

## University Policy: Interim Suspension

**Policy Category:** Students

**Subject:** Interim suspension policy for students

**Responsible Executive:** Vice President, Student Affairs

**Office(s) Responsible for Review of this Policy:** Office of Campus Life

**Related University Policies:** Student Conduct Code; Threat Assessment Policy, Washington College of Law Honor Code

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### I. SCOPE

This policy applies to all American University students including undergraduate, graduate and Washington College of Law (WCL).

### II. POLICY STATEMENT

American University is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all AU Community Members. This Policy establishes the procedures on placing a student on interim suspension at the university.

### III. DEFINITIONS

### IV. POLICY

#### A. General

1. The dean of students or their designee may suspend a student from the university and/or university housing or deny access to university privileges for an interim period pending disciplinary charges or criminal proceedings or medical evaluation regarding behavior relevant to such proceedings.
2. The dean of students or their designee, at their discretion, may impose an interim suspension when the continued presence of the student at the university (a) poses a substantial and imminent threat to the safety and well-being of members of the university community; or (b) poses a threat to the stability and continuation of normal university functions.
3. The dean of students or their designee may consult with other university administrators or external professionals as needed in deciding whether to impose an interim suspension.

4. When placed on an interim suspension, a student may not participate in university activities including but not limited to: attending or participating in academic classes or programs, residing in university owned or operated facilities, being present on university premises. Any modifications to the interim suspension will be explicitly communicated by the dean of students or their designee. Direct communication between a University employee and student, beyond staff in the Office of the Dean of Students and Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Services must be approved by the dean of students or designee.
5. During a period of an interim suspension, the student's faculty will be notified, and the student will be excused from classes, however, they are responsible for making up the work once the interim suspension has been lifted. University regulations will continue to apply during an interim suspension.

## **B. Process**

1. The dean of students or their designee will provide written notification to a student who is placed on interim suspension. The written notification will include information regarding the alleged conduct and the rationale for the interim suspension. The interim suspension will be effective immediately.
2. A student who is placed on interim suspension will have the opportunity to appeal to the Vice President of Campus Life (VPCL) or their designee within five (5) business days from the date of the interim suspension notification. The appeal must be submitted in writing and include any documentation or information that supports the student's grounds for the appeal. The grounds for appealing an interim suspension are:
  - a. The reliability of the information concerning the student's conduct, including the matter of identity;
  - b. The conduct and surrounding circumstances reasonably indicate that the continued presence of the student on university premises does not pose a substantial and imminent threat to the university community or the university's orderly operations.
3. The VPCL or their designee will review the appeal as soon as administratively possible. The VPCL or their designee will provide the student with a written notice of the outcome of the appeal. The interim suspension will remain in effect while any review is pending. There will be no further appeals to the decision rendered upon review.
4. An interim suspension is not considered a permanent record as identified in Section XXI. Disciplinary Records of the Student Conduct Code. As such, this will not be noted on an academic transcript.
5. The dean of students or their designee has discretion to impose, lift, reassess, and modify an interim suspension as circumstances may warrant at any point during the interim suspension period. A student placed on interim suspension may be required to complete an evaluation by an external professional to determine whether or not the student poses a continued threat to the campus community as described by this Policy. Failure to comply with the directive to complete this evaluation may result in

the interim suspension not being lifted and conduct charges. If a student does not comply with directives provided by the evaluator, additional conduct charges may apply. The Dean of Students or designee will notify the student when the interim suspension is lifted. If the interim suspension is lifted, the dean of students or their designee may place other interim restrictions (e.g., removal from university housing, limited access to campus) until the resolution of any pending disciplinary charges or criminal proceedings or medical evaluation regarding behavior relevant to such proceedings.

6. A student placed on interim suspension does not replace the student disciplinary process, which shall proceed in accordance with the Student Conduct Code to address the alleged prohibited conduct.

**V. EFFECTIVE DATE AND REVISIONS:**

This Policy is effective as of August 11, 2020.

This Policy was reviewed or revised August 11, 2020.