

STUDENT CONDUCT

Academic Integrity

The academic community of the University of Southern Maine recognizes that adherence to high principles of academic integrity is vital to the academic function of the University. Academic integrity is based upon honesty. All students of the University are expected to be honest in their academic endeavors. All academic work should be performed in a manner that provides an honest reflection of the knowledge and abilities of each student. Any breach of academic honesty should be regarded as a serious offense by all members of the academic community.

The entire academic community shares the responsibility for establishing and maintaining standards of academic integrity. Those in charge of academic tasks have an obligation to make known the standards and expectations of acceptable academic conduct. Each student has an obligation to know and understand conduct. While the academic community recognizes that the responsibility for learning and personal conduct is an individual matter, all students and faculty members are expected to help to maintain academic integrity at the University by refusing to participate in, or tolerate, any dishonesty.

Plagiarism, cheating, and falsification of information are violations of academic integrity that should not be tolerated. Please check the Student Academic Integrity Policy for official definitions of these practices. The USM Office of Community Standards administers the student conduct process, which includes student violations of academic integrity. The OCS website offers information about academic integrity specifically addressed to faculty. Many academic departments have also adopted policies addressing such problems.

For the specific procedures for handling violations of academic integrity, please refer to the Office of Community Standards website at www.usm.maine.edu/ocs or call the office at **780-5242**.

Other Student Conduct Issues

The University of Maine System Student Conduct Code lists as violations some activities that faculty might occasionally observe or encounter in their interactions with students. These include:

- Harassment or intimidation of another person.
- Disturbance resulting in substantial disruption of authorized activities.
- The theft, unauthorized acquisition, removal, or use of property.
- Misuse or destruction of Library material or other academic material.
- Misuse, destruction, or defacement of University property as defined above or the property of other people while located on University property.

While very disruptive or safety-threatening behaviors are not commonplace, classroom disruptions of a less serious nature are quite frequent. Behaviors such as excessive tardiness, lack of courtesy, cell phone use, and inappropriate use of computers during class, are some of the

more common disruptions that occur in classes. Faculty members may ask disruptive students to leave their classroom at any time.

If you experience very disruptive or safety-threatening behaviors the USM Police Department is an available resource. The police may be reached at the following numbers:

On Campus Emergencies: **X911**

Portland and Gorham you reach USM Police.

LAC, Saco, Sanford, etc. you reach the local town or city police.

On Campus Non-Emergencies: **X5211**

To reach the USM Police from off campus or by cell phone call **780-5211**.

For advice or assistance with other classroom disruptions you may contact your department chair or program director. The Office of Community Standards offers resources and strategies for handling these situations both proactively and reactively.

For questions about student conduct at the University of Southern Maine, please contact the Office of Community Standards, **780-5242** or you may also send e-mail to the following:

Stephen Nelson, Director
snelson@usm.maine.edu

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