Middle Georgia State University
Student Handbook
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MISSION STATEMENT

Middle Georgia State University educates and graduates inspired, lifelong learners whose scholarship and careers enhance the region through professional leadership, innovative partnerships and community engagement.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Middle Georgia State University is committed to ensuring a safe learning environment that supports the dignity of all members of the University community. Pursuant to Section 4.1.7 of the Policy Manual of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (BOR), federal and state laws and regulations, and our vision, mission, and values, Middle Georgia State University does not discriminate on the basis of sex or gender in any of its education or employment programs and activities. Moreover, Middle Georgia State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Educational and Employment Opportunity institution. Factors of race, national origin, color, sex, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, or disability are not considered in the admission or treatment of students or in employment. To that end, University policy prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate federal and state laws and regulations, including but not limited to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent executive orders, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

For questions and issues concerning equal opportunity and compliance, see procedures outlined in “Nondiscrimination Policy” in Section V of this Handbook.

ACCREDITATION

Middle Georgia State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees, and certificates. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Middle Georgia State University.

CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

The students, faculty, and administration of Middle Georgia State University are dedicated to creating and maintaining an environment that fosters the search for truth and a spirit of free inquiry. The requirement that students behave with respect and civility does not preemt freedom of expression, thoughtful discourse, and vigorous examination of beliefs, standards, and concepts.

PURPOSE OF HANDBOOK

This handbook is prepared for the convenience of students and is not to be construed as an official publication of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. In case of any divergence from or conflict with the by-laws or policies of the Board of Regents, the official by-laws and policies of the Board of Regents shall prevail. The University further reserves the right to change at any time the hours of operation, regulations, and requirements as necessitated by the University or the University System of Georgia.

This handbook is not to be considered as a contractual agreement between Middle Georgia State University and those receiving it. It is for informational purposes only and provides no rights to the reader. All policies, information, and procedures set forth here are subject to change without notice. This handbook supersedes all previous editions of the student handbook.

It is the responsibility of each student to read, understand, and observe the rules and regulations of the University as published in this and other official announcements.
SECTION I

STUDENT RESOURCES
STUDENT RESOURCES

ACADEMIC ADVISING
Academic advising will provide students with information and skills that enable them to critically assess their goals, develop a comprehensive plan of study that culminates in certification, licensure, and/or graduation, create a schedule for progressing through the plan, and monitor the results of that plan. Students will benefit from guidance in exploring potential majors and coordinating career goals with educational opportunities or study abroad programs.

Middle Georgia State University is comprised of five campuses located in Macon, Cochran, Eastman, Dublin, and Warner Robins. Students are assigned to an advisor based on their major. All students must meet with an advisor at least once a semester throughout their time at Middle Georgia State University. Freshmen, students with Learning support requirements and students on academic probation must meet with their advisor each semester. Seniors are encouraged to meet with their advisor Fall semester to ensure they are on track for graduation. Additional information about academic advising can be found at http://www.mga.edu/advising/

ACADEMIC CATALOG
The Middle Georgia State University Academic Catalog covers entrance requirements and procedures; admissions criteria and policies, including the admission of transfer students; academic calendar; degree completion requirements; full-time faculty and degrees held; costs and financial obligations; refund policies; and attendance and withdrawal policies. The University reserves the right to change at any time any regulations and requirements as necessitated by the University or the University System of Georgia.

Middle Georgia State University students are expected to be familiar with the policies, procedures, and information in the Academic Catalog found online at http://www.mga.edu/academics/academic-catalog.aspx

ALUMNI SERVICES & SCHOLARSHIPS
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI AFFAIRS
Through the Office of Development & Alumni Affairs the Middle Georgia State University Foundation serves students and graduates by cultivating alumni and community support for student scholarships, program growth and enrichment, and to enhance the University’s economic, social and cultural contributions to Central Georgia.

The Foundation offers merit and need-based scholarships for new and current students. Award descriptions, as well as application guidelines, deadlines, and selection criteria are found at http://www.mga.edu/foundation/scholarships.aspx.

Middle Georgia State graduates are automatically enrolled in the Middle Georgia State University Alumni Association. Alumni may submit address or other alumni record changes or join the Alumni Roster of Giving at http://www.mga.edu/foundation/default.aspx.

BANKMOBILE VIBE CARD
Middle Georgia State University delivers refunds of tuition, fees, scholarships and financial aid remaining balances to BankMobile (formerly HigherOne). Students may elect to have BankMobile send their refund to a bank account of their choice or have BankMobile issue them a Vibe card - a MasterCard debit card that can be used anywhere MasterCard debit cards are accepted. More information about the BankMobile Vibe card can be found on the University's website under the Bursar’s Office page. BankMobile will mail a refund preference package to the address on file in the Registrar's Office to every new student after the student has registered. Students do not have to open the BankMobile debit/checking account. However, students will need the package mailed to make a choice as to refund method. More information can be found at the Bursar’s Office site or call the Bursar’s Office at 478-471-2705 in Macon or (478) 934-3016 in Cochran.
**Bursar’s Office**
All Campuses: 1.877.238.8664

The Bursar’s Office is located on the second floor of the Student Life Center on the Macon Campus and the second floor of Grace Hall on the Cochran Campus. Bursar’s Office questions can also be taken to the main campus buildings in Dublin and Eastman as well as the Academic Services Building in Warner Robins. This office maintains student accounts, issues statements to students to keep them apprised of their outstanding bills, payment histories, and other financial issues, along with collecting tuition, fees and other University-related charges. The Bursar’s Office also issues refunds of excess aid disbursed to BankMobile accounts and other student refunds.

**Calendars**
Academic calendars, [http://www.mga.edu/academics/academic-calendar.aspx](http://www.mga.edu/academics/academic-calendar.aspx)
Student Life Calendar, [http://calendar.activedatax.com/mga/CalendarNOW.aspx](http://calendar.activedatax.com/mga/CalendarNOW.aspx)
Final Exams Schedule, [http://www.mga.edu/academics/finals.aspx](http://www.mga.edu/academics/finals.aspx)
Registration Dates and Deadlines, [http://www.mga.edu/registrar](http://www.mga.edu/registrar)

**Campus Stores**
Macon Campus: Student Life Center, 1st floor (478) 471-2719
Cochran Campus: Georgia Hall, 2nd floor (478) 934-3041
Warner Robins Campus: Oak Hall, 1st floor (478) 929-6720
Eastman Campus: Main Building (478) 374-6570
Dublin Campus: Main Building (478) 274-7930

Middle Georgia State University Campus Stores stock new and used textbooks, reference books, equipment, computers and supplies required for courses offered at Middle Georgia State University. It also carries a wide selection of book bags, imprinted apparel, and gift items, as well as computer software, peripherals, and supplies. Fax services are available in the Macon and Warner Robins Campus Stores for a nominal charge, and copy services are available in the Macon Campus Store Only for a nominal charge. Students with grants, scholarships, or student loans may use these funds to make purchases in the Campus Store beginning the first day of regular registration. These accounts will remain active through the first two weeks of class. This date is set by the Bursar’s Office each semester and is subject to change. A valid student ID must be presented at the cash register in order to access these funds.

**Payment forms**
Payment may be made with cash, check, and credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express, with a valid ID).

**Book Buy Back Process**
Book buy back gives the students of Middle Georgia State University an opportunity to “sell back” their books once they are finished using them for a particular term. The Campus Stores in Macon, Cochran, and Warner Robin conducts buy back daily, Monday through Thursday. Contact each store for hours of operation. No receipt is required to sell books back to the campus store, but a student ID is necessary. The value of a book may vary based on demand. Not all books can be bought back, only those that are deemed to have value at the time of buy back. Book buy back is a service to the students, and campus store management reserves the right to refuse any book as well as close the buy at any time.

**Discount Movie Passes and Tickets**
Macon Campus Store sells discount movie passes to Amstar, The Grand.

**Online Bookstore**
The Middle Georgia State University E-Store, found online at [http://www.mga.edu/bookstore](http://www.mga.edu/bookstore), gives Middle Georgia State University students the opportunity to purchase new and used textbooks and imprinted merchandise online. In addition to convenience, the E-Store serves as a vital tool in connecting students with Campus Store personnel, textbook information, hours of operation, refund policies, current promotions, and buy back information. E-Store technology enables the Campus Store to provide shipping services to those students enrolled in online courses and pick-up service for those taking traditional classroom courses. In addition to merchandise housed by the Middle Georgia State University Campus Store, the E-Store provides
students with access to other general merchandise.

**Refund Policy**
The Campus Store will accept refunds of any unopened item for the first 7 business days after purchase of through the first 7 business days of class, whichever is longer. All refunds must have an original cash register receipt. For mail orders, an order confirmation or packing list will serve as the original cash register receipt. For a full refund, items must be in the original condition they were purchased. Any item not in the original condition requires approval from Campus Store Management.

Any request outside the refund deadline must be sent to management for approval/disapproval. If an exception to this policy is granted, a policy exception from must be completed and signed by the student, staff member, and management.

**Rental Policy**
Middle Georgia State University Campus Store, in conjunction with Nebraska Book Company, offers select textbooks for rental.

Students may pay the rental price with any tender including financial aid. A credit card number is required as a guaranteed tender for all rental items. The credit card will be charged the price of a new replacement book plus applicable tax and a fee for noncompliance with the rental agreement for not returning the textbook by the close of business on the date specified on the register receipt.

If the credit card payment for the non-returned books is declined, the balance will be assigned to a collection agency. A student whose balance is assigned to a collection agency will be responsible for paying any collection fees incurred.

Rental items may not be returned to the Campus Store for credit or exchange after the standard return date. This requirement will be strictly enforced to minimize misuse of the rental program. Rental agreements cannot be modified after the Campus Store’s standard return date and the full fee will be assessed as stated in the rental agreement.

Students must sign a rental agreement at the time of transaction. When the rental books are returned, the student must sign a receipt stating the books were returned before the due date and in saleable condition. This receipt should have a $0.00 amount for return.

**CAREER SERVICES**
The Office of Career Services collaborates with faculty, staff, and community partners to provide students and alumni career-focused training that will enhance professional aspirations and lead to a more purposeful contribution to our global society. Common services include administering career assessment tests, developing resumes and cover letters, providing job/internship/externship/graduate school search assistance, strengthening interview skills, hosting career fairs and addressing specific professional development needs (e.g. negotiating salary increases, constructing a LinkedIn profile, expressing proper professional dining etiquette). Additionally, the Office of Career Services connects employers seeking full-time, part-time, or internship candidates to students and alumni of MGA who are ready to enter the workforce. CAREERLINKS (the University’s online job board) and many more career-focused resources are accessible 24/7 on the Career Services homepage at www.mga.edu/cs. Walk-ins are welcomed on the Macon campus (Student Life Center, suite 254) and the Cochran campus (Sanford Hall, suite 112) during standard operating hours. Students and alumni alike are encouraged to utilize the center by scheduling an appointment. Support can be gained via email at careeerservices@mga.edu or via telephone at 478-471-2714 (Macon campus) or 478-934-3110 (Cochran campus). Highlights of upcoming events may also be viewed on the homepage or the official Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn pages by searching MGA CAREER SERVICES.

**CONFLICT RESOLUTION**
Middle Georgia State University’s Conflict Resolution process is designed to assist students in the resolution of disputes. Students involved in unresolved disputes are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Affairs. The Student Conduct Officer or his designee will review the student’s situation to determine if mediation is the proper course of action. If so, the student will be referred to a mediator who will meet with those involved
in the dispute with the goal of facilitating a resolution. For more information about the University’s Conflict Resolution process, visit http://www.mga.edu/student-affairs/conflict.aspx

**COUNSELING SERVICES**
Macon/Warner Robins Campuses: (478) 471-2985  
Cochran/Eastman/Dublin Campuses: (478) 934-3092

The Counseling Services offers individual and group counseling for students who may be experiencing difficulties while adjusting to University. The Counseling Services offers an atmosphere in which individuals may discuss their challenges with the assurance that all counseling information will remain private and confidential. Services are free to currently enrolled students at Middle Georgia State University. Each semester the Center sponsors seminars and programs on topics related to personal growth and development. Topics for these programs have included increasing self-esteem, managing stress, communication skills, career issues, life planning, improving academic effectiveness, and maintaining healthy relationships. For more information or to make an appointment, contact the Center at one of the phone numbers listed above or visit the website at www.mga.edu/counseling-center.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE**
The Middle Georgia State University "Excellence in Customer Service and Process Improvement" initiative began as a training program for staff and expanded to become an opportunity to advance the culture of process improvement and to enhance the experiences of all customers of Middle Georgia State University. Employees of Middle Georgia State University are committed to providing service that is courteous, helpful, accessible, knowledgeable and responsive. To provide feedback on customer service experiences at Middle Georgia State University, please visit http://www.mga.edu/faculty-staff/customer-service.

**DISABILITY SERVICES**
Macon Campus: SLC, Counseling Services, (478) 471-2985, fax (478) 471-5730  
Cochran Campus: Sanford Hall, (478) 934-3023, fax (478) 934-3342

Disability Services coordinates and provides a variety of services for students with documented physical, psychological, and learning disabilities on all five campuses. The aim is to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to all academic and student programs offered at Middle Georgia State University. Services may include:

- Access and orientation to campus
- Adaptations for exams such as extended time
- Assistance in obtaining textbooks and course materials in alternate format (large print, alternative testing, access to electronic texts, etc.)
- Disability Student Handbook available to students upon registration with the office
- Coordination of academic accommodations with Middle Georgia State University faculty

For more information, visit the website at: http://www.mga.edu/disability-services

**EMERGENCY CONTACT**
Macon Campus Police Department (478) 471-2414  
Cochran Campus Police Department (478) 934-3002  
Warner Robins Campus Administrative Office (478) 929-6700 (8:00 am – 5:30 pm)  
Warner Robins Campus Police Department (478) 929-6750  
Eastman Campus Police Department (478) 374-6403  
Dublin Campus Police Department (478) 274-7751

Middle Georgia State University has no centralized paging system to contact individuals while on campus. As a result, communicating with students on campus will be limited to emergencies only. All students should advise their families and employers of this limitation. With the exception of public record information, details regarding students and class schedules will not be released for any reason.
**Fax Service**
Fax service is available to students in the Middle Georgia State University Campus Stores on the Macon and Warner Robins campuses at a minimal cost. These two campus stores offer copy, fax, and postage services during its normal business hours. Copies are $.10 per sheet. Use of the copier is self-service. Fax Services are available in the campus stores at the following rates: Sending: $.50 per page for local, $1.00 per page for long distance; Receiving: $.50 per page. Stamps are available for purchase in these campus stores at the current postal rate. The post office in Georgia Hall on the Cochran Campus offers postal services at the current postal rate. This office also offers fax services at the following rates: Sending inside the continental US: No Charge; Sending outside the continental US: $6.00 for first page and $3.00 for each additional page; No charge for receiving.

**Financial Aid**
All campuses: (877).238-8664

The Financial Aid Office is committed to helping qualified students finance their educational objectives through the administration of grants, scholarships, loans, and student employment opportunities. Middle Georgia State University uses the results of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in determining student financial need. The FAFSA can be completed online at [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov). The Middle Georgia State University federal school code is 001581. The FAFSA must be filed annually. For maximum aid consideration, the FAFSA must be filed by March 15th of each year. Students wishing to apply for HOPE only can complete the GSFApps located on the GSFC website, [www.gaUniversity411.org](http://www.gaUniversity411.org).

General information, useful links, and financial aid forms (verification worksheets, applications, etc.) are available at [http://www.mga.edu/financial-aid/](http://www.mga.edu/financial-aid/). Students’ detailed information such as tracking requirements, financial aid awards and messages can be accessed via their SWORDS account at [http://www.mga.edu/technology/banner.aspx](http://www.mga.edu/technology/banner.aspx). This is a secure site that requires a login and pin number. Students are always welcome to visit with a financial aid representative located on all five campuses.

**Food Services and Vending**
Macon Campus: Student Life Center, Cafeteria, (478) 471-2858
Warner Robins Campus: Oak Hall, Room 101, (478) 929-6720
Cochran Campus: Georgia Hall, Dining hall (478) 934-0780
Eastman Campus: Runway Café (478) 374-1367
Website: [www.mga.edu/dining/](http://www.mga.edu/dining/)

Sodexo, Inc. is Middle Georgia State University’s provider for complete food service. Sodexo’s services include hot meals, sandwiches, and other fast order items. Food services are provided on all campuses; however, services are varied depending on facilities available and needs of individual campuses. Sodexo offers catering services on all campuses. All student groups and off campus visitors can utilizes these services.

**Graduation**
In order to participate in the commencement ceremony, students must have completed all degree requirements in the preceding summer or fall to participate in their eligible fall ceremony. Spring graduates must be “on track” to complete degree requirements during the current spring semester to participate in their eligible spring ceremony. A **student who files an application to graduate in the spring term after the published deadline of March 15 may not participate in the spring commencement ceremony.** If the spring degree application is filed by March 31, however, and all degree requirements are met by the end of the semester, the student's degree information will be posted on the academic transcript and a diploma will be provided. Spring semester degree applications received between March 16 and March 31 will be held for review until after spring semester grades have been fully processed. Spring semester degree applications will **not** be accepted after **March 31**To graduate at the end of the summer term, the application for degree must be on file in the Registrar's Office by July 15. To graduate at the end of the fall term, the application must be on file by October 15. Please note that while these deadlines represent the last opportunity to apply for a degree in the term specified, it is strongly recommended that students apply two semesters in advance of the expected graduation term in order to have adequate time to meet all degree requirements. Failure to complete the degree application at least two semesters in advance may prevent graduation in the anticipated term. Students who do not complete the degree application until the published application deadline may not
be able in that term of enrollment to resolve deficiencies discovered in the degree audit. A fee of $35.00 must be paid in the Business Office at the time of application. After the application is accepted and has been approved, it becomes the student’s official degree program. Students who do not complete degree requirements at the end of the semester designated on their application for degree must file a new application for degree if they expect to complete degree requirements during a subsequent semester. When participating in the graduation ceremony, students may only wear regalia representing Middle Georgia State University distinctions and/or recognized student organizations.

