 2.6.4.4.)
- Policies Relating to Digital Media, Information and Communication (Sec. 2.6.5.)
- Parking, Driving and Vehicle Registration Policies and Regulations (Sec. 2.6.6.)
- Student Records (Sec. 2.6.7.)
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (Sec. 2.6.8.)
- General Policies for Handling Complaints and Requests for Variances, Waivers and Appeals (Sec. 2.6.9.)

In addition, financial and financial aid information may be found in Sec. 4. and a considerable number of policies, procedures and requirements of an academic nature are provided in Secs. 5. through 10. Students are also specifically reminded of their obligations under Sec. 1.2. of this *Bulletin*.

What follows in the remainder of this section are some additional policies, procedures and requirements which are targeted more narrowly on students and, often, student conduct, particularly as it occurs on-campus.

11.1.1. Student Rights and Responsibilities

Among the enumerated rights of Oglethorpe students are freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, the presumption of innocence and procedural fairness in the administration of discipline, and access to personal records.

As members of the Oglethorpe community, students are responsible for maintaining high standards of conduct and respecting the privacy and feelings of others and the property of both students and the University. Students are expected to display behavior that is not disruptive of campus life or the surrounding community. They represent the University off-campus and are expected to act in a law-abiding and mature fashion.

Those whose actions show that they have not accepted this responsibility may be subject to disciplinary action as set forth in the Code of Student Conduct (Sec. 11.3.).

11.1.2. Student Role in Institutional Decision Making

Student opinions and views play a significant role in institutional decisions affecting their interests and welfare. Students are asked to complete the following annually: a comprehensive student opinion survey, course assessments and the advising assessment. Students serve on key academic committees such as the Commencement Committee, the Core Curriculum Committee, the Experiential Education Committee, the Teacher Education Council and several Board of Trustees standing committees.

Particularly important is the role of elected student government representatives in this process. The president along with selected other officers of the Student Government Association meet regularly with the vice president for campus life to discuss student body concerns. At least once each year students are invited to meet with the Campus Life Committee of the Board of Trustees. In addition, the Student Government Association collaborates with the president of the University and the cabinet in sponsoring periodic “town meetings” to which all students are invited.

11.1.3. Policy on Student Demonstrations

Oglethorpe University fully supports freedom of expression and peaceful assembly for students. Having the opportunity to assemble peacefully and to discuss issues is essential to the student’s education. However, to prevent bodily harm, to protect property, and to avoid disruption of the educational process, participants in a demonstration must conduct themselves in a responsible manner. The following standards of conduct apply to all campus assemblies, meetings, parties, or other gatherings of students:

- No person may push, strike, physically assault or threaten any member of the faculty, staff or student body or any visitor to the University.
- The person(s) mainly responsible for organizing a demonstration must meet with the director of campus safety prior to announcing the event to agree on procedures for maintaining order.
- All other campus policies on conduct, as well as all local, state and federal laws, apply to student demonstrations on the Oglethorpe campus.

11.1.4. Policy on Hazing

Oglethorpe University does not permit the hazing of a student as a requirement for membership or participation in any student organization, athletic team, Greek chapter, colony, club or group. Hazing is not consistent with the mission of the University and is

in opposition to the founding principles of fraternal organizations. The University will not tolerate hazing in any form.

Hazing activities are defined as:

An action taken or situation created intentionally by an individual or group, whether on- or off-campus, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule in another person or group, regardless of the consent of the participants. Any act that interferes with regularly scheduled classes or academic pursuits of a student may also be defined as hazing. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following:

- Use of alcohol.
- Paddling in any form.
- Creation of excess fatigue.
- Physical and psychological shocks.
- Engaging in disruptive behavior.
- Morally degrading or humiliating games and activities.
- Forced servitude.
- Other such activities that are not consistent with academic achievement, ritual or policy, the regulations or policies of the University or applicable state law.

Complaints or information concerning an alleged violation of the hazing policy should be reported to the dean of students or the director of residence life. Staff will investigate all complaints and take appropriate action upon confirmation of a violation.

11.1.5. Gatehouse Security Arm Procedures

The security arm at the Peachtree Road entrance is in operation between the hours of 9:30 PM and 6:00 AM daily, unless directed otherwise by the director of campus safety. The gate will be down and operating during this period and around-the-clock on holidays.

If a vehicle has a valid parking tag, the vehicle will be freely admitted onto campus at any time.