**HEALTH INSURANCE**

International students holding F or J visas, all students admitted to any Nursing program, students admitted to the Associate of Science in Respiratory Therapy program (students enrolled in 3000 and 4000 level RESP classes are not required to participate in the Student Health Insurance Program), students admitted into the Associate of Science degree in Occupational Therapy Assistant, and all students enrolled in HIMT 2750/2850, HIMA 4750 and/or HLSA 4450/4451 will be required to show proof of acceptable coverage or purchase coverage from a contracted provider. A voluntary student health insurance program is also available. The total cost of the health insurance is the responsibility of the student. Please visit the University’s Student Health Insurance website at: [http://www.mga.edu/wellness/health-services/student-insurance.aspx](http://www.mga.edu/wellness/health-services/student-insurance.aspx)

**HEALTH SERVICES**

Health Clinics located on the Macon and Cochran campuses are staffed by a licensed nurse practitioner and can provide treatment, testing, or information about many sicknesses, injuries, or questions. Services include: minor episodic health care, adult immunizations, health counseling, referrals to community or University resources, and wellness education. Services are confidential and many are free to students, with a minimal cost for immunization and lab procedures. A valid Knight Card is required to receive health services. For complete information and procedures visit [http://www.mga.edu/health-clinic/](http://www.mga.edu/health-clinic/).

**KNIGHT CARD - STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

Macon Campus: Campus Support Services Building, (478) 471-2414  
Cochran Campus: Alderman Hall (478) 934-3002  
Dublin Campus: Library (478) 275-6772  
Eastman Campus: Main Building (478) 374-6403  
Warner Robins Campus: Thomas Hall, Room 115A, (478) 329-4741

Students are required to obtain and carry a valid student identification card, the Knight Card, while on campus and are required to show this card upon request of a Middle Georgia State University faculty or staff member. The Knight Card serves as the student’s official ID card, meal plan card, access card, and more.

The Knight Card has a declining debit function that allows students to deposit money into an account on the card and make purchases in the Snack Bar, Dining Hall, and Bookstore without using cash. Students should immediately report a lost or stolen card to the Police Department. It should be noted that once a card is reported lost or stolen it will be frozen and will be unavailable for all access and/or transaction purposes. Damaged or stolen cards will be replaced at no cost, provided the student submits the damaged card or a police report indicating the theft of the card. The cost for a replacement card will be $10.00, payable to the Bursar’s Office. Lending, selling, or otherwise transferring a student’s Knight Card is prohibited. The use of a student’s Knight Card by anyone other than its original owner is prohibited.

First-time students seeking a Knight Card must present a photo ID along with a copy of the student’s current class schedule. The first student identification card issued to a student is free of charge. Terms and Conditions for the debit card function are described at [http://www.mga.edu/card/](http://www.mga.edu/card/).
LIBRARY
The campus libraries of Middle Georgia State University (MGA) provide access to a collection of over 240,000 items in support of course work and research. Library collections include books (both print and electronic), DVD’s, periodicals, electronic databases available through GALILEO, Georgia’s statewide virtual library, and the borrowing privileges provided by GIL Express and Interlibrary Loan. GALILEO provides access to more than 130 databases, more than 1,500 full-text periodicals, as well as reference sources such as encyclopedias, directories, Georgia government documents, and e-books. The online catalog, GIL, searches the collection of the MGA libraries, while the Universal Catalog searches the holdings of all of the USG libraries.

Librarians work one-on-one with students and faculty at the reference desks and through virtual means such as chat reference and e-mail reference. Library instruction sessions are available upon faculty request for the teaching of research, critical inquiry, and use of library resources.

Macon Campus: Library Building, (478) 471-2709
The Macon campus library is housed in the same building as the Student Success Center (SSC), and the two units work together to meet the academic and research needs of the Macon campus community. The Macon campus media collection includes DVD’s, CD’s, and audio books. Additional resources for student use include scanners, microform reader/printers, and photocopiers. There are multiple study rooms that can be used for group study. Students must have a valid MGA ID in order to check out any material. The Macon campus library is open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.; Fridays, 7:30 a.m. – noon; and Sundays, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Summer hours vary; check library website.

Cochran Campus: Library Building, (478) 934-3179
Roberts Memorial Library occupies two of the three stories of the building. The Academic Resource Center, which is on the third floor, works with the library to meet the academic and research needs of the Middle Georgia State University community. The complete resources of MGA libraries are accessible to the Cochran campus community. Students must have a valid MGA photo I.D. in order to check out any material. Library hours, unless otherwise posted, are Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 09:00 p.m.; Friday 8:00 a.m. – noon; and Sundays, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Summer hours may vary.

Dublin Campus: (478) 275-6772
The Dublin Campus Library is staffed by a full-time librarian and library assistant to provide research and informational needs. Students have access to all library resources and equipment as well as to academic print sources, computers, and databases provided by MGA. The Dublin Campus Library allows local patrons access to resources with the exclusion of interlibrary loan and GIL Express materials. The library maintains a reserve collection for current course offerings at the Dublin Campus. The library also provides student ID production and assists with campus card transactions. The hours of operation for the Dublin Campus Library are Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Friday 8:00 a.m. – noon; Saturday/Sunday closed; summer hours vary.

Eastman Campus (478) 275-6772
The Eastman Campus Library is staffed a part-time library assistant to provide research and informational needs. Librarian assistance is provided as required and through scheduled attendance. Students have access to all library resources and equipment as well as to academic print sources, computers, and databases provided by MGA. The library maintains a small circulating print collection and a Reserves collection for current course offerings at the Eastman Campus. The extensive digital holdings of MGA are also available to Eastman Campus students. The hours of operation for the Eastman Campus Library are Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Friday 8:00 a.m. – noon; Saturday/Sunday closed; summer hours vary.

Warner Robins Campus: (478) 923-0128
The Nola Brantley Memorial Library, a branch of the Houston County Public Library System, is located next to the Warner Robins Campus on Watson Boulevard. As the result of a partnership between MGA and the Houston County Public Library System, the Nola Brantley Memorial Library provides library resources and services to MGA students and an MGA librarian works from that site. Students must acquire a public library (PINES) card in order to check out materials from the Nola Brantley Memorial Library’s collection and/or to use a public library computer. MGA students must present their Student ID card at the Circulation Desk when signing up to use a MGA computer. Students are expected to comply with all rules and policies of the Nola Brantley Memorial Library.
MGA EMERGENCY ALERT NOTIFICATIONS
The MGA Knight Alert system is a free service that adds to the University's ability to provide an environment in which students can feel safe knowing that they will be informed quickly and accurately of campus emergencies including severe weather conditions and closings. The MGA Knight Alert system allows students to receive voice messages via home phones, work phones, and mobile phones; text messages (SMS) to mobile phones; and e-mail notifications. All students are encouraged to update their contact information in SWORDS under the Personal Information tab and the MGA Alert Update Contact Information link. This can also be accessed at http://www.mga.edu/police/alert.aspx For MGA Knight Alert questions, contact the Middle Georgia State University Police Department at (478) 471-2414 or police@mga.edu. For technical help, contact the Middle Georgia State Technical Assistance Center (TAC) at (478) 471-2023 or (478) 757-4393 or helpdesk@mga.edu.

In addition to the Knight Alert, MGA also offers a phone application that can be downloaded free of charge. The app can be found by searching “Rave Guardian”. Once the app is downloaded to a mobile device, the user can select Middle Georgia State University as his/her institution. The app allows the end user to receive emergency notifications, offer tips to police, immediately dial university police or 911 at the touch of a button as well as establish friends to help monitor personal safety through safety timers.

PARKING ON CAMPUS
Macon Campus: Campus Support Services Building, (478) 471-2414
Cochran Campus: Alderman Hall (478) 934-3002
Dublin Campus: Library (478) 275-6772
Eastman Campus: Main Building (478) 374-6403
Warner Robins Campus: Academic Services Building, Admin. Office (478) 731-9901

Students operating any type of motorized vehicle on campus must abide by Student Parking Regulations and must properly display a current Middle Georgia State University parking decal on their vehicle. Students must present a valid Knight Card and license plate number in order to receive a Middle Georgia State University parking decal. All decals/permits must be current and properly displayed. Vehicles parked in unauthorized areas will be subject to ticketing and/or removal at the owner’s expense. Middle Georgia State University will not be liable for damage of vehicle contents. Students are responsible for reading the Middle Georgia State Parking Policy available online at http://www.mga.edu/police/parking.aspx and adhering to all parking/traffic regulations. Failure to abide by parking regulations may result in the placement of an administrative hold on the involved student’s records.

Disability Services may issue a temporary “Handicapped Parking Permit” upon application to and approval by the Director of Disability Services. Temporary handicapped permits are for use only on the MGA campus in the event that a student submits appropriate documentation. Documentation should include a statement from the student’s physician stating the need for such accommodation and the date such accommodation is to begin and end. These permits are not intended to exceed the length of one semester. Students requiring accommodation for more than one semester should seek off-campus assistance in securing a regular state-issued Handicapped Parking Permit.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Macon Campus: Campus Support Services Building, (478) 471-2414
Cochran Campus: Alderman Hall (478) 934-3002
Dublin Campus: Main Building (478) 274-7751
Eastman Campus: Main Building (478) 374-6403
Warner Robins Campus: Thomas Hall (478) 731-9901

Middle Georgia State University maintains law enforcement and security personnel on all five campuses. Police Officers patrol the campuses on foot and in vehicles. These patrols include all buildings, residence halls and parking facilities. University Police will assist any campus community member needing an escort to a vehicle on campus. In addition, University Police assist with automobile problems including door unlocks and batteries that have become disabled. The MGA Police Department is responsible for enforcing the rules
and regulations of the University as well as enforcing criminal and traffic violations. Students should report all incidents and accidents to MGA Police. Emergency call boxes are located throughout campus in parking facilities. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use the boxes to call University Police in emergency situations only.

Individuals with concerns about behavior exhibited on campus should make a report to the Assessment and Care Team (ACT) as described at http://www.mga.edu/student-affairs or in section VI of this Handbook.

**Registrar’s Office**
Macon Campus, Student Life Center, SLC-228, (478) 471-2900
Cochran Campus, Grace Hall (478) 934-6406
The Registrar’s Office maintains student academic records and coordinates registration processes. Additionally, see the Registrar for change of major, transcripts, certification of veterans education benefits, add/drop, graduation and withdrawals. For more information, visit the Registrar’s Office website at: http://www.mga.edu/registrar

**Residence Life**
The Office of Residence Life supports the mission of the University by providing students with a safe living-learning environment that supports academic pursuits and personal growth while fostering a sense of community, civic responsibility, and an appreciation of integrity, civility and diversity. For more information, visit the Residence Life website at: http://www.mga.edu/residence-life/

**Student Centers**
Macon Campus: Student Life Center, SLC-113, (478) 471-2710
The Game room is a great place to shoot pool, play chess, checkers, and ping pong, or just relax with friends and watch a big screen TV. All activities in the Game room are free to Middle Georgia State University students with valid student IDs.

Cochran Campus: Wellness Center, (478) 934-3478
The activity area provides a warm and welcoming space for students to enjoy a game of pool, ping pong, cards or board games, Xbox and Playstation video game stations as well as space to watch TV and enjoy Papa John’s pizza. The area offers efficient and courteous customer service, with all activities free to students with a valid student ID.

Dublin Campus: First Floor, (478) 275-6768
The Dublin Campus Student Center provides students with pool tables, ping pong tables, XBOX and PlayStation 3 gaming systems, TV, and a lounge area. Students may take advantage of these facilities during operating hours of the campus. These facilities allow students to socialize as well as study before, between, and after classes. All of these facilities are free to Middle Georgia State University students with valid student IDs.

Eastman Aviation Campus: Second Floor, (478) 448-4703
The Aviation Campus Student Center/Recreation Room provides students with a TV, pool table, ping pong table and two exercise rooms. There are also several tables and chairs and three computer stations set up for leisurely hanging out and for studying.

Warner Robins Campus: Thomas Hall 115, (478) 329-4741
The Warner Robins Activity Center and Café (WRACC) provides students with opportunities to play video games, pool and/or ping pong. All activities in the WRACC are also free to Middle Georgia State University students with valid student IDs.

**Student E-Mail**
Middle Georgia State University students are provided an e-mail account free of charge. The University considers this account an “official means of communication.” Middle Georgia State University will use this e-mail account to communicate important University-related information. Students are encouraged to check their accounts often.
Students will access student email by clicking: [http://www.mga.edu/technology/email.aspx](http://www.mga.edu/technology/email.aspx). Students will use their Middle Georgia State University username and password to access their account. If the student is new to Middle Georgia State, or has never logged in to his/her e-mail account, the student should first activate their account and determine his/her e-mail address. To activate a student email account, the University has an online, step-by-step process that is user friendly located at [http://www.mga.edu/technology/email.aspx](http://www.mga.edu/technology/email.aspx).

Students who have any difficulty with this process should contact the Technical Assistance Center (TAC) at (478) 471-2023. Student e-mail accounts will remain active for a period of three full academic semesters after the student's last semester of enrollment. For example, if a student is last enrolled summer semester, his/her student e-mail account will be deleted at the end of the following summer semester. **All University information will be sent to this e-mail.**

*The Knightly News* and *Inside MGA* are sent weekly to all students via e-mail. The Knightly News highlights the events, activities, and notices for all campuses for the week. Inside MGA highlights news and information for faculty, staff, and students.

**STUDENT LIFE PROGRAM**

The Student Life Program is designed to offer students opportunities to interact with faculty, staff and other students outside the classroom setting, to provide students the opportunities to broaden their social and cultural experiences while in University, and to help students become aware of – and involved in – community concerns. For complete information about the Student Life Program at MGA, see Section III of this publication or visit [http://www.mga.edu/student-life](http://www.mga.edu/student-life).

**STUDENT SUCCESS CENTERS (SSC)**

Macon Campus: Library, Lower Level, (478) 471-2057
Cochran Campus: Roberts Memorial Library, Third Floor, (478) 934-3106
Dublin Campus: LIB 200, (478) 274-7952
Eastman Campus: Room 1181, (478) 374-6700
Warner Robins Campus: Oak Hall, Bottom Floor, (478) 929-6770

The Student Success Centers (SSC) offer tutorial and technological services to students at Middle Georgia State University. Located on all five campuses, the goal of the centers is to provide the support and resources necessary for students to achieve academic success. Services offered by the SSC include the following: free peer tutoring in a wide range of subjects, online academic skills workshops, open-use computer lab, computer-based and Web-based tutorials, assistance with online course work, a color printer, and scanners for student use. Most locations offer some evening hours and the Macon SSC also offers weekend hours. The SSC website also posts tutoring schedules for all the other tutorial services on campus, including the Department of History and Political Science Study Center, the Mathematics Academic Resource Center (MARC), the Foreign Language Lab, the School of Business Tutoring Center, and the School of Information Technology Tutoring Center.

All Middle Georgia State University students are welcome at any of the Centers. Students are encouraged to stop by the SSC anytime they have a question or feel they need academic assistance to take advantage of these services. For more information on other services offered by the SSC, the hours of operation, or to learn about tutor schedules by subject, please call the SSC or visit [http://www.mga.edu/student-success-center/default.aspx](http://www.mga.edu/student-success-center/default.aspx).

**STUDY ABROAD**

We live in a global society and Middle Georgia State University is committed to preparing students to be active global citizens. University faculty and students annually participate in study abroad programs in England, France, Germany, Ireland, Russia, Scotland, and Spain as well as China and Japan. In addition, the University System of Georgia (USG) offers more than 350 study abroad programs in multiple disciplines. Many of these programs are open to Middle Georgia State University students. Studying abroad is an incredible, affordable opportunity to experience another part of the world in classes that bear University credit toward degree programs. For further information, go to [http://www.mga.edu/international](http://www.mga.edu/international).
**SWORDS**

SWORDS is Middle Georgia State University’s student information system. Students use SWORDS to register for classes and keep track of academic and Financial Aid records. To visit SWORDS, click on the SWORDS link at the top of the Middle Georgia State University homepage.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (TAC)**

Macon Campus: Library, Lower Level, (478) 471-2023

The Technology Assistance Center (TAC) offers a centralized service point for students seeking assistance with technology. General Services include support for Brightspace (D2L) use, password resetting, use of personal web folders, wireless networking, student e-mail password assistance; resetting SWORDS passwords. For additional information, visit [www.mga.edu/technology/tac.aspx](http://www.mga.edu/technology/tac.aspx).

**TESTING SERVICES**

Macon Campus: Student Life Center, SLC-221/229, (478) 471-2050
Cochran Campus: Grace Hall, Lower Level, (478) 934-3093
Dublin Campus: Dublin Center Room 216, (478) 275-6768
Eastman Campus: Terry Coleman Center, (478) 448-1024
Warner Robins Campus: Academic Services Building, Room 223 (478) 471-2050

Testing Services administers the University’s Testing Program. The Testing Services staff works closely with Enrollment Services, Career Counseling Services, Disability Services, academic schools/departments, faculty members, and staff associates to provide ample testing sessions for student entry, advancement/retention, and graduation testing needs.

Each campus has a testing location designed to meet students’ needs. The tests offered at Middle Georgia State University include: A&P Prerequisite Exam, College Level Examination Program (CLEP), COMPASS/ACCUPLACER Entrance exam, DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST), distance-learning proctoring, eCore (electronic core-curriculum) mid-term and final exams, Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educator (GACE), Georgia Constitution, Georgia History, Graduate Record Examinations (GRE), Mathematics Placement Examination (MPE), Oral competency, Respiratory Entrance Examination (REE), School of Education Entrance Exam, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS), Technical competency online module, U.S. Constitution, and U.S. History. The COMPASS/ACCUPLACER entrance exams are offered on all five campuses. Please call the Testing Center or visit [www.mga.edu/ts](http://www.mga.edu/ts) to learn more about the tests offered at each campus.

**TUTORING (SEE STUDENT SUCCESS CENTERS)**

Middle Georgia State University offers tutoring in a variety of topics in the Student Success Center and in various schools. Visit [http://www.mga.edu/student-success-center/default.aspx](http://www.mga.edu/student-success-center/default.aspx) to find a tutoring site and book an appointment.

**VETERANS CERTIFICATION OFFICE**

Macon Campus: Student Life Center, SLC-228, (478) 757-2681
Cochran Campus: Grace Hall, first floor, (478) 934-3036 or 6406

Middle Georgia State University is approved for the educational training of veterans and other eligible persons. Information concerning application procedures, certifications, and VA educational benefits may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar at the Macon or Cochran campuses or visit [http://www.mga.edu/registrar/veterans.aspx](http://www.mga.edu/registrar/veterans.aspx)

**VOTER REGISTRATION**

Voter registration applications are available at the Office of Student Life on all five campuses or at the State of Georgia Voter Registration website at [http://sos.georgia.gov/elections/vrinfo.htm](http://sos.georgia.gov/elections/vrinfo.htm). Throughout the year, the Office of Student Life and various Recognized Student Organizations sponsor voter registration drives on campus. Also, students may register to vote at the Middle Georgia State University annual Constitution Day events.
WELLNESS CENTER, ATHLETICS & RECREATION
Macon Campus: (478) 757-3620, http://www.mga.edu/wellness
The Recreation & Wellness Center is located across the lake from the academic buildings and houses many amenities for students to enjoy including over 12,000 square feet of workout space on two levels to include strength training equipment (free weights and machines), 45 pieces of cardio equipment, indoor track and two aerobic rooms for workouts. Other amenities include an indoor swimming pool, two court gym, four lane bowling alley, three gaming stations with Xbox One and PS4, and two racquetball/squash courts. The intramural and outdoor recreation program offers various sports leagues, tournaments, free play, and trips such as hiking and kayaking. The Recreation & Wellness Center front desk is the place to sign up for the fitness center or register for intramural sports and outdoor recreation trips. To join, students must complete a registration form, sign a liability waiver, and participate in a brief facility orientation. Walk-ins are always welcome! A valid MGA ID is required to utilize the Recreation & Wellness Center facilities and activities. Students enrolled in classes on the Macon or Warner Robins campus and pay the Recreation & Wellness Fee will have access to the facility. If you do not attend classes on campus and are fully online or do not pay the Recreation & Wellness Fee for any other reason, may pay a monthly membership of $40.00 per month. Fees can be paid at the Front Desk of the Wellness Center. (You can check your SWORDS account to see if you paid the Recreation & Wellness Fee as part of your Tuition & Fees for the given semester.)

Cochran Campus: (478) 934-3478, http://www.mga.edu/wellness
This Wellness Center is open to all students currently enrolled in credit earning courses at Middle Georgia State University. Valid Knight Card is required for entry. All users must complete an online application for membership and the required orientation session prior to using this facility. The Center includes a gymnasium with elevated walking track, a fitness center, aerobics room, and newly added student activity center with video games, pool tables, and ping pong tables as well as place to eat.

Warner Robins Campus: (478) 329-4741, http://www.mga.edu/wellness
The Warner Robins Activity Center and Café (WRACC) offers a fitness center, pool table, ping pong, and interactive gaming along with seating and food options. Intramural and free play activities will be hosted on the field next to Oak Hall. A valid Knight Card is required in order to utilize the facilities and activities.
SECTION II

Recreation & Wellness Program
THE RECREATION & WELLNESS PROGRAM

Middle Georgia State University’s Recreation & Wellness Program is based on the belief that an active student is a more successful student; therefore, its mission is to get students involved in healthy habits that will create lifelong participation in healthy lifestyles and activities. Participating in sports helps increases leadership, accountability, and provides environments for healthy competition.

Participation in Recreation & Wellness activities gives students the opportunity to meet fellow students, faculty, and staff outside the classroom. Participation in activities such as intramural sports, health promotion events, club sports teams, and outdoor recreation trips will provide avenues for new adventure and opportunities to gain new interests that will promote health and wellness throughout life.

Participation helps students to learn more about what is going on in other areas of student life. Recreation & Wellness provides opportunities for volunteering for different organizations in the community that can help the student and the University give back to the local community.

And as if the other reasons listed are not enough to participate outside of the classroom, here is a fourth reason – students are paying for it! All Middle Georgia State students enrolled in at least one (1) semester hour, pay a Student Activities Fee each semester. These fees go towards many different activities provided to students as part of the University experience here at Middle Georgia State.

To learn more about Recreation & Wellness at Middle Georgia State University, visit the Front Desk of the Wellness Center in Macon (478) 471-3624, Cochran (478) 934-3478, or Warner Robins (478) 329-4741, or visit the Recreation & Wellness Web pages at http://www.mga.edu/wellness, Facebook: Middle Georgia State Recreation & Wellness or Twitter: MGAKnightsRec

GETTING INVOLVED IN RECREATION & WELLNESS AT MGA

On-campus events are almost always free of charge with a current Knight Card. Off-campus trips often have additional, reduced fees for admission to parks or events and limited space for seating on vehicles so students must sign up and pay ahead of time. Sporting events off campus may have a reduced cost or even free admission with the Knight Card. Students should always carry the Knight Card to keep costs lower. Sports Clubs have dues that must be paid to participate in games and practice, visit http://www.mgaknights.com for contact information and to get information on dues. Visit http://www.mga.edu/wellness for information about activities at the Macon, Cochran, and Warner Robins Campuses including the calendar links for all events.

PROGRAMS

The Recreation & Wellness Center, Club Sports, Aquatics, Intramurals, and Outdoor Recreation programs each offer a variety of times and events to help meet the needs of diverse groups of students.

Aquatics offer lap and recreational swimming from May to September each year Cochran campuses. The pool on the Macon campus is indoors and open year round. Visit http://www.mga.edu/wellness for hours

The Intramural Program consists of various sport leagues and tournaments. Free-play, soccer, volleyball, softball, flag football, ultimate Frisbee, basketball, and others are offered throughout the year. Coming events and activities are posted on the Wellness Center activity board and online calendar. A valid Knight Card is required to participate in intramural programs.

Outdoor Recreation Trips are offered each semester. The purpose of this program is to offer opportunities for new experiences and to build relationships outside the classroom. Trips may include hiking, kayaking, rock climbing, whitewater rafting, camping, and more. Students receive a discount on most trips. Sign up for upcoming trips at the front desk. A valid Knight Card is required to receive the discounted student rate.

Club Sports and Recreation Clubs offers students the opportunity to participate in organized sports teams that compete at the Club level with teams from other Colleges and local clubs. Club sports teams compete with Junior and Technical Colleges, junior varsity teams at NCAA and NAIA member schools, other club teams, local teams, as well as varsity teams form prep schools, NCCAA, and other athletic association members such as the NCBA, NCFA, NCSA, NCWA, USTA and NIRSA. Members of club sports must have
a minimum of 2.0 GPA in all coursework and be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) semester hours for the semester in which they participate. All club rosters are subject to eligibility guidelines set forth by organizations of which they are a member or compete against.

**EVENTS**
Each year, Recreation & Wellness hosts dozens of events to enhance the experience of students at Middle Georgia State University. Recreation & Wellness works with other campus offices to sponsor institutional events such as Health Expos, cook-outs, alcohol awareness events, NIRSA Regional Flag Football Tournament Tryouts, drive-in movie nights, water days, intramural sporting events, outdoor recreation trips, and many, many more!

**FACILITIES**
The Macon Campus recreation facilities include the new Recreation & Wellness Center as well as multiple fields and 8 tennis courts. The Cochran Campus recreation facilities include the Wellness Center with aerobics room, fitness center, rock climbing wall, walking track and gym floor. Other facilities on campus include tennis courts, a swimming pool and intramural fields. The Warner Robins Campus has a Student Recreation Center inside Thomas Hall with a fitness center, pool and ping pong tables and video game center.

**Front Desk Numbers**
Macon Campus (478) 471-3624  
Cochran Campus: (478) 934-3478  
Warner Robins Campus: (478) 329-4741

**Outdoor Recreation Fields**
Outdoor recreation facilities on the Macon campus include a track and multipurpose field located behind the gymnasium, a one-mile walking trail behind the Wellness Center, two softball and two football/soccer. Outdoor recreation facilities on the Cochran Campus include three intramural fields, a softball field and a one mile loop around campus.

**Swimming Pool**
Macon Campus (478) 471-3624  
Cochran Campus (478) 934-3478
The swimming pool on the Macon Campus is located inside the Recreation & Wellness Center and is only accessible to members of the Recreation & Wellness Center. It is open year round. The swimming pool on the Cochran Campus is located next to the tennis courts in the heart of campus. Use of the swimming pool is free to Middle Georgia State students, staff, and faculty with a valid Knight Card. Call the numbers listed above or visit online at [www.mga.edu/wellness](http://www.mga.edu/wellness) for the current hours of operation. All participants must abide by pool rules and regulations. Lifeguards are on duty during posted swimming hours and special events.

**Student Recreation Center**
Warner Robins Campus (478) 929-6750
The student recreation center is a newly renovated space in Thomas Hall that provides a Fitness Center with cardio and weight training equipment, pool table, ping pong table, Wii and Xbox KInnect gaming center, sitting areas, and food option for students at WRC. The additional outdoor seating in the courtyard of Thomas Hall provides an area for students to enjoy sitting with friends to eat, study, or socialize in the outdoor area. A valid Knight Card is required to use the Center.
**Tennis Courts**
Macon Campus (478) 471-2414  
Cochran Campus (478) 934-3002  
There are eight tennis courts located on the Macon Campus and six courts located on the Cochran Campus. Students can access the courts at any time with their Knight Card and can request the lights be turned on by calling the Police Department Office at the numbers listed above. Lights are turned out at 11:00 pm each night, and at least one person on the court must present a valid Knight Card for use of the courts and lights. The courts on the Cochran campus are limited to varsity athletes only during practice times for the varsity tennis team.

**POLICIES**

Policies pertaining to the Recreation & Wellness Program are contained in Section V of this Handbook under the Student Code of Conduct. Policies include eligibility, behavior, penalties, and other items. For a full list of department policies, visit [http://www.mga.edu/wellness](http://www.mga.edu/wellness) to view the Policies & Procedures Manual.

Check us out on the Web: [http://www.mga.edu/wellness](http://www.mga.edu/wellness); [http://www.mgaknights.com](http://www.mgaknights.com)
SECTION III

STUDENT LIFE PROGRAM
STUDENT LIFE PROGRAM

Because an active student is a more successful student, Middle Georgia State University’s Student Life Program is based on three very sound principles that will help students achieve success.

First . . .
participation in Student Life activities gives students the opportunity to meet students, faculty, and staff outside the classroom. It’s through participation in activities such as picnics, concerts, family nights, coffeehouses, interactive programs and movie nights that students will build networks of support that will help with challenging University experiences. And, students find that the friendships they build in University can last a lifetime!

Second . . .
when students graduate from MGA, they’ll be looking for a good job, right? Participation in Student Life programs will provide skills and experience that employers find attractive. For example employers ask “Are you able to work well with a diverse group of people? Are you skilled in conflict resolution? Do you manage your time well? Are you an effective public speaker? Are you concerned with the welfare of the community in which you live?” Participation in campus activities shows potential employers that a candidate cared enough about his community to become involved at a level beyond that which is minimally expected. That’s a definite advantage when interviewing for a job!

Third . . .
by participating in Student Life programs, students become more aware of the world around them. As students progress through their education at MGA, they will be exposed to ideas, concepts, philosophies, arts, and cultures — all of which will expand their horizons in ways they cannot now imagine. Students may even discover that they enjoy everything from the taste of sushi to the sound of jazz. The opportunities for personal development are endless!

And . . .
as if all the above reasons to participate in learning outside the classroom aren’t enough, here’s one more: each student pays $3 per semester hour up to $45 in Student Activities Fees per semester. So, students should take advantage and get their money’s worth!

Read through these pages to learn about everything funded by Student Activities dollars. Students who can’t find a program or activity that appeals to them are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Life, and they can work to make it happen!

To learn more about Student Life at MGA, please contact Student Life representatives at any of the following campus locations:

Macon Campus: Student Life Center, SLC 276, (478) 757-2264
Cochran Campus: Wellness Center, (478) 934-3152
Dublin Campus: Library 94, (478) 275-6768
Eastman Aviation Campus: Main Building 1009, (478) 448-4703
Warner Robins Campus: Thomas Hall 115, (478) 329-4741

www.mga.edu/student-life

The student e-mail account is the major source of Student Life information! It is crucial that students check it frequently.

HOW DO STUDENTS BECOME INVOLVED IN STUDENT LIFE AT MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY?
Just show up. Yes, it’s that simple. Take a look at the Office of Student Life calendar of events, pick the program, activity, event and/or club meeting of interest and just show up. In some cases, students will need to present a valid student ID to be admitted free of charge, but most of the time, all that needs to be done is to attend.
PROGRAMS
Many Middle Georgia State University faculty and staff members provide their expertise and energy to a number of activities outside the classroom including Arts Festival, UniversityTown Film Series at the Historic Douglass Theatre, Honors Program, International Festival, and the Study Abroad Program.

Arts Festival
The Arts Festival is an annual event organized by faculty and staff. Each year, the committee develops a series of lectures, performances, exhibits and other activities related to a central theme such as CyberCulture and the Humanities, The Arts as a Catalyst for Social Change, Macon Poets, and The Mystery of Creativity.

UniversityTown Film Series at the Historic Douglass Theatre
Middle Georgia State University, Mercer University, and Wesleyan University co-sponsor a series of films that share a theme, such as Films of the Fabulous Fifties, Social Justice in the 20th Century, Outrageous Women, and Dark Nights, Bad Dreams. The films are screened in the historic Douglass Theatre in downtown Macon.

Honors Program
The Honors Program is designed to help academically advanced students develop their intellectual potential and to encourage these students in individual, rational, and creative thinking. In addition, the Honors Program seeks to promote academic excellence and intellectual independence on the part of each student and to promote a sense of unity and group identity among the honors students.

International Festivals
At MGA’s International Festivals students can go around the world and never leave the USA! The International Festival on the Macon Campus takes place during the spring and features lectures, discussions, dance performances, concerts, and other activities that bring around-the-world experiences to the University campus. Each spring, the Cochran Campus hosts a large outdoor event filled with music, international foods, activities, dance performances, and programs that enhance and enrich a student’s understanding of global history and diversity. In the fall semester the Warner Robins campus hosts its international festival with ethnic foods and other events that celebrate diverse cultures.

Study Abroad Programs
Ever dreamed of studying in a foreign land? Middle Georgia State University participates in all studies abroad programs sponsored by the University System of Georgia. Students may go to London, St. Petersburg, Paris, or any number of other exotic locations and EARN class credit while they are there.

EVENTS
Each year, Student Life hosts countless events to enhance the University experience, and works with other campus offices to sponsor institutional events such as club rush, commencement, family nights, student leadership ceremonies, cookouts, concerts, fall festival, spring fling, week of welcome, outdoor recreation trips, and much more!

Club Rush
Each fall and spring semester, the Office of Student Life hosts this opportunity where students can visit representatives of all recognized student organizations to find out what they are all about, in addition to learning about community resources and opportunities to help students get involved.

Fall & Spring Festivals
Festivals are held in October and April on all campuses. These festivals feature live music, creative novelties, face painting, pumpkin carving, food tasting, games, outdoor and interactive activities in celebration of fall and spring.

Grad Finale
The Office of Student Life begins the “Countdown to Graduation” with events that celebrate the academic accomplishments of our students. Past events have included opportunities for a framed cap and gown keepsake photograph.
Family Night
Each semester, the Office of Student Life hosts Family Night. Here’s an opportunity for the whole family to enjoy an appropriate family friendly movie on the big screen on campus, off-campus venue, or an appropriate fun activity.

Graduation (Commencement)
The Graduation Ceremony each fall and spring provides the “pomp and circumstance” students deserve after completing their program of study at MGA. For more information on Graduation, see Section I of this Handbook.

Much, Much More
Watch for other great events throughout the academic year: trips, comedians on campus, music on the patio, pool parties, cookouts, health fairs, National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week events to name a few.

Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs)
In combination to the many programs and activities, MGA also has over 60 clubs and organizations. These organizations cover a broad range of interests which include: sport clubs, international and multicultural organizations, religious organizations, academic honorary organizations, and special interest clubs. Interested in politics or scuba diving, gaming or travel? There is a club for everyone! Each RSO has a faculty or staff advisor, and the advisor counsels the RSO in the development of programs and projects to enrich the extracurricular program of the University. The RSOs of the University provide students with opportunities to be creative and to develop experiences in student leadership.

The RSOs of the University are required to comply with the regulations of the University. Students interested in organizing a new club or organization must follow the guidelines for Recognition of Campus Student Organizations outlined in this handbook.

Approval must be secured for the use of University facilities for club meetings and programs by submitting a Facilities Use Form and/or facilities request form to the facilities use coordinator or Office of Student Life. For information on specific clubs/organizations, please contact:
- Macon Campus: Student Life Center, SLC 276, (478) 757-2264
- Cochran Campus: Wellness Center, (478) 934-3152
- Dublin Campus: Library 94, (478) 275-6768
- Eastman Aviation Campus: Main Building 1009, (478) 448-4703
- Warner Robins Campus: Thomas Hall 115, (478) 329-4741

For more information about Recognized Student Organizations and a comprehensive list of organizations, visit www.mga.edu/student-life.

Greek Life Policies and Procedures
Mission
Greek Life supports the mission of the Office of Student Life by providing opportunities for students’ intellectual and social growth.

MGa Greek Life Core Values - “Greatness in Action”
Integrity: We will conduct ourselves with a sense of integrity – understanding that integrity is defined by the action of moral and ethical decision-making.
Education: We will contribute to the educational environment of the institution – promoting among our peers that academic excellence should be the driving force in all our actions.
Service: We will act with a sense of service to ourselves, our brothers/sisters, and our world – appreciating that our action in service is a catalyst for progress.
Leadership: We will lead with a sense of purpose – accepting that leadership is both a privilege bestowed by our peers and an action carried out by those entrusted with it.

Greek Life Advisory Council
The Greek Life Advisory Council consists of faculty and staff who assist in the administration of Greek Life at MGA. The council will consist of no less than six members and no more than ten members. The Advisor
of the Greek Council will serve as the chair of the Greek Life Advisory Council. Members serve on an annual basis. The council makes recommendations to the Office of Student Life and to the Greek Council on policies and procedures. The council shall meet a minimum of twice each year.

**Greek Council**

The Greek Council shall be the governing body representing Greek organizations at MGA. The Greek Council shall be operational ONLY while at least THREE colonies/chapters exist at MGA. Colonies/chapters affiliated with the Greek Council shall be members of nationally recognized Greek organizations or local chapters in the following circumstances:

1) A recognized student organization of MGA.
2) Approved by a majority vote of the Greek Council.

The Greek Council shall be comprised of two representatives from each colony/chapter as well as a president, Vice president, Secretary/Treasurer, and the Greek Council Conduct Chair.

The Greek Council shall serve as the governing body until such a time that the Greek Council, as well as the Greek Life Advisory Council, see fit to divide the colonies/chapters by conference (Inter-Fraternity Council, National Panhellenic Conference, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Multicultural Greek Council, etc.). It is recommended that there by a minimum of three Greek organizations for each council before this be considered.

**Faculty/Staff Advisors:**

It is the policy of the Middle Georgia State University Office of Student Life that all recognized student organizations have at least one faculty/staff advisor. The minimum criteria to be an advisor to an RSO are:

- The advisor must have the approval of his/her Dean, Department Chair, or direct Supervisor via the Advisor Intent Form, which is then submitted to the Office of Student Life.
- Participation in a mandatory training session sponsored by the Office of Student Life and compliance with the policies and procedures reviewed in the session as well as outlined in this Handbook.

Advisors for Greek organizations have additional responsibilities including but not limited to:

- Knowledge of colony/chapter operations provided by Graduate Chapters and/or headquarters.
- Strong understanding of risk management policies.
- Attendance at a multitude of functions and events (conferences, socials, retreats, etc.).
- Provide academic advising/support to members who are not fulfilling academic expectations of Greek membership.
- Actively communicate with colony/chapter membership, MGA staff, headquarters, Graduate Chapter, and other constituencies.
- Focus on the growth and development of students by:
  - Participating in colony/chapter activities.
  - Guide students toward ethical decision-making.
  - Assist in the planning of events.
  - Focus on accountability – holding students accountable and teaching them to hold each other accountable.

**Colony/Chapter Advisors:**

All recognized student organizations at MGA are required to maintain a faculty/staff advisor. Greek organizations may also have colony/chapter advisors that are typically affiliated with the organization as an alumnus/alumnae. The roles and responsibilities of these advisors varies from organization to organization, but the traditional responsibilities include:

- Advisors partake in training sessions and conferences offered by headquarters.
- Advisors should be knowledgeable of Greek organizations policies and procedures.
- Advisors should be knowledgeable of MGA policies and procedures.
- Contribute to the efforts of the faculty/staff advisor.

If an organization maintains advisors who are not faculty or staff members, they are required to provide the advisors’ contact information to the Advisor of the Greek Council.
Academic Requirements:

Student Requirements:
Students wishing to participate in Greek Life at MGA (recruitment, intake, and continued active membership) must be full-time students in good academic standing with MGA. This includes the following:

- A minimum of 12 registered credit hours
- A minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA*
  - For freshmen, GPA is based on high school
  - For transfer students, GPA is based on transferred credit GPA
- A student must be in good academic standing – not on academic probation.

* Greek organizations (including local chapters and their governing organizations) reserve the right to enforce higher GPA requirements for their organizations.

Colony/Chapter Requirements:
All organizations will maintain a cumulative colony/chapter GPA of 2.5 in order to remain in good academic standing. This status provides all rights and responsibilities associated with being a recognized student organization of the institution.

Academic Probation:
Organizations that fall below the required cumulative colony/chapter GPA will be placed on academic probation for the following academic semester. The following standards apply while on academic probation:

- Loss of all social privileges including but not limited to:
  - Hosting and/or co-hosting social events
  - Participating in intramural sports
  - Non-educational programming
  - Philanthropy events that are social in context
- The chapter will be required to submit a chapter academic plan for the semester within four weeks of the start of the semester.
- The chapter will be required to participate in programming regarding academic excellence. This programming will be co-organized by the organization and the Office of Student Life.
- The national organization’s staff and Graduate Chapter (if applicable) will be alerted regarding the chapter’s academic standing.
- The chapter president will be required to meet with the Advisor of the Greek Council bi-weekly.

Organizations will remain on academic probation as long as their cumulative colony/chapter GPA is below 2.5. The following standards, in addition to the above, apply to organizations that remain on academic probation for two consecutive semesters (not including summer):

- Not be permitted to take new members for the semester following the second probationary period.
- The colony/chapter executive board must meet with the Advisor of the Greek Council to establish an academic plan for the semester.

Organizations on academic probation for four consecutive semesters (excluding summer) will be placed into a status review.

Status Review:
Organizations that earn below a 2.0 GPA or less for the semester or cumulative, or have fallen below the required 2.5 GPA for four consecutive semesters will be placed under review by the Greek Life Advisory Council. The Greek Life Advisory Council has the authority to sanction and/or suspend the colony/chapter at any time for no longer than one academic year.

Appeal:
Appeals to decisions on status review can be made to the vice president for student affairs in writing. Appeals must be filed within two weeks of notification of sanctions.

New Membership:

General Policies:

- MGA will recognize fall and spring semesters’ new membership/intake processes. No new member/intake processes may occur during the summer or when MGA is not in session.
- Freshmen students have the ability to join a Greek organizations (based on the standards of the organization) starting their first semester. Academic eligibility will be based on the student’s high
school grade point average. Individual colonies/chapters may choose not to accept first semester freshmen.

- Organizations must have potential members complete a Candidate Verification Form to verify academic eligibility.
- Academic eligibility must be verified by the Advisor of the Greek Council prior to:
  - Admission to the recruitment/intake processes.
  - A bid or membership invitation being extended by the colony/chapter.
- Each Greek letter organization is required to provide a copy of its nationally/regionally new member/intake curriculum/program to the Office of Student Life.
- Each Greek letter organization must submit a membership roster within the first two weeks of each semester.
- Each Greek letter organization must submit an updated membership roster to the Office of Student Life when a new member is added or a member is removed.
  - Failure to notify the Office of Student Life of membership changes may result in sanctions including but not limited to:
    - Social activity probation
    - Loss of new member/intake opportunities
    - Educational programming

Meetings and Documentation

- Prior to any intake activities, at least one colony/chapter member (preferably the colony/chapter president or intake officer) will meet with the Advisor of the Greek Council. At this meeting the colony/chapter will submit/provide:
  - Any national or regional paperwork that needs to be signed by University administration
  - Notice of Membership Intake
  - Any flyers/advertisement for intake/interest meetings/rush must be posted on the Office of Student Life door/window for no less than 72 hours PRIOR to the meeting. The flyer must include time, date, location, dress code, contact information, and any other expectations of aspirants.
  - A calendar of events – should include a timetable of any intake activities with dates, locations and times. Activities must be approved one-week before they commence.
  - Activities to include on the calendar, if applicable:
    - Informational Meeting
    - Interest Meeting
    - Date of verification submission
    - Initiation Date
    - Any additional dates pertinent to a specific organization

Verification of Candidates: A candidate is defined as a student who is seeking membership into a Greek organization. All chapters conducting intake must submit a Verification of Candidates Form. This form should be accompanied by the Candidate Verification Form completed and signed by the student. Candidates should complete the Candidate Verification Form at the interest meeting held by the colony/chapter. The colony/chapter should submit the Verification of Candidates Form to the Advisor of the Greek Council within five business days of the interest meeting. The form must list all individuals who attended the interest meeting. The Verification of Candidates Form contains the following information:
  - List of candidates for membership that will include each individuals
    - Name (please print)
    - Signature
    - Student ID number
    - Academic waiver
  - Total number of candidates
  - Original signature of chapter president
  - Signature of faculty/staff advisor
  - This form must be submitted in person or emailed to the Advisor of the Greek Council (no faxes will be accepted under any circumstance)

- Once the candidates are verified and they enter the new member education process, the colony/chapter should submit an updated Membership Roster to the Advisor of the Greek Council within two business days. In cases where the national intake team conducts the intake process, all
correspondence forwarded to any regional or local representative should also be forwarded to the Advisor of the Greek Council.

All documents supplied to the Advisor of the Greek Council are kept confidential from students, student workers, and student leaders, including the officers of the Greek Council. They may be shared with institutional officials and national organization staff as needed. In the event that any dates and times need to be changed on the intake calendar of events, the colony/chapter president or intake officer must notify the Advisor of the Greek Council (in writing) immediately and no less than two business days prior to the new event time.

Presentation of New Members
All organizations must adhere to the following guidelines when presenting new members to the campus community.

- Presentation of new members must take place no more than 30 calendar days after the members have been initiated into the organization, unless an exception is granted by the Greek Council with a written recommendation from the colony/chapter’s faculty/staff advisor and graduate chapter (if applicable)
- Guidelines for those who present new members using a “show”
  - The Advisor of the Greek Council must be notified of the date, time, and location of the “show” no less than two weeks in advance.
  - A copy of the reservation confirmation notice must be submitted to the Advisor of the Greek Council (including a rain location).
  - No explicit or revealing attire is to be worn by the new members or other “show” participants.
  - No excessive use of profanity (PG13)
  - No alcoholic beverages will be permitted. This includes visiting chapters, alumni, and/or graduate chapters.
  - No physical abuse will be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to slapping, kicking, spitting, punching, pushing, poking, caning, etc.
  - No bricks, bats, paddles, chains, staffs, canes, sticks or other potential weapons may be used. All props to be used in the “show” must be approved by the Advisor of the Greek Council no less than two weeks prior to the “show.”
  - No references to hazing and/or other illegal activities.
  - If a new member decides that he/she cannot, or decides not to participate in the show, a written and signed letter by the new member must be submitted to the Advisor of the Greek Council no more than 72 hours prior to the “show” explaining why he/she cannot or has decided not to participate. This letter must also be signed by the colony/chapter president indicating the new member is not participating.
  - The duration of the presentation show should be no longer than 2 hours total. Show may not be scheduled to begin after 9:00pm. Presentation shows must start within 15 minutes of the scheduled/advertised time. Following the show, members of the presenting organization must vacate the area within 30 minutes (this will help with crowd disbursement). The presenting organization will be responsible for ensuring the site used is left in its original state after use.

- The Advisor of the Greek Council or his/her designee (full time, professional staff or faculty member) MUST be in attendance at all new member presentations.
- It is the colony/chapter responsibility to notify visiting and alumni members of all MGA new member presentation rules.

Violations
Violations of the intake process may result in probation or suspension. The colony/chapter accused of the violation will go through the conduct process described in this policies and procedures manual. Violations include but are not limited to:

- Intentional submission of improper paperwork (i.e., changing of dates on forms, falsifying original signatures, incomplete paperwork, etc.)
- Holding membership intake without adhering to the intake guidelines set by the Office of Student Life.
- Hazing: Any activities outside of the membership intake process set by national headquarters.
- Overt activity defined as any activity related to intake conducted in defiance of previous guidelines or warnings by advisors, faculty/staff, and/or the Advisor of the Greek Council.
- Failure to adhere to Presentation of New Members guidelines (as included in this document).

Expansion:
It is the philosophy of Greek Life at MGA that growth of individual colonies/chapters as well as the expansion of new Greek organizations is paramount to the success of Greek Life at the institution. It is vital to critically consider expansion on a regular basis. Considerations for expansion should include:
- Can we sustain a new fraternity or sorority with our current student population?
- Will the new fraternity/sorority be successful?
- Is the fraternity/sorority seeking expansion a good fit for MGA?

New Greek organizations may expand with a majority vote of the Greek Council. If a Greek Council does not exist, the decision will be made by the Greek Life Advisory Council.

Anti-Hazing Policy
Middle Georgia State University has a ZERO-TOLERANCE policy for hazing. Hazing is defined as such:

“Hazing is any action or situation, with or without the consent of the participants, which recklessly, intentionally, or unintentionally endangers the mental, physical, or academic health or safety of a student.”

– University of Michigan, Dean of Students Office

This includes, but is not limited to any situation that:
- Creates a risk of injury to any individual or group
- Causes discomfort to any individual or group
- Causes embarrassment to any individual or group
- Involves harassment of any individual or group
- Involves degradation of any individual or group
- Involves humiliation of an individual or group
- Involves ridicule of an individual or group
- Involves or includes the willful destruction or removal of public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in an organization

Hazing Prevention
All Greek letter organizations are required to participate in anti-hazing events each semester. These events are sponsored by the Office of Student Life and participation is enforced by the Greek Council.

Community Accountability
It is the responsibility of all members of the MGA Greek community to enforce and embody a philosophy of integrity and hazing prevention. To this end, bystander behavior will not be tolerated. The Office of Student Life and Student Affairs will treat individuals who witness hazing activities but do not report them as though they had participated in the hazing activity as well.

Conduct Procedures
Infractions of the Student Code of Conduct will be overseen through the published Student Conduct process managed by the Office of Student Affairs. Further legal action, separate from the institutional conduct process, may be taken depending on the infraction. Examples include but are not limited to:
- Academic dishonesty
- Drug and alcohol violations
- Harassment
- Physical violence
- Terroristic threats
- Hazing
Possible sanctions for these and similar violations and the appeals process can be found in the Student Code of Conduct.

Infractions of the Office of Student Life and Greek Life policies pertaining to the chapter as a whole will be overseen by the Greek Life Conduct Board

The Greek Life Conduct Board shall be comprised of one student member of each Greek organization, three members of the Greek Life Advisory Council, and the Greek Council Conduct Chair who shall serve as the chairperson.

Violations of Student Life and Greek Life policies and procedures should be submitted to the Advisor of the Greek Council. The Greek Life Conduct Board may also receive violations through reports taken by Campus Police.

Procedures for a conduct hearings are as follows:

- The chapter will be notified in writing within two weeks of the alleged policy violation(s) and the date, time, and location of the hearing.
- Hearings are closed and confidential.
- A single, written, and confidential record will be made of the hearing. This record will be kept on file in the Office of Student Life.
- Quorum is half of the possible members of the Greek Life Conduct Board. A minimum of three (3) board members must be present for quorum to be met.
- All parties may request a submission of written, factual accounts by witnesses and may request that the witnesses appear at the hearing.
- An accused chapter will have an opportunity to review any evidence that will be introduced prior to the hearing.
- A chapter appearing at the hearing may have an advisor of his or her choice. This advisor may advise the chapter but may not participate in the hearing nor address the board.
- A representative of the accused chapter may hear and question all witnesses. Questions must be directed to the Greek Council Conduct Chair, who will determine the appropriateness of the question and redirect the question to the appropriate person(s).
- The board will make its decision promptly and notify appropriate parties in writing via email. Sanctions will be disclosed to any person or persons who have been aggrieved by a chapter and to institutional personnel when appropriate.
- The chairperson will inform the chapter of the opportunity to appeal the decision in writing to the vice president for student affairs within three weeks of the notification.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

The Student Government Association represents the student body of the University at all five campuses. The SGA is composed of the leaders from each campus assembly. The SGA assemblies plan and execute many worthwhile projects and activities, which enrich University life. The SGA, in order to carry out its purpose, shall provide a forum for communication and recommendation between the students of the University and the administrative officers of the University concerning the problems and issues that are important to students and promote student government through sharing of ideas and information, and making recommendations and assisting the officials through delegated authority in implementing programs of student activities and campus life.

**STUDENT SERVICES**

Visit the Office of Student Life for:

*Bus Schedule*

Visit the Macon Transit Authority website at [http://www.mta-mac.com](http://www.mta-mac.com) for a current bus schedule, fares, and route information.
Facilities Requests for Recognized Student Organizations

Use of University facilities for social activities or club events must be approved in advance by submitting a Facilities Use and Event Registration Form [http://www.mga.edu/student-life/documents.aspx](http://www.mga.edu/student-life/documents.aspx). The club/organization sponsor is responsible for executing this form. Any facility used for a social activity or club event must be left in a clean and orderly condition and restored to its original order. The club/organization sponsor is responsible for executing this regulation. The necessary expense for the activity is the responsibility of the sponsoring organization.

First Aid
Need a Band-Aid, pain reliever, antiseptic? Please visit the following student life offices:
- Macon Campus: Student Life Center SLC 276, (478) 757-2264
- Cochran Campus: Wellness Center, (478) 934-3152
- Dublin Campus: Library 94, (478) 275-6768
- Eastman Aviation Campus: Main Building 1009, (478) 448-4703
- Warner Robins Campus: Thomas Hall 115, (478) 329-4741

If you need more than just first aid, there are Health Clinics located on the Macon and Cochran Campuses.

Student ID Cards - Knight Card
- Macon Campus: Campus Support Services Building, adjacent to the Police Department, (478) 471-2440
- Cochran Campus: Alderman Hall (478) 934-3002
- Dublin Campus: Library (478) 275-6772
- Eastman Campus: Main Building (478) 374-6403
- Warner Robins Campus: Thomas Hall, Room 115A, (478) 329-4741

Knight Cards are required for students to enter most school-sponsored events. When applicable, cards are checked at the door. No non-student shall be admitted unless the sponsoring organization allows students to bring a guest to the specified event or unless the event is open to the public. The student is held responsible for their guest's conduct during the event.

Voter Registration
Are you registered to vote? If not, drop by the Office of Student Life on the Macon Campus (SLC 275) or Warner Robins Campus (Thomas Hall 115) and pick up a voter registration application or visit the State of Georgia Voter Registration website at [http://sos.georgia.gov/elections/vrinfo.htm](http://sos.georgia.gov/elections/vrinfo.htm). Students may also register to vote at the annual Constitution Day events on all campuses.

Facilities
The Student Activities Fee paid by students supports amenities such as pool tables, ping pong tables, games flat screen televisions, and much more.

Macon Campus: Student Life Center SLC-113, (478) 471-2710
The game room is a great place to shoot pool, play video games or chess, checkers, and ping pong, or just relax with friends and watch a big screen TV. All activities in the game room are free to Middle Georgia State University students with valid student IDs.

Cochran Campus: (The Wellness Center), (478) 934-3152
The Student Center provides a warm and welcoming space for students to enjoy a game of pool, ping pong, cards or board games as well as Xbox and Playstation video game stations. The Center offers efficient and courteous customer service, with all activities free to students with a valid student ID.

Dublin Campus: First Floor, (478) 275-6768
The Dublin Campus Student Center provides students with pool tables, ping pong tables, XBOX and PlayStation 3 gaming systems, TV, and a lounge area. Students can take advantage of these facilities during operating hours of the campus. These facilities allow students to socialize as well as study before, between, and after classes. All of these facilities are free to Middle Georgia State University students.

Eastman Aviation Campus: Second Floor, (478) 448-4703
The Eastman Campus Student Center/Recreation Room provides students with a TV, pool table, ping pong
table and two rooms with fitness equipment for exercising (cardio equipment, free weights, and weight machines). The fitness rooms are to be used at your own risk and you must complete a liability waiver with student life (1009, main lobby) prior to using the facility. There are also several tables and chairs and three computer stations set up for leisurely hanging out and for studying.

Warner Robins Campus: Thomas Hall 115, (478) 329-4741
The Warner Robins Activity Center and Café (WRACC) provides students with opportunities to play video games, pool and/or ping pong. All activities in the WRACC are also free to Middle Georgia State University students with valid student IDs.

POLICIES
Policies pertaining to the Student Life Program are contained in Sections V and VI of this Handbook. For policies related to Recognized Student Organizations, visit: http://www.mga.edu/student-life/docs/RSO_Policy_Procedure
SECTION IV

RESIDENCE LIFE PROGRAM
RESIDENCE LIFE PROGRAM

MISSION
The Office of Residence Life is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and comfortable living-learning environment, conducive to academic and personal success while fostering a sense of community, civic responsibility, and an appreciation for diversity. Residence Life will consistently endorse the academic mission of Middle Georgia State University while supporting and promoting the mission of the Office of Student Affairs.

CORE VALUES
- Safety and Security
- Leadership and Service
- Cultural Awareness and Inclusivity
- Community Engagement
- Life-long Learning

RESIDENCY ELIGIBILITY
Only students of Middle Georgia State University who are registered for a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours (3 credit hours in summer) shall be eligible for housing space. Any student who withdraws or is involuntarily removed from school shall move out within 24 hours. Exceptions to these criteria may be made at the discretion of the Director of Housing and Residence Life. However, the student shall remain responsible for all financial obligations to the University.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

Macon Housing Requirements
Any admitted student with less than 30 earned credit hours must reside in MGA on-campus housing until 30 credit hours have been earned. A student with less than 30 hours of credit may be exempt from this policy if he/she:
- Has a permanent legal address within one of the following Georgia counties: Bibb, Bleckley, Crawford, Dodge, Dooly, Houston, Johnson, Jones, Laurens, Macon, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Telfair, Treutlen, Twiggs, Wheeler, Wilcox, Wilkinson
- Has custody of dependent children
- Is 21 years or older by the first day of classes for the semester enrolling
- Is active duty military
- Has a documented medical disability
- Plans to enroll in only online classes while a student at MGA. A Fully Online Declaration Form must be completed.

A student transferring from the Cochran Campus or Eastman Campus to the Macon Campus will be required to live on the Macon Campus until 60 credit hours have been earned.

All exemptions require that a student complete an Exemption Form and provide proper documentation. The Exemption Form is available online, as well as at the Office of Residence Life on the Cochran Campus and the University Pointe Office on the Macon Campus.

Housing and Meal Plan expenses are listed in the Residence Hall Application Form.

Cochran/Eastman Housing Requirements
Any admitted student with less than 60 earned credit hours must reside in MGA on-campus housing until 60 credit hours have been earned. A student with less than 60 hours of credit may be exempt from this policy if he/she:
- Has a permanent legal address within one of the following Georgia counties: Bibb, Bleckley, Crawford, Dodge, Dooly, Houston, Johnson, Jones, Laurens, Macon, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Telfair, Treutlen, Twiggs, Wheeler, Wilcox, Wilkinson
- Has custody of dependent children
- Is 21 years or older by the first day of classes for the semester enrolling
- Is active duty military
- Has a documented medical disability
- Plans to enroll in only online classes while a student at MGA. A Fully Online Declaration Form must be completed.

A student transferring from the Cochran Campus or Eastman Campus to the Macon Campus will be required to live on the Macon Campus until 60 credit hours have been earned.

All exemptions require that a student complete an Exemption Form and provide proper documentation. The Exemption Form is available online, as well as at the Office of Residence Life on the Cochran Campus and the University Pointe Office on the Macon Campus.

Housing and Meal Plan expenses are listed in the Residence Hall Application Form.

**RESIDENCE HALL STAFF**
Residence Life Coordinators (RLCs) are full-time, live-in, professional staff responsible for assisting the Director of Housing and Residence Life in providing a quality residence life program for student residents; maintaining a safe, healthy, learning and living environment; addressing student conduct issues; and managing the Resident Assistant program.

Community Assistants (CAs) are part-time adult staff responsible for providing support and assistance to the residence life program.

Senior Resident Assistants (SRAs) are part-time student staff responsible for providing support and assistance to the residence life program. These leaders demonstrate emotional maturity necessary to cope with day-to-day decisions involved in maintaining optimal living conditions within the building. SRAs have sensitivity and concern for others as individuals, as well as a personal and professional commitment to their responsibilities. SRAs have the knowledge & experience to appropriately assist, advise, and serve as a liaison between students and other members of the campus community.

Resident Assistants (RAs) are part-time, student staff whose overall responsibility is to provide leadership and support for students in the residence halls. RAs are carefully selected for their leadership and interpersonal skills, positive attitude and sense of commitment. As a peer, RAs are a source of information and referral, and they assist residents in adjusting to campus life including academic concerns, suitemate relationships, and other matters. RAs offer social and academic programming, serve as a resource, and help maintain reasonable standards of community citizenship.

**RESIDENCE HALL FACILITIES/FURNISHINGS**

**A/C, Heating and Ventilation**
Thermostats have been preprogrammed to run between specific temperature zones. Any attempt to reprogram a thermostat is considered to be a serious violation and will be handled accordingly; including charges being applied to the resident’s account and possible judicial action. Lack of air or heat is considered an emergency and should be reported immediately to the Residence Life Coordinator.
**Beds**
Cochran residence halls are furnished with single XL beds (36” x 80”) except Anderson Hall. Anderson Hall has a standard single bed (36” x 75”). Eastman residence halls are furnished with single XL beds (36” x 80”). Residence halls in Macon area furnished with full-size beds.

**Fire Equipment**
Fire equipment is located throughout the residence halls for protection of the residents. It is unlawful to tamper with any fire equipment, i.e., pull alarms, hoses, fire extinguishers, heat sensors, smoke detectors, sprinkler heads, etc. No person shall falsely report a fire, nor interfere in any way with emergency services or procedures. Violation of the above will result in a fine and/or notification to the Middle Georgia State University Police and/or local law enforcement agencies for possible criminal charges.

**Fire Hazards**
For safety reasons, halogen lamps, candles, lanterns, incense or any other incendiary devices are not permitted in residence halls.

**Furniture and Fixtures**
Removal of furniture from the assigned location, except with permission, is prohibited. Residents will be charged for any furniture or equipment assigned to their apartment/suite which is found missing or damaged at move-out. If common area items are found in residents’ units, judicial action and fines will be imposed.

**Internet/Cable**
Residents must provide their own Ethernet cord and cable cord. Residents must not tamper with any internet/cable wiring/fixtures, and must comply with all usage rules as outlined in any University policies. Personal wireless (wifi) routers are not allowed in residence halls at MGA. Students found in possession of these routers will be asked to take the device home. If the router is found in use a second time the router will be confiscated.

**Locks**
Locks may NOT be changed/installed by residents. Locks and all original keys must be returned upon vacating the premises, including temporary move-outs, if applicable. Students are prohibited from tampering with any University locks, or installing new or additional locks, deadbolts, or other locking device. Student shall not alter or duplicate any residence hall room or exterior door keys. Any Student in possession of any duplicated keys will be charged for re-keying the room, apartment, or exterior doors and may face criminal charges.

**Keys**
No person shall transfer, duplicate or permit the use of their University issued keys or ID cards by another person. Possession of keys or key cards to any University building or facility without authorization shall be subject to student conduct procedures and/or legal action. Lost keys must be reported to the Office of Residence Life immediately. Failure to return all assigned keys at the appropriate time will result in a charge of $50 per door to the resident. No refund or cancellation of charges.

**Smoke Detectors**
Each apartment is equipped with a properly working smoke detector. The Office of Residence Life should be notified if it is believed that the smoke detector is not working or needs servicing.

**Windows and Doors**
For purposes of safety and energy efficiency, window/doors should not be open while air conditioner/heater is running or when the resident is absent from the apartment/suite.
RESIDENCE HALL POLICIES/REGULATIONS

Access & Inspections of Residence Hall Facilities
Middle Georgia State University shall retain legal ownership and ultimate possession and control of student’s room and University property assigned to such room. The University reserves the right to maintain and preserve the residence halls; therefore, residence life staff, University personnel, agents and contractors authorized by the University may enter any residence hall space at any time for safety inspection, maintenance, cleaning, inventories, epidemic or emergency, pest control, occupancy verification, to claim University property, and/or general repair. The University reserves the authority to allow access to a student’s room when requested by any law enforcement officer possessing a valid search or arrest warrant. The University reserves the right to remove and hold in storage or dispose of any items deemed hazardous to the building or its occupants (i.e., explosives, firearms, alcohol, chemicals, open flame burning items, hunting bows, weapons, etc.) and/or other prohibited items.

In the interest of the health and general welfare of the community, the University reserves the right to inspect apartments for cleanliness and upkeep or to make repairs at a reasonable time. These inspections are done to help insure a healthy and safe environment for residents. Items of particular scrutiny are overloaded circuits, pets, and unsanitary conditions that may attract bugs. Smoke alarms are checked to make sure they are in working order.

Alcohol Possession/Use
The MGA Residence Life community (faculty, staff, and students) is part of a larger community and, as such, is not only governed by its own regulations but by University policies and state law. Middle Georgia State University prohibits:

- the use or possession of alcohol by anyone in the Residence Life community or on the premises; this applies to everyone regardless of age;
- the transport and/or consumption of alcohol in open containers in any public area including any property that surrounds an apartment and is considered Residence Life property;
- the manufacture or selling of alcohol;
- public intoxication;
- common containers of alcohol (kegs, party balls, trash cans, funnels, beer hats, etc.);
- students’ presence where an alcohol violation is occurring, regardless of whether the resident/guest is using or possessing alcohol;
- alcohol paraphernalia in residential units.

Alterations to Residence Hall Facility
No changes will be made in the residence hall or housing space by residents. This includes, but is not limited to shelves, partitions, lofts, window coverings, wallpaper, painting, plumbing, heating, other structural changes or alterations to furniture, or the removal of University furniture and its replacement with items owned by the resident. No person shall, without proper authorization, remove any property from its assigned place in a University facility.

No person shall damage, deface or destroy University property. This includes marking or writing on apartment/suite doors. Residents should avoid using nails or sticky substances on sheetrock and wood. Thumbtacks and push pins are allowed to hang items on sheetrock walls. Damage done by nails or other fixatives will result in per item charge to the student’s account.

Cleaning
Residents are expected to appropriately clean and maintain the assigned space, including but not limited to bathrooms, kitchens, and bedrooms. Lack of cleaning can result in unhealthy living conditions, odor, mildew, mold, pests, etc. Residents are expected to clean regularly and comply with all requests made to maintain a healthy environment. Failure to clean can result in fines and student conduct procedures action.
Communication, Official
Student email is an official means of communication at Middle Georgia State University (MGA), and it is the student’s responsibility to frequently check their MGA student email account. It is also the student’s responsibility to update their student information online SWORDS or with the Registrar’s Office if any personal information changes while enrolled. In addition to student email, MGA provides important information to students via SMS (text message). Providing your telephone number to MGA authorizes the university to contact you regarding enrollment deadlines and requirements and/or campus emergencies. Enrollment messages will be labeled Enrollment Alert, while messages regarding campus safety or emergencies will be labeled Knight Alert. To opt out of receiving one or both of these, please indicate your preferences by accessing your SWORDS account and selecting “Personal Information” and then “Update Addresses and Phones.”

Computers:
Internet jacks are located in suites; however, students must supply their own Ethernet cord if they want to connect their computer to the Internet. Personal wireless (wifi) routers are not allowed in residence halls at MGA. Students found in possession of these routers will be asked to take the device home. If the router is found in use a second time the router will be confiscated.

Consolidation
Middle Georgia State University reserves the right to reassign students for the purpose of consolidation and to schedule unoccupied rooms for guests’ usage at any time. Where there is a vacant space, it must be maintained in a manner by the occupant(s) that will allow another person to move in immediately. The University reserves the right to make temporary assignments and to assign or reassign accommodations at its discretion.

Damages to Residence Hall Facilities
Residents will be held responsible for any and all damages to the unit, its furniture, appliances and equipment, and for maintaining the unit in a safe and sanitary manner. Residents are held responsible for making an appointment with Residence Hall staff to have the apartment or suite inspected prior to the resident’s departure. If the unit is not surrendered in a clean and orderly condition, the residents will be charged for the expense of any additional cleaning.

Residents are jointly responsible for the cost of replacement or repair of any breakage or damages in the common areas within their assigned housing unit. Charges will be equally assessed upon each member of the assigned room, hall, or apartment in the event the responsible person remains anonymous (collective liability). Residents may also be assessed the expense of the repair or replacement of any property in public areas judged damaged by residents or their guests in a given room. Damages to a given residence hall that cannot be attributed to an individual student will also be assessed, and these costs will be shared by all residents of that residence hall.
Residents are responsible for the condition of the housing space and all furnishings that are assigned to them and shall reimburse the University for all damages to or loss of these furnishings. Residents are responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of their room. Charges for damages and/or cleaning shall be assessed to the student’s account.

Disorderly Conduct
Behavior which, in Middle Georgia State University’s sole discretion, has a negative impact on the living and learning environment of the residence halls will be subject to student conduct procedures that could include immediate revocation of the privilege to live in a residence hall. Disruptive behavior (i.e., physical abuse, fighting, malicious destruction of property, uncontrolled horseplay, water fights, sports in the breezeways, pranks, other rough play, etc.) that could endanger the health and safety of staff, residents, or guests will not be tolerated.

Drugs Possession/Use
No person shall possess, consume, manufacture, dispense, be in the presence of or under the influence of illegal drugs or engage in improper self-medication while on University property or conducting University business. No person shall possess or utilize paraphernalia explicitly for drugs use. MGA prohibits:
• selling, possessing or using any substance currently classified as a dangerous drug by the Georgia Controlled Substance Act or classified as illegal by state or federal law;
• possession of drugs that may be used to incapacitate other individuals;
• possession and/or use of drug paraphernalia, including but not limited to any form of bong or smoking device, such as a hookah, even if not used or if used for tobacco products;
• students’ presence where a drug-related violation is occurring, regardless of whether the resident/guest is using or possessing drugs.

**Electrical Equipment/Appliances**
Computers, stereos, televisions, radios, etc. are allowed. Refrigerators (maximum 2.7 cubic feet and 5 amps) and microwaves (maximum 1.0 cubic foot) are permitted in rooms. Microwaves and full size refrigerators are furnished in all apartment kitchens (Aviation Hall, University Pointe, and Harris Hall). Automatic shut off irons are permitted; however, if, during room inspections or security checks, an iron without automatic shut off is found, it will be confiscated. All electrical appliances must be plugged directly into wall outlets. Extension cords are not allowed.

**Garbage, Disposal of**
Residents must deposit all garbage in the dumpsters designated for the facility. Residents should dispose of garbage from their residence on a daily basis. Garbage is not to be left outside apartment doors, in the halls, or in breezeways. Failure to dispose of garbage properly will result in a charge of $30.00 being applied to student’s account.

**Unconventional Housing Options**
The option for unconventional housing assignments are available at MGA. All students are eligible to opt-in to these housing options by contacting the Director of Housing & Residence Life or by contacting the Assistant Director of Housing. Students can contact both these individuals by emailing housing@mga.edu. This option may appeal to the following:
- Students who may feel more comfortable with a suitemate of a different gender;
- Gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender students;
- Students exploring their gender identity; or
- Students who are related, i.e. siblings, cousins.
- Students with diverse abilities who may have a friend helping them.

All students will follow existing residence life policies for room changes or roommate changes after being assigned to housing at MGA. The Office of Housing & Residence Life strongly suggest that students interested in this assignment option consider the suite-style housing on the Cochran Campus (Gateway Hall, Regents Hall, and Knights Hall) but housing is available in every residence hall on all residential campuses. The selection of unconventional housing will be by student choice only; no student will be assigned to an unconventional living situation without his or her expressed consent. MGA strongly discourages students of any sexual orientation who are in a relationship from living together in a residence hall housing unit, although we do not question the student’s motives for choosing an unconventional housing option. MGA understands that it is the student’s choice if he or she informs parents or guardians about his or her decision. The Office of Housing & Residential Life strongly encourages students to talk with their parents or guardian about housing choices so that they can be in support of the student’s decision.

**Hallways, Stairs, Breezeways, Decks, Balconies, and Patio**
All stairs, breezeways, decks, and patios must be kept clean and free of obstruction at all times (this includes all sports equipment). For units with private balconies or decks, outdoor furniture may be placed in the area as long as it does not obstruct entrances/ exits. Dirt, trash, garbage, or waste should not be swept onto or over balconies, patios, or breezeways. The University reserves the right to remove any obstructions that may create unsafe or unsightly conditions. Items should not be thrown off of or onto any deck, balcony, or patio and items should not be thrown out of or into any window. Entering or exiting a residence hall or apartment through a window or from a balcony is prohibited except in case of emergencies.
Harassment and Intimidation
To succeed personally and academically, an individual must be able to live free from unnecessary emotional stress caused by others. Physical or emotional harassment is not tolerated in the Residence Life community. Harassment is the intimidation, invasion of privacy, or any threat to the well-being of another or their property that is communicated verbally, in writing or through any other means of communication (phone, computer, etc.). No person shall harass, threaten to harm, or exhibit behavior that threatens to harm another person. This shall include harassment on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, etc.

No person shall physically or verbally assault, batter, or intimidate another. These actions are subject to student conduct procedures and/or legal action.

Items Not Allowed In Residence Halls
- Drugs or drug paraphernalia, alcohol or alcohol paraphernalia
- Weapons, explosives, inflammmables**
- Electrical items other than clocks, radios, stereo equipment, televisions, or computers
- Microwave ovens larger than 1.0 cubic foot
- Refrigerators larger than 2.7 cubic feet
- Outside television/radio antennas, or satellite dishes
- Waterbeds or water-filled furniture
- Neon signs, candles and incense burners, open flame-burning or coiled hot plates or halogen-touchier lamps
- Objects once containing food or drink, such as empty alcohol bottles/cans used as decoration
- Decorative items such as fishnets, parachutes, and other inflammable items
- Air-conditioning units, heat lamps, or space heaters
- Pets are prohibited in or around the residence halls. This also applies to visiting pets.
- Large bulky items which require storage
- Hoverboards, self-balancing scooters, battery operated scooters, and hands-free segways

**Middle Georgia State University’s Campus Carry information can be found here: Weapons Policy. Questions should be directed to police@mga.edu.

Personal Items
Students must provide bath and bed linens, laundry supplies, cleaning tools and products, and other personal items. Students living in apartment style housing must also supply kitchen ware and utensils. Students are expected to clean common areas, bedroom and bathroom.

Personal Property
No person shall possess, tamper with or borrow, without permission, the personal property of others. Such actions will be treated as theft.

The University is not responsible for residents’ personal property. This includes damage, loss, fire, theft, or flooding. The University assumes no liability for claim of loss and expects apartment residents to take reasonable precautions against theft of personal property by locking their door when leaving. Because it is difficult to trace and identify stolen property, residents should keep a record of the descriptions and serial numbers of all valuables as well as mark them permanently. Records of these items should be kept in a safe location, but readily accessible and available to police officers in the event of theft. Residents may acquire insurance from an outside source to cover personal belongings if they so choose. All losses should be reported to the University Police Department immediately and then to their insurance company, if applicable.

Safety – Joint Responsibility
Certain privileges are extended to individuals by virtue of their membership in the residence life community. In order to protect the community, no person shall permit use of, share, or sublet their apartment/suite for commercial or solicitation purposes. No person shall fail to take responsibility of his or her visitors, which include informing them of policies and being responsible for their behavior within the residence life community and while on University grounds or at University functions.
Safety Precautions
Students should take some responsibility for their own safety and are encouraged to practice the following precautions:

- Carry student ID card and keys at all times.
- Lock living space doors and personal vehicles.
- Report suspicious persons or activities immediately.
- Be alert and take responsibility for personal and community safety.
- Don’t allow strangers into apartment/building.
- Avoid compromising situations.

Seasonal Decorations
Only UL Approved lights may be used in residence halls. Decorations may not be visible from outside the apartment or suite, with the exception of holiday decorations which must be:

- appropriate for the holiday being celebrated;
- displayed only during the time period immediately surrounding the holiday;
- appropriate for a community living environment;
- in compliance with all fire and facility regulations (due to fire/facility damage risk, live/cut trees are not permitted).

Service Animals
For policies and procedures regarding service animals at Middle Georgia State University, the Office of Disability Services should be contacted at (478)934-3023.

Summer Camps
During summer sessions, Middle Georgia State University students are not allowed in the residence hall(s) where camps are hosted. Likewise, camp attendees are not allowed in student suites, apartments, or buildings.

University Point Gate Security
The University Point apartment complex, located on the Macon campus, is owned by Middle Georgia State University and operated by the department of Residence Life. The complex is secured, like all other MGA property, by the MGA Police Department; however, additional security measures have been put in place in order to restrict access to registered residents. The complex is secured through a campus card reader system that requires resident validation through the MGA Knight Card, utilizing a set of automatic gates. This system is the primary point of security for residents between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; outside of these hours, a contract security company will be present to verify resident validity. A License Plate Recognition (LPR) system is also present, monitoring vehicle access and behavior. Motor vehicle operators observed damaging or running past the gate, bypassing security parameters, will be charged a fine as a deterrent.

In the event that automated security becomes inoperative, temporary security measures will be enacted. If automated security systems are down between 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and for less than 24 hours, MGA Police will oversee access control for the complex. If automated security systems are down for more than 24 hours, the contract security company will oversee access control until all systems resume normal operations.

Use of Residence Hall Facilities
Residents must use the living facilities in a quiet, peaceful, and lawful manner for residential purposes only. Residents, invited guests or any member of the resident’s household shall not act in any manner that disturbs other residents’ reasonable expectation of a quiet and peaceful environment, such as acts that are objectionable or obscene, dangerous, or otherwise disruptive.

Weapons, Explosives and Inflammables
It is strictly prohibited to possess or use firearms and other weapons in all University residence halls. Also prohibited is the possession or use of firecrackers, gunpowder, explosives, incendiary devices, or other materials that endanger health or safety. This includes storage of kerosene, gasoline, naphtha, benzene, or any other explosive and/or inflammable material. No person shall display, possess, use or intend to use
firearms, dangerous weapons, explosives and other hazardous objects. Weapons, explosives and other hazardous objects covered by this regulation include, but are not limited to the following:

- all handguns, rifles and shotguns;
- all BB guns, pellet guns, air/CO2 guns, paint guns and blow guns;
- all longbows, crossbows and arrows;
- folding/pocket knives with blade longer than three (3) inches in length (with exception of culinary);
- knives used for purposes other than culinary;
- all fireworks, explosives, laboratory chemicals, dangerous compounds;
- gunpowder, firearm ammunition and flammable petroleum fuels;
- all martial arts weapons (e.g., nunchucks and throwing stars);
- any item used as a weapon in the commission of a crime;
- any operative animal trap or other device that is used to ensnare animals;
- items such as mace or pepper gas that are used inappropriately that may be considered a weapon;
- gasoline driven vehicles of any kind;
- vehicle parts;
- heavy repair equipment;
- accessories to any vehicle or engine parts;
- any hazardous, dangerous, or illegal material or substance.

**RESIDENCE HALL PROCEDURES**

**Check In/Check Out and Breaks**

1. **Official Check In**
   Students must arrive on campus and move into their assigned residence hall space at the time/date communicated to their official email address prior to the semester. If a student is unable to do this for any reason, he/she must notify the Office of Residence Life before this date to ensure that the assigned housing space is held. Failure to report at the assigned time/date without prior arrangements may result in the space being assigned to another student.

   **Early Check-in/Late Check-out**
   In accordance with residence life policies, students typically check-in to the residence hall one day before the RH Contract begins and check-out one day after the Contract ends. In unusual circumstances a student may request an early check-in or late check-out. A fee of $20 per night will be assessed to cover additional costs incurred. Contact housing@mga.edu to request early check-in or late check-out.

2. **Winter Break**
   Students residing on the Eastman or Cochran campus must turn in keys to Residence Hall Staff when leaving for winter break at the end of fall semester. Failure to do so will result in an assessment of $50.00 key charge to the student’s account.

3. **Spring Break**
   Students are not required to turn in keys when leaving for spring break.

4. **Official Check Out**
   Student is not officially checked out of the residence hall until all of the following occur:
   - Student has removed all personal property from the premises.
   - The room/apartment has been cleaned.
   - The proper check-out forms have been signed, and keys have been returned to Residence Hall Staff.
Failure to complete the checkout process will result in a $100 fine being applied to the student’s account. Failure to return apartment and/or mailbox keys will result in additional replacement charges.

**CommunityCourtesy Hours**

Courtesy hours are in effect 24 hours a day. However, established quiet hours are 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 a.m. every day. Good neighbors respect the rights and privileges of others and recognize that apartment living requires each resident to be aware of how behavior in one apartment affects residents in other apartments. It is the mission of the Office of Residence Life to maintain an atmosphere conducive to collegiality and academic success. Loud noise including, but not limited to, excessive volume of radio, musical instruments, televisions, stereos, other amplified sound equipment, voices, etc., are prohibited. Residents are expected to respect the rights of others by preserving the quiet and peaceful atmosphere of the residence hall environment.

**Guests and Visitors**

A guest is considered to be any person who is not an assigned resident of that particular apartment/suite. Residents are not to host a visitor that has been previously criminally trespassed from the University. Two (2) escorted guests per resident student are allowed in the apartment/suite, under the following guidelines:

- Guests (male and female) are only allowed during the following times:
  - Sunday-Thursday: Apartments/Suites: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m.
  - Community Amenities: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. (University Pointe Clubhouse)

- Friday & Saturday: Apartments/Suites: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.
  - Community Amenities: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. (University Pointe Clubhouse)

Unescorted guests are not allowed in the apartments/suites at any time (i.e., lobbies, resident’s suites, snack areas, breezeways, etc.). Children (anyone under 18 years of age) may only visit between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Children may enter the apartment/suite after 5:00 p.m. only if under the supervision of a parent/guardian who does not reside in the apartment/suite. At no time are children allowed to stay overnight in the residence hall. Babysitting in the residence halls is prohibited.

No guests are permitted during the final exams schedule.

Residents assume financial and behavioral responsibility for their guests. All members of the residence life community have some responsibility to help secure the community’s welfare by communicating to visitors the expectations established through these policies and procedures. The host resident is responsible for the behavior of guests at all times. A resident must escort his/her guests at all times. Failure to be escorted will result in the guest not being allowed to return.

**Guests, Overnight** (Harris Hall, Aviation Hall and University Pointe)

Residents assume financial and behavioral responsibility for their guest. Guest may stay free of charge, but their stay is limited to two consecutive days/night and no more than four days/night in a month with the advance approval of the Residence Life Coordinator. This includes, but is not limited to, parents, siblings, spouses, friends and significant others.

Residents that plan to have overnight guests are required to obtain an Overnight Guest Form from the SRA or Residence Life Coordinator. The consent of the apartment mate(s) is necessary for all overnight guests. The Overnight Guest Form must be turned in at least 24 hours prior to the arrival of the guest(s). Residents may not host a guest that has been previously criminally trespassed from the University. The SRA or Residence Life Coordinator must check in all overnight guests before they can enter Harris Hall, Aviation Hall, or University Pointe. No guests are permitted during final exams. Overnight visitation is not allowed in suite style residence halls.

**Lock Outs**
Residents who accidently get locked out of their apartment/suite during regular business hours should contact a member of the residence hall staff. After hours the RA on-call should be contacted. There is a $25.00 fee for all lock-out services, which will be applied to the student’s account. In order to provide access, the residence life staff member will need to confirm the resident’s identity. Students should carry their ID card on their person at all times.

**Maintenance Needs/After-Hours Concerns**

For maintenance needs in an apartment/suite during regular business hours the SRA or Residence Life Coordinator should be contacted. In cases of emergency after normal business hours, the resident should contact a member of the residence hall staff or campus police in Eastman and Cochran at 478-934-3002, in Macon at 478-747-0155.

**Suitemate Conflicts**

Initially, residents are encouraged to meet with their RA and/or Residence Life Coordinator to resolve minor personal conflicts. Apartment and suite assignment changes may be made beginning the second week of classes, as approved by the Office of Residence Life. The steps below must be followed to complete a housing assignment change:

1. The request must be made in person to the Residence Life Coordinator for the current assigned space.  
2. If the student’s request is approved, the student will be given a new inventory form to be presented to the Residence Life Coordinator for the new assignment space. Residents who are moving must be properly checked out of the current assigned space by an RA or Residence Life Coordinator and, with the appropriate paperwork, must be properly checked into the new assigned space by an RA or Residence Life Coordinator.  
3. The move must be completed within 24 hours of the request approval. Failure to do so will result in the revocation of the request approval.

**Residence Hall/Room Reassignment Fee:**

Students are assigned residence hall space based on selections made on the Residence Hall Application when submitted. During the second week of the semester, reassignment to a different room or residence hall is allowed based on available space. After this specified time, students may pay a $100 fee to be reassigned to a different room or residence hall based on available space. Exceptions to this policy may be made at the discretion of the Director of Housing and Residence Life.

**RESIDENCE LIFE SANCTIONS FOR POLICY/PROCEDURES VIOLATIONS**

**Health and Safety** (Unacceptable living conditions)

1. First Offense- Administrative Warning (documented warning from a Residence Life Professional Staff Member)  
2. Second Offense- A financial hold placed on the resident’s student account in the amount of the cost of cleaning services.  
3. Third Offense- Move to a different apartment or residential campus at the discretion of Residence Life Professional Staff. Room changes must take place within 72 hours.  
4. Fourth Offense- Removal from the Middle Georgia State University Residence Life Community

**Noise Complaint** (After being documented twice by an RA)

1. First Offense- Administrative Warning (documented warning from a Residence Life Professional Staff Member)  
2. Second Offense- Loss of guest privileges for one month. Also, the guest will not be allowed on the property for one month.  
3. Third Offense- Loss of guest privilege for one semester. Also, the guest will not be allowed on the property for one semester.  
4. Fourth- Move to a different apartment or residential campus at the discretion of Residence Life Professional Staff. Room changes must take place within 72 hours.
**Smoking** (In the apartment or on the balcony)
1. First Offense- Administrative Warning (documented warning from a Residence Life Professional Staff Member)
2. Second Offense- Financial hold placed on the resident’s student account in the amount of the cost of cleaning services.
3. Third Offense- Move to a different apartment or residential campus at the discretion of Residence Life Professional Staff. Room changes must take place within 72 hours.
4. Fourth Offense- Removal from the Middle Georgia State University Residence Life Community

**Trash/Garbage** (Piled up in the kitchen or by the front door or left in the breezeways, hallways, balcony or other areas – not disposed of properly)
1. First Offense- Administrative Warning (documented warning from a Residence Life Professional Staff Member)
2. Second Offense- Financial hold placed on the resident’s student account in the amount of the cost of cleaning services.
3. Third Offense- Move to a different apartment or residential campus at the discretion of Residence Life Professional Staff. Room changes must take place within 72 hours.
4. Fourth Offense- Removal from the Middle Georgia State University Residence Life Community

**Visitation** (Overnight and Regular Visitation)
1. First Offense- Administrative Warning (documented warning from a Residence Life Professional Staff Member)
2. Second Offense- Loss of guest privileges for one month. Also, the guest will not be allowed on the property for one month.
3. Third Offense- Loss of guest privileges for one semester. Also, the guest will not be allowed on the property for one semester.
4. Fourth Offense- Loss of guest privileges for one academic year. Also, the guest will not be allowed on the property for 6 months.

**Swimming Pool – University Pointe (Macon Campus)**

**Hours of Operation**
Open April through October from 10:00am-10:00pm. Closed 24/7 November-March.

**Regulations**
1. All swimmers may use pool and surrounding facilities at their own risk. Middle Georgia State University and Office of Residence Life assume no responsibility for personal safety, property, or belongings.
2. All swimmers must be current residents of Middle Georgia State University.
3. Guests may swim if supervised by a current resident. A resident may have no more than two guests at a time.
4. Glass containers are not permitted inside the pool area.
5. No running or horseplay permitted at the pool.
6. Proper swimming attire must be worn.
7. Swimmers should shower prior to entering pool.
SECTION V

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Student Code of Conduct is subject to change without notice. Any changes will be announced to the campus community via institutional email. The latest version of the Code is available online at http://www.mga.edu/student-affairs.

Revised June 2017
INTRODUCTION

Board of Regents Policy 4.6.5 establishes minimum procedural standards for investigations and resolutions of alleged student conduct violations, which each institution must incorporate into its respective student conduct policies. These procedures apply to matters relating to student misconduct, except matters related to sexual misconduct which is covered under separate institution policies. As a part of orientation, institutions shall inform students of their procedures governing student misconduct complaints and investigations.

Middle Georgia State University has established standards of conduct that are compatible with the academic mission of the institution. An educational approach to infractions of the student code of conduct is employed whenever possible.

Laws, statutes, and regulations at the national, state, and local levels grant public institutions the authority to establish standards reasonably relevant to the lawful missions, processes, and functions of the institution. Such standards are not intended to prohibit the exercise of a right guaranteed by the Constitution or a law of the United States to a member of the academic community.

Standards may apply to student behavior on and off the campus when relevant to any lawful mission, process, or function of the institution. The institution may prohibit any action or omission, which impairs, interferes with, or obstructs the missions, processes, and functions of the institution.

Institutional standards may require scholastic attainments higher than the average of the population and may require superior ethical and moral behavior. In establishing standards of behavior, institutions are not limited to the standards or the forms of criminal laws. [“General Order on Judicial Standards of Procedure and Substance in Review of Student Discipline in Tax-Supported Institutions of Higher Education,” 45 F.R.D. 133/145 (W.D. Mo.1968)].

The acceptance of these responsibilities is a prerequisite for enrollment at Middle Georgia State University. It is the responsibility of each student to know and understand the expectations and the established rules of conduct. Lack of awareness is not recognized as a legitimate reason for failure to comply.

Violators may be accountable to both civil and criminal authorities and to the University for acts of misconduct, which constitute violations of this Code. The Code is not intended to replace federal, state, or local legal activities. The University will decide whether to proceed with action before, during, after, or simultaneously with any legal proceedings. Determinations made or sanctions imposed under this Code shall not be subject to change because criminal charges arising out of the same facts giving rise to violation of University rules were dismissed, reduced, or resolved in favor of or against the criminal law defendant. An action involving the student in a legal proceeding does not free the student of responsibility from participation in a University proceeding. Sanctions may be imposed for acts of misconduct that occur on University property or at any University-sponsored activity. As further prescribed in these rules, off-campus conduct may be subject to student conduct adjudication.

Student conduct policies and procedures at the University are set forth in writing in order to give students general notice of prohibited conduct. The policies and procedures should be read broadly and are not designed to define misconduct in exhaustive terms.

Middle Georgia State University, an institution of the University System of Georgia (USG), expects students to adhere to USG policies and other Middle Georgia State policies as outlined in the Student Handbook. All Middle Georgia State University regulations must be compliant with the policies of the Board of Regents.

The Student Code of Conduct consists of Part I: Definitions, Part II: Responsibilities and Part III: Student Conduct Procedures and Student Rights.
PART I: DEFINITIONS

1. The term “institution” or “university” refers to “Middle Georgia State University”.
2. The term “student” includes all persons taking courses at the University, either full-time or part-time, pursuing undergraduate, graduate, or professional studies. Persons who withdraw after allegedly violating the Student Code of Conduct, who are not officially enrolled for a particular term but who have a continuing relationship with the University or who have been notified of their acceptance for admission are considered “students” as are persons who are living in University residence halls. This Student Code of Conduct does apply at all locations of the University.
3. The term “faculty member” means any person hired by the University to conduct classroom or teaching activities or who is otherwise considered by the University to be a member of its faculty. It may also be synonymous with “professor” and/or “instructor”.
4. The term “University official” includes any person employed by the University, performing assigned administrative or professional responsibilities.
5. The term “member of the University community” includes any person who is a student, faculty member, University official, or any other person employed by the University. A person’s status in a particular situation shall be determined by the Chief Student Conduct Officer.
6. The term “University premises” includes all land, buildings, facilities, and other property in the possession of or owned, used or controlled by the University (including adjacent streets and sidewalks).
7. The term “Recognized Student Organization” or “RSO” means any number of persons who have complied with the formal requirements for the University’s recognized student organizations process.
8. The term “Student Conduct Board” means any person or persons authorized by the University, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Senate, to determine whether a student has or has not violated the Student Code of Conduct and to recommend sanctions that may be imposed when a violation has been committed. Student Conduct Board panels shall be comprised of one faculty member, one staff member, and one student.
9. The term “Student Conduct Officer” means a University official authorized on a case-by-case basis by the President to impose sanctions upon any student(s) found to have violated the Student Code of Conduct. The President may authorize a Student Conduct Officer to serve simultaneously as a Student Conduct Officer and the sole member or one of the members of the Student Conduct Board. The President may authorize the same Student Conduct Officer to impose sanctions in all cases.
10. The term “Appeals Board” means any person or persons authorized by the University President to consider an appeal from a Student Conduct Board’s determination as to whether a student has violated the Student Code of Conduct or from the sanctions imposed by the Student Conduct Officer. Appeals Boards shall be comprised of one faculty member, one staff member and one student member of the approved Student Conduct board
11. The term “shall” is used in the imperative sense.
12. The term “may” is used in the permissive sense.
13. The “Chief Student Conduct Officer” is that person designated by the University President to be responsible for the administration of the Student Code of Conduct.
14. The term “policy” means the written regulations of the University as found in, but not limited to, the Student Code of Conduct, Residence Life handbook, Student handbook, the University web page and computer use policy, and Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs.
15. The term “cheating” includes but is not limited to: (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University faculty or staff; (4) engaging in behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion.
16. The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to: (1) the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement; (2) the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials; (3) and/or using internet material without proper citation.
17. The term “stalking” means persistent and unwelcomed contact, communication, and/or observation.
18. The term “Complainant” means any person who submits a charge alleging that a student violated this Student Code of Conduct. When a student believes that he/she has been a victim of another student’s misconduct, the student who believes he/she has been a victim will have the same rights under this Student Code of Conduct as are provided to the Complainant, even if another member of the University community submitted the charge itself.
19. The term “Accused Student” means any student accused of violating this Student Code of Conduct.
PART II: RESPONSIBILITIES

Scholars may debate whether or not there was an actual written Code of Chivalry. However, there are some basic tenets that most agree were a part of the Code: **Courtey, Honesty, Valor, Honor, and Generosity.**

With the Knight as the University’s mascot, those same tenets can be seen in the responsibilities that Middle Georgia State University students accept as a part of the learning community. In fact, the **primary expectations of all Middle Georgia State University students are integrity and civility.** Each student should approach his/her academic endeavors, relationships and personal responsibilities with a strong commitment to personal integrity and interpersonal civility. These responsibilities apply collectively to members of recognized student organizations. These responsibilities are:

- Individuals will fulfill their academic responsibilities in an honest and forthright manner.
- Individuals will respect and foster the academic endeavors of other members of the University community.
- Individuals will protect and support the personal safety of all members of the University community.
- Individuals will respect other members of the University community.
- Individuals will show regard for the property of the University, its community members, and visitors to campus.
- Individuals will respect the integrity of the University’s academic and administrative records.
- Individuals will contribute to a safe environment within the University community.
- Individuals will adhere to federal, state, local, University System of Georgia and University laws/regulations that govern individual actions and relationships among community members.
- Individuals will assist the University in fulfilling its administrative responsibilities.

Any student found to have committed or to have attempted to commit any of the following misconduct is subject to student conduct sanctions outlined later in this Code.

1. Acts of dishonesty. Prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to the following:
   a. Cheating (defined in Part 1, #15).
   b. Plagiarism (defined in Part 1, #16).
   c. Other forms of academic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to: (1) submitting course assignments that are not the student’s own work; (2) failing to follow class or test taking policy as instructed by the faculty member and/or in the course syllabus; (3) duplicate submission of the same paper in different classes without prior permission of both instructors; (4) academic fraud; (5) attempts to influence grading.
   d. Falsification of academic and/or administrative records, which includes but is not limited to: (1) misrepresentation of academic status, performance, awards, or graduation material; (2) omission of material from or manipulation of records; (3) falsification of a signature; (4) falsification, alteration, theft, or destruction of University records; (5) alteration, forgery, or misuse of University academic records; (6) obtaining grades, course access, or endorsement dishonestly.

2. Disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administrative, conduct proceedings, or other University activities, including its public service functions on or off campus, or of other authorized non-University activities when the conduct occurs on University premises. Prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to the following:
   a. Behavior that disrupts teaching, research, or other programmatic, administrative, or public service activities of the University.
   b. Excessive noise that disrupts classes, studying, or other University activities.
   c. Activities or behaviors that seriously disrupt the learning environment and/or interfere with another student’s right to learn and participate.
   d. Participation in an on-campus or off-campus demonstration, riot, or activity that disrupts the normal operations of the University, or infringes on the rights of other members of the University community.
   e. Leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled and/or normal activities within any campus building or area.
f. Obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic on University premises or at University sponsored or supervised functions.

3. Physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, coercion, and/or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person. Prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to the following:
   a. Harassment of a faculty member, staff member, or student worker.
   b. Sexual assault.
   c. Sexual contact without expressed permission.
   d. Stalking (defined in Part 1, #17).
   e. Unsolicited physical contact with another person.
   f. Sexual harassment (as defined in 1.3.6 of the Middle Georgia State University Policy Manual).
   g. Fighting, battery, physical violence, and/or physical assault.
      i. Middle Georgia State University observes a strict policy with regard to acts of physical violence. Any person perpetrating an act of physical violence is automatically subject to the severest sanction including suspension or expulsion.
   h. Actions and/or behaviors that endanger the health or safety of another person or that disregard the harm that may ensue.
      i. Terroristic threats (as defined in O.C.G.A 16-11-37).
   j. Verbal or written harassment, including but not limited to phone, email, or social media.
   k. Verbal or written intimidation, including but not limited to phone, email, or social media.
   l. Verbal abuse – beyond a reasonable statement of opinion – that may cause humiliation or stress to another (i.e. bullying).
   m. Calumny, or making false statements with the intent to harm another.
   n. Slander (as defined in O.C.G.A 51-5-4).
   o. Retaliation towards an individual for involvement in a University activity.

4. Attempted or actual theft of, damage to, and/or misuse/wrongful use of property of the University or property of a member of the University community or other personal or public property, on or off campus. Prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to the following:
   a. Vandalism (the deliberate destruction or defacement of public or private property).
   b. Destruction of property.
   c. Theft, and/or acting fraudulently to obtain goods, services, or funds from University departments, recognized student organizations or individuals.
   d. Misuse and/or wrongful use of University facilities and/or equipment.
   e. Wrongful sale or use of another’s property.
   f. Knowingly possessing or using stolen property.
   g. Misuse or damage of firefighting, safety, or other emergency equipment.

5. Hazing, defined as an act which endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or which destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization. The express or implied consent of the victim will not be a defense. Apathy or acquiescence in the presence of hazing are not neutral acts; they are violations of this rule. Hazing shall also include the mandating of any undesirable activities, patterns of behavior, ridicule, criticism and/or use of humiliation for the purpose of initiation.

6. Failure to comply with directions of University officials or law enforcement officers acting in performance of their duties and/or failure to identify oneself, or one’s guest(s), to these persons when requested to do so. Prohibited behaviors include but are not limited to the following:
   a. Willful failure to identify or false identification of oneself, or one’s guest(s).
   b. Failure to comply with appropriate requests from Campus Police, University Security personnel, or any University Staff members.
   c. Failure to appear, in response to a proper summons, when requested to do so by a University official.

7. Unauthorized possession, duplication, or use of keys to any University premises or unauthorized entry to or use of University premises. Prohibited behaviors include but are not limited to the following:
   a. Unauthorized possession or duplication of University key(s) or key card(s).
   b. Providing a key or key card to another person without proper authorization.
   c. Misuse of University key(s) or key card(s).
   d. Misuse, alteration, or transference of a Student Identification Card to another person.
   e. Trespassing, or entering a room, office, building, or other University premises, without expressed or written permission by a University official.
   f. Failure to comply with restriction from areas on campus.

8. Violation of University policy, rule, or regulation published in hard copy or available electronically on the University website. Prohibited behaviors include but are not limited to the following:
a. Failure to comply with written policies and/or agreements regarding the timely return of materials or equipment checked out or on loan to the student.
b. Violation of University, school, or department regulations, to include, but not limited to the University catalog, Student Handbook, Residence Life Handbook, Recognized Student Organization (RSO) Handbook, and Parking Regulations.
c. Violation of any University, Board of Regents, or University System of Georgia policy.
d. Violation of University email or computer usage policy.

9. Violation of any federal, state, or local law. Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:
a. Not reporting a crime committed on campus.
b. Violation of laws.
   i. University conduct proceedings may be instituted against a student charged with conduct that potentially violates both the criminal law and this Student Code of Conduct (that is, if both possible violations result from the same factual situation) without regard to the pendency of civil or criminal litigation in court or criminal arrest and prosecution.
   ii. Proceedings under this Student Code may be carried out prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil or criminal proceedings off campus at the discretion of the Chief Student Conduct Officer. Determinations made or sanctions imposed under this Student Code shall not be subject to change because criminal charges arising out of the same facts giving rise to violation of University rules were dismissed, reduced, or resolved in favor of or against the criminal law defendant.

10. Use, possession, manufacturing, and/or distribution of marijuana, heroin, narcotics, and other controlled substances except as expressly permitted by law. Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:
a. Possession, sale, manufacture, or distribution of illegal substances.
b. Possession of drug paraphernalia.

11. Use, possession, manufacturing, and/or distribution of alcoholic beverages (except as expressly permitted by University regulations and/or officials), or public intoxication. Alcohol beverages may not, in any circumstances be used by, possessed by, or distributed to any person under twenty-one (21) years of age. Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:
a. Intoxication that disrupts other individuals or any University activities or administrative responsibilities.
b. Unauthorized possession of alcohol.

12. Illegal or unauthorized possession of firearms, explosives, other weapons, or dangerous chemicals on University premises, or the use of any such item, even if legally possessed, in a manner that harms, threatens, or causes fear to others. Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:
a. Threatening with a weapon.
b. Illegal possession of weapon (refer to the MGA Weapons Policy), incendiary device, or explosive.
c. Possession of articles or substances that are used as weapons or simulated weapons unless prior written authorization is received from the Chief of Police, or his/her designee.

13. Conduct that is disorderly, lewd, or indecent; breach of peace. Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:
a. Aiding, abetting, or procuring another person to breach the peace on University premises or at functions sponsored by, or participated in by, the University or members of the academic community.
b. Indecent exposure.
c. Any unauthorized use of electronic or other devices to make an audio or video record of any person while on University premises without his/her prior knowledge, or without his/her effective consent when such a recording is likely to cause injury or distress. This includes, but is not limited to, surreptitiously taking pictures or video of another person in a gym, locker room or restroom.

14. Theft or other abuse of computer facilities and resources. Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:
a. Unauthorized entry into a file, to use, read, or change the contents, for academic benefit, or for any other purpose.
b. Unauthorized transfer of a file.
c. Use of another individual’s identification, login information, and/or password.
d. Use of computing facilities and resources to interfere with the work of another student, faculty member, or University official.
e. Commit computer fraud.

15. Abuse of the Student Conduct system and/or process. Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:
a. Disruption of student conduct procedures and/or investigations.
b. Dishonesty as a part of a University student conduct hearing.
c. Failure to comply with sanctions from a student conduct adjudication and/or hearing.

16. Students are required to engage in responsible social conduct that reflects credit upon the University community and to model good citizenship in any community. Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:
   a. Using one’s leadership position for personal gain.
   b. Failure to report knowledge of an alleged infraction of the Code of Conduct.
   c. Misuse of one’s position within or outside of the University community.
   d. Submission of a false or purposely incomplete statement or report.
PART III: STUDENT CONDUCT PROCEDURES AND STUDENT RIGHTS

The purpose of this policy is to establish student conduct procedures to guide the fair and uniform enforcement of the Responsibilities listed in Part II. These procedures are applicable to any student or student organization when charged with a violation of the Responsibilities. These procedures allow for fact finding and decision making in the context of an educational community and encourage students to accept responsibility for their own actions. The intent is to provide adequate procedural safeguards to protect the rights of the individual student and the legitimate interests of the University.

JURISDICTION

All students are members of the University community. The University reserves the right to take necessary and appropriate action to protect the safety and well-being of the campus community and will address all violations of the Student Code of Conduct that occur on University premises. Students, faculty, staff and individuals not associated with the University may submit complaints regarding alleged violations that may have occurred on campus or off campus for review and action by the University. All complaints of alleged violation of the Student Code of Conduct shall be made in writing to the Student Conduct Officer.

The University may initiate student conduct proceedings for off-campus incidents when:

1. Hazing is involved. (See #5, under Part II – Responsibilities).
2. The violation is committed while:
   a. Participating in a University-sanctioned or sponsored activity; or
   b. The victim of the violation is a member of the University community; or
   c. The violation constitutes a felony under state or federal law; or
   d. The violation adversely affects the educational, research, or service function of the University.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

Failure to comply/respond as directed by the Student Conduct Board, a Student Conduct Officer, or the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs on any matter including, but not limited to, a request to meet concerning an issue or a notice concerning or alleging a violation of the Student Code of Conduct may result in the immediate placement of a hold on the involved student’s records.

Further, sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion may be imposed in the student’s absence should the student fail or refuse to comply/respond. Failure to comply with sanctions imposed by the Student Conduct Board, a Student Conduct Officer, or the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs will be a further violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND MEDIATION (CR)

The purpose of Middle Georgia State University’s Conflict Resolution (CR) process is to assist in the resolution of disputes at their lowest level whenever possible. Conflict in an academic environment is a natural phenomenon, but constructive (i.e. less adversarial, more collaborative) methods of conflict resolution are sometimes difficult.

Campus Mediation Process

If you believe that you have a dispute which remains unresolved after your own attempts to resolve the matter, you might consider contacting the Office of Student Affairs. The Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs or designee will screen your issue to determine if mediation is the proper course of action.

If mediation might help remedy the situation, then the Office of Student Affairs will refer the conflicting parties to a trained mediator on campus.

The mediator will meet with the conflicting parties to discuss the dispute and facilitate the discussion. A trained mediator helps people examine their situation in terms of personal needs and interests. Disputants reach their own resolution (a fair, equitable, and workable agreement that satisfies everyone); it is not one mandated by the mediator. Should the mediation fail to reach an acceptable resolution, either party may next proceed to utilize one of the existing complaint, grievance, or legal procedures for redress.

Campus Mediation is not appropriate for grade disputes.

Detailed information about the University’s Conflict Resolution Program is available at http://www.mga.edu/student-affairs/docs/conflict_resolution.pdf.

INITIATION AND EVALUATION OF COMPLAINT OF ALLEGED VIOLATION

Regardless of how an institution becomes aware of misconduct, it shall ensure a prompt, fair, and impartial review and resolution of complaints alleging student misconduct. Where a report of student misconduct has been made to the appropriate department and/or person, the institution shall review the complaint to determine whether the allegation(s) describes conduct in violation of the institution’s policies and/or code of conduct. If the reported conduct would not be a violation of the institution’s policies and/or code of conduct then the report should be dismissed. Otherwise, a prompt,
thorough, and impartial investigation and review shall be conducted into each complaint received to determine whether charges against a student should be brought.

Throughout any investigation and resolution proceedings, the charged student shall receive notice of the alleged misconduct, shall be provided an opportunity to respond, and shall be allowed to remain silent during the investigation and resolution process, without an adverse inference resulting. If the student chooses to remain silent, the investigation may still proceed and policy violation charges may still result, and may be resolved against the student. Further, unrelated charges and cases shall be investigated separately, unless the charged student consents to having them aggregated.

1. Complaint of alleged violations shall be submitted in writing to the Office of Student Affairs and should include as much of the following information as possible:
   a. Type of alleged violation.
   b. Name and ID number of the person alleged with the violation.
   c. Date(s), Time(s), and Location(s) of the alleged violation.
   d. Name(s) and contact information of any individual(s) with knowledge of the incident.
   e. Whether any supporting evidence or documentation of the violation has been preserved.
   f. Whether a criminal complaint has been made in relation to the incident.

2. Complaints must be submitted within fifteen (15) University business days after detection of an alleged violation unless special conditions for delay can be documented.