Between 9:30 PM and 2:00 AM, if a vehicle has no permit or if the permit is out of date, the vehicle may not be allowed onto campus unless the following is done:

- Occupants of any vehicle unaccompanied by a student or staff member must show a valid photo ID or Petrel Pass. The name, license number and state, time and a reason for the visit will be recorded in the vehicle registration log. In addition, the student the visitor wishes to see must be called in advance to verify

that the guest is welcome. If confirmation is not made after two attempts, the guest will be informed and visitation denied.

- If a student is in the vehicle, he or she can confirm the occupants. Students must sign-in their guests on the registration log along with their name (printed clearly), residence hall room, phone number and time.

After 2:00 AM, a visitor will not be allowed to proceed onto campus unless their intended host or hostess comes to the gatehouse to meet them.

Occasionally members of Greek Row may provide a guest list of off-campus visitors for a social function. Individuals on the list are allowed onto campus after showing identification and being checked off the list. The fraternities and sororities will be informed that their invited guests are not allowed to bring other individuals not on the list.

11.1.6. Noise Policy

In order to promote a supportive learning environment on campus, excessive noise during any hour will be considered an infraction of the rules. Specific quiet hours in the residence halls are posted as applicable. All outside events must observe DeKalb County's noise ordinance of 11 PM.

11.1.7. Smoking Policy

Oglethorpe is transitioning to a tobacco-free campus. Smoking is prohibited in all campus buildings, including classrooms, offices, meeting rooms, lounge areas, rest rooms, corridors, stairwells, the library, all residence halls (including the Traer courtyard), the field house, Greek housing, the student center and any other interior spaces in buildings. During the transition, smoking is only permitted in designated smoking areas. All smokers should dispose of cigarette butts in the proper receptacles. Hookahs are not permitted on campus.

11.1.8. Restricted Areas

Students are not permitted to enter the electrical service rooms, boiler rooms, maintenance closets and air conditioning tower or to be on roofs of campus buildings.

11.1.9. Appearance

The University expects students to maintain a neat appearance when attending class or campus events. Shoes and shirts are to be worn in all buildings except campus residence halls.

11.1.10. Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Harassment and Assault

Oglethorpe prohibits all forms of sexual misconduct, harassment and assault which include but are not limited to sexual coercion, stalking, intimidation, harassment, assault (unwanted touching), and rape. Sexual misconduct includes any sexual activity for which consent is not given.

Please see the University's policy prohibiting discrimination, harassment, and retaliation (Sec. 2.6.2.3.) for more specifics on sexual harassment.

Consent must be given by participants engaged in sexual activity. It must be given throughout the activity and may be revoked at any time. Neither a prior relationship nor silence is a sufficient indication of consent. A person who is asleep, drugged, intoxicated, or unconscious may not give consent. A minor or a person whose capacity or ability to provide informed consent is impaired may not give consent. If a person is under the influence of alcohol or drugs—even if they were consumed prior to the sexual encounter and the other person has no knowledge of the consumption—may not be able to give consent as it is defined by law. Likewise, an individual accused of sexual assault or misconduct does not avoid responsibility because he/she was under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

Prevention of sexual misconduct, assault and harassment requires commitment from all members of the community.

The county and city provide resources for victims of sexual assault and misconduct via the 911 emergency system and Dekalb Rape Crisis Center, 24-hour hotline: (404) 377-1428.

Cases of sexual misconduct, assault and harassment should be reported immediately to any of the following:

- The office of campus life
- The dean of students
- The director of residence life (or a member of residence life staff)
- Campus safety
- The director of counseling
- After business hours, the residence life staff member on call or campus safety director may be contacted by calling campus safety.

By reporting the incident to a University official, a judicial investigation of the perpetrator will be discussed with the victim and initiated with their consent.

Individuals who experience sexual misconduct, harassment and assault will be provided resources for ongoing support and provided multiple options for resolving the matter. In cases with a conduct hearing, a faculty-staff judicial board, organized by the director

of residence life or dean of students, will hear the case according to the appropriate timeline and procedure.

11.1.11. Suicidal Gestures

It is the policy of the University to treat all attempted suicides and suicidal gestures with seriousness regardless of the degree of lethality involved in the attempt. A student who has made such an attempt must receive clearance from the counseling center (or designated off-campus professional) to continue their studies, to live on-campus and to participate in co-curricular activities. After clearance, a plan for and compliance with ongoing support and counseling is also required.