3. In instances where the charges are disputed, the Student Conduct Officer or Student Conduct Investigator will make an initial determination as to whether there is sufficient basis to believe that a violation of the Code of Conduct may have occurred. The Student Conduct Officer or Investigator will interview the complainant and/or witnesses or to request additional information from the complainant.
   a. The need to issue a broader warning to the community in compliance with the Clery Act shall be assessed, in conjunction with appropriate University offices, in compliance with federal law.

4. Where the complaint is related to academic misconduct, Procedures for Adjudication of Academic Misconduct will be followed.

5. Where the complaint is related to alleged sexual and/or Title IX violations (including but not limited to items 3b through 3f under Part II: Responsibilities), the University’s Sexual Harassment & Misconduct Policy will be followed.

6. Where the alleged misconduct is related to discrimination or harassment, the Student Conduct Officer will consult with the Affirmative Action Officer to determine whether an affirmative action investigation is warranted.

7. In cases of non-academic infractions and when it is determined that sufficient evidence exists to warrant charges of a violation, the Student Conduct Officer will arrange a meeting (preliminary conference) with the student charged with an alleged violation.
   a. At this preliminary conference, the student will be provided with the following:
      i. A written explanation of the charges.
      ii. Review of the evidence on which charges are based and names of all witnesses.
      iii. A review of all due process rights and student conduct procedures.
      iv. An opportunity to review charges, evidence and proposed sanction, to respond to the charges and to select from Adjudication Options.
   b. A request for a Student Conduct Board hearing will be scheduled within ten (10) University business days of the request.
      i. In cases where the potential sanction may involve a suspension or expulsion (even if such sanctions are to be held “in abeyance” (temporary halt or inactivity), the University shall follow the guidelines for “Procedures for Alleged Violations Involving Suspension or Expulsion” as noted below.
   c. The student charged with the alleged violation shall advise the Student Conduct Officer within one (1) University business day (Monday-Friday) of the preliminary conference of his/her plea and choice of adjudication options, if applicable.

8. Confidentiality – Where a complainant or alleged victim requests that his or her identity be withheld or the allegation(s) not be investigated, the Student Conduct Officer (in coordination with other institutional offices) will consider whether or not such a request can be honored while still providing a safe and nondiscriminatory institutional environment. The University generally cannot guarantee confidentiality. Further, by honoring a request for confidentiality, both the University’s ability to respond fully to the complaint and the University’s ability to appropriately adjudicate the charged student, may be limited.

9. Retaliation - Anyone who, in good faith, reports what he or she believes to be a violation of the Code of Conduct, or who participates or cooperates in, or is otherwise associated with any student conduct investigation, shall not be subjected to retaliation. Anyone who believes he or she has been the target of retaliation for reporting, participating or cooperating in, or otherwise being associated with a student conduct investigation should immediately contact the Vice President of Student Affairs. Any person found to be engaged in retaliation in violation of the student conduct policy shall be subject to student conduct action.

10. False Complaints - Individuals who intentionally give false statements to a University official, or who submit false complaints or accusations, including during a hearing, shall be subject to student conduct action.
11. **Amnesty** – Individuals are encouraged to come forward and to report student misconduct and/or alleged violations of the Code of Conduct, notwithstanding their choice to consume alcohol or to use drugs. Information reported in good faith by an individual during an investigation concerning use of drugs or alcohol will not be used against that individual in a student conduct proceeding and will not be voluntarily reported to law enforcement; however, individuals may be provided with resources on drug and alcohol counseling and/or education, as appropriate.

12. Not all matters covered under this policy will necessarily involve alleged victims; however, where they are involved, it should be noted that a complainant will not always be the alleged victim but instead may be a third-party witness. The University may respond to issues raised by third-party complainants (such as referrals by police) or discovered by staff or through its own investigation.

**PROCEDURES FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS INVOLVING SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION**

Where the potential sanctions for the alleged misconduct may involve a suspension or expulsion (even if such sanctions were to be held “in abeyance”, such as probationary suspension or expulsion) the institution’s investigation and resolution procedures must provide these additional, minimum safeguards:

1. The charged student shall be provided with written notice of the complaint/allegations, pending investigation, possible charges, possible sanctions, and available support services. The notice shall also include the identity of any investigator(s) involved. Notice shall be provided via University email. Where applicable, a copy shall also be provided to any and all alleged victims via the same means.

2. Upon receipt of the written notice, the charged student shall have three (3) University business days to respond in writing. In that response, the charged student shall have the right to admit or deny the allegations, and to set forth a defense with facts, witnesses, and documents – either written or electronic – in support. A non-response will be considered a general denial of the alleged misconduct.

3. Based on this response, the investigation shall consist of interviews of the charged student, any alleged victims (where applicable) and witnesses, and the collection and review of documents or other physical or electronic information, as well as other steps as appropriate. The investigator should retain written notes and/or obtain written or recorded statements from each interview. The investigator shall also keep a record of any proffered witnesses not interviewed, along with a brief, written explanation.

4. The investigation shall be summarized in writing in an initial investigation report and provided to the charged student and any alleged victims (where applicable) in person or via email. This summary should clearly indicate any resulting charges (or alternatively, a determination of no charges), as well as the facts and evidence in support thereof, witness statements, and possible sanctions.

5. To the extent the student is ultimately charged with any violation, he or she shall also have the opportunity to respond in writing. The charged student’s written response to the charge(s) shall be due within three (3) University business days from the date of the initial investigation report. The charged student’s written response should outline his or her acceptance or denial in response to the charge(s), and where applicable, his or her defense(s), and the facts, witnesses, and documents – whether written or electronic – in support. A non-response to the charge(s) by the charged student will be interpreted as a denial of the charge(s).

6. The investigator shall conduct further investigation and update the investigative report as warranted by the charged student’s response.

7. A copy of the final investigative report will be provided to charged student and any alleged victims before any hearing. The final investigative report will be provided to the Student Conduct Board panel or hearing officer during the hearing. The investigator may testify as a witness regarding the investigation and findings, but shall otherwise have no part in the hearing process and shall not attempt to otherwise influence the proceedings outside of providing testimony during the hearing.

**PROCEDURES FOR ADJUDICATING CASES OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic misconduct strikes at the heart of the educational process. Faculty members have the right and responsibility to demand honesty in all academic pursuits and to report all cases of academic misconduct to the Student Conduct Officer. This process protects the academic integrity of the institution and guarantees that the due process rights of all students are protected. Students accused of academic misconduct have the right to have their case heard in a fair and impartial manner with all the safeguards available within the documented and approved student conduct processes. The following procedures are designed to adjudicate situations involving alleged academic misconduct, recognizing the interest of each of the parties involved:

1. When an instructor suspects that a case for academic misconduct might be made, he or she should immediately contact the Office of Student Affairs, who will advise the instructor of the appropriate next course of action.

2. If there is evidence sufficient to warrant a charge, the following steps will occur:

   a. The instructor will be the first to attempt to adjudicate the case by presenting the evidence (Student Infraction Form and all supporting documents) to the student. When presented with charges by the instructor, the student will:

      i. accept responsibility for the charge(s) and allow the instructor to levy a sanction (consistent with the course syllabus), or
ii. deny the charge(s) and request a meeting with a Student Conduct Officer, who will discuss options related to a formal investigation and hearing, as explained later in this section.

b. After the above steps have been completed, the instructor will forward all materials to the Office of Student Affairs for further adjudication of the case. Student conduct proceedings in accordance with the Hearing Process as defined later in this section will apply, if the student denies the charges and requests a formal hearing.

c. In cases adjudicated by an instructor when the student admits responsibility, all materials will be forwarded to the Office of Student Affairs for inclusion in the student’s conduct file and the student conduct database.

3. Upon a finding or acceptance of responsibility, the following sanction will be imposed:

   a. If the instructor has published a minimum academic sanction for academic dishonesty in the course or in a written syllabus or other document distributed to members of the class, this minimum sanction will be followed.

   b. In the absence of a published minimum sanction, the student will receive, at a minimum, a grade of zero for the work involved.

4. In addition to the sanction of the instructor or hearing body, for a first offense, a period of “Student Conduct Probation” (see Sanctions) may be imposed by the Student Conduct Officer.

5. If a student is found responsible for academic misconduct as a second offense, the minimum sanction will be:

   a. A minimum grade of “F” in the course

   b. Student Conduct Probation for a defined period of time, by the Student Conduct Officer.

6. If a student is found responsible for academic misconduct after a second offense, the minimum sanction will be:

   a. A minimum grade of “F” in the course

   b. Suspension from the University for a defined period of time, not to exceed two (2) full academic semesters, may be added at the discretion of the Student Conduct Officer and/or the hearing body.

   c. Other sanctions greater than those listed may be recommended to the Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, or his/her designee, for further actions.

7. If a student is found not responsible of academic misconduct, the hearing body will refer the paper, assignment, or test to the appropriate department head/school dean who will facilitate a resolution concerning a fair grade for the work in question.

PROCEDURES FOR ADJUDICATING CASES INVOLVING RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (RSOs)

Should a complaint be filed against an RSO, a Student Conduct Officer will conduct an investigation, a hearing, if necessary, and the Vice President of Student Affairs, may impose the following sanctions, if necessary:

- Cancellation of recognized status.
- Imposition of monetary fines, witholding or withdrawal of allocated COA funds and or Dues Account funds.
- Imposition of restitution for damages.
- Removal of any of the RSO’s officers or members from the RSO or its activities.
- Restriction of any of the privileges or rights enjoyed by the RSO.

An RSO may appeal any finding and/or sanction imposed provided relevant grounds for appeal are cited. See Appeal Procedures, 2b. Written notification of the decision to appeal and the grounds for appeal must be received by the Student Conduct Officer within two (2) University business days after the original decision is communicated to the RSO. The Student Conduct Officer will convene an Appeals Board not involved with the original hearing. Appeal proceedings will begin within five University business days of the receipt of the written notification from the student. The Student Conduct Officer will be responsible for notifying the RSO of the outcome of the appeal within two (2) University business days of the conclusion of the appeal proceedings. This is the final appeal at the institutional level.

The right of provisional organizations to operate may be revoked upon an adverse finding by the Student Conduct Officer, in conjunction with the Director of Student Engagement. In cases of revocation of provisional status, there is no institutional appeal of the decision.

DUE PROCESS AND STUDENT RIGHTS

When a student is charged with violating the rules and regulations of the University, disposition of the case will be according to the Constitutional requirements of due process. These rights include entitlement to:

1. A written copy of the charge(s).

2. A fair and impartial hearing.
3. Know the nature of the evidence against them and names of witnesses scheduled to appear.

4. Present evidence and witnesses in their behalf. Statements from character witnesses will be accepted only in instances in which the individual(s) providing the information was present during the event(s) in question and/or has direct knowledge of the event(s) in question.

5. Be accompanied at a hearing by an advisor. The accused student shall have the right to use an advisor (including an attorney) of his or her choosing, and at his or her own expense, for the express purpose of providing advice and counsel. The advisor may be present during meetings and proceedings during the investigatory and/or resolution process at which his or her advisee is present. The advisor may advise his or her advisee in any manner, including providing questions, suggestions, or guidance on responses to any questions of the advisee, but the advisor shall not participate directly. The advisor cannot actively participate in the hearing or ask questions of the witnesses or the hearing body. The advisor's role is to advise the student and observe the proceedings.

In addition to an advisor, the accused student may request the presence of up to two (2) family members during the investigatory and/or resolution process. Family members shall be expected to behave in the same manner as the advisor, as noted above.

Similarly, the complainant may also be accompanied by an advisor, who shall also be expected to behave in the manner outlined above.

6. Be present at the hearing during the presentation of any evidence or material on which a decision will be made. If the student fails to attend the hearing, the hearing will be held in the student's absence.

7. Remain silent and refrain from answering questions without inference of guilt.

8. Submit questions for witnesses to the Student Conduct Officer, who, in cases involving adjudication by the Student Conduct Board hearing panel serves as Chairperson of the panel. The Chairperson will determine if the charged student's questions are appropriate and if the charged student’s questions will be posed verbally or in writing.

9. An audio recording of the hearing will be made by the Chairperson of the hearing panel. The deliberation/sanctioning phase of the proceeding will not be taped. The charged student will be provided, upon request, a copy of the hearing recording. Written transcripts of the hearing will not be available.

10. A decision based solely on the evidence presented.

11. A written notice of the results of the hearing and an explanation of the decision and sanction assessment. If a student is found not to be in violation of the charge(s), all related documents and records will be destroyed.

12. Appeal the finding and/or sanction.

**ADJUDICATION OPTIONS**

The Student Conduct Officer will present the student charged with violation(s) of the Student Code of Conduct with a written document describing the charges filed against him/her. The student will respond in one of the following ways to each charge:

1. Admission of responsibility for the violation(s) and waive the right to a hearing and an appeal. The Student Conduct Officer will determine appropriate sanction(s).

2. Denial of responsibility for the charge(s) and request a hearing.

**METHODS OF ADJUDICATION**

1. **Student Conduct Board panel hearing.**
   a. Members of the Board will serve as a panel for resolving alleged Student Code of Conduct infractions involving students. Each Student Conduct Board panel will be composed of three (3) voting members: one (1) faculty member, one (1) staff member, and one (1) student member.
   b. The Student Conduct Officer serves as non-voting Chairperson of the hearing panel. It is the responsibility of the Student Conduct Officer to provide orientation and support for the hearing body.
      i. Per BOR Policy 4.6.5.2, the individual(s) tasked with investigating allegations of student misconduct shall not be directly responsible for training student conduct panel/board members of appellate body members. Training shall follow BOR recommendations and may be conducted with an approved trainer from outside the University community.

2. **Administrative Hearing**
a. Academic Misconduct - The Vice President of Student Affairs, an ex officio member of the Student Conduct Board, shall serve as the hearing body for all academic misconduct cases when the accused student has not requested a hearing by a panel in a timely manner and/or has not responded to attempts to adjudicate.

b. Behavioral Misconduct – The Vice President of Student Affairs shall serve as the hearing body for all behavioral misconduct cases in which the possible sanctions of suspension or expulsion are not involved or for cases involving suspension or expulsion when the charged student does not request a hearing by a panel of the Student Conduct Board in a timely manner.

i. Prior to imposition of any sanction involving a student grade, the Vice President of Student Affairs, or his/her duly appointed designee, shall consult with the Provost or his/her duly appointed designee.

ABSENCE OF ACCUSED OR LACK OF COOPERATION

If the student is absent from the University community while a student conduct case is pending or if a student declines to participate in the student conduct process, the student is not absolved of responsibility.

Students who have been properly notified of a scheduled hearing, and who fail to appear at the hearing after proper notice has been given, will have their cases adjudicated in absentia at the scheduled hearing time and will be bound by the findings.

NOTIFICATION

In all cases relative to written notification of students, such notification will be considered complete once a message has been sent to the student’s University e-mail address contained in the Banner Student Information System. Notification may be sent to the student’s mailing address, upon request.

THE HEARING PROCESS/RESOLUTION

In no case shall a hearing to resolve charge(s) of student misconduct take place before the investigative report has been finalized or before the charged student has had an opportunity to respond in writing, unless the charged student has chosen to go through an informal process or otherwise provided a written waiver of rights to these procedures. Further, unrelated charges and/or cases shall be heard separately unless the charged student voluntarily consents to the charges/cases being heard jointly.

Where the charged student indicates that he or she contests the charges, and once the investigative report has been finalized and copies provided to the charged student and any alleged victim (where applicable), the case shall be set for hearing; however, the alleged victim (where applicable) and charged student may have the option of selecting mediation as a possible resolution in certain student conduct cases where they mutually agree, except where deemed inappropriate by the Vice President of Student Affairs, or his/her designee.

The focus of the Hearing Process in student conduct proceedings shall be determining the responsibility of those accused of violating the Student Code of Conduct. Hearings are not open to observers. Decisions shall be based upon the preponderance of all available evidence in each case. This means the evidence does not have to be enough to free the mind from a reasonable doubt but must be sufficient to incline a reasonable and impartial mind to one side of the issue rather than to the other. However, any decision to suspend or expel a student must also be supported by substantial evidence during the hearing. Student Conduct Board hearings are not legalistic proceedings and formal rules of evidence do not apply to the investigatory or hearing/resolution process.

Additionally, the following standards will apply to any such hearing:

1. If an accused student denies responsibility for alleged violation(s), and where a case is not or cannot be resolved through mediation, the charged student shall have the option of having the charge(s) heard either by an administrator (hearing officer) or a student conduct panel. The hearing will be scheduled within ten (10) University business days after the accused student requests it and a written notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing, shall be provided to the charged student and any alleged victim (where applicable) at least five (5) business days prior to the hearing. Notice of the hearing shall be provided via institutional email, and/or alternative method, as necessary. Hearings will be held during normal University business hours on the Cochran or Macon campuses. The charged student may request, in writing, a continuance from the Student Conduct Officer if circumstances are such that a delay is warranted. The charged student will be notified, in writing, of the date, time, and location of the rescheduled hearing.

The Student Conduct Officer will serve as nonvoting Chairperson of the Student Conduct Board hearing panels and members of the Student Conduct Board hearing panel will selected based on availability. All procedural questions are subject to the final decision of the Student Conduct Officer.

2. The Complainant or alleged victim(s) has the right to be informed of these hearing procedures and the right to be present throughout the presentation of witnesses and evidence. The Student Conduct Officer will inform the Complainant of these rights prior to the hearing.
The records of the student conduct process and of the sanctions imposed, if any, shall be considered to be the education records of both the Complainant and the accused student(s) because the educational career and chances of success in the academic community of each may be impacted.

3. The accused student will enter a plea to the charge(s) before the hearing body.

4. The Student Conduct Officer will remind the accused student and each witness present of the importance of providing truthful and accurate information during the hearing process. If a witness fails to tell the truth during student conduct proceedings, additional student conduct action may result.

5. At the hearing, the Student Conduct Officer will present the evidence and facts of the case to the hearing body. The Student Conduct Officer will present witnesses in support of the case against the accused student.

6. The hearing body may question all witnesses or ask for clarification from the Student Conduct Officer or any witness.

7. The accused student may submit questions for witnesses to the Student Conduct Officer. The Student Conduct Officer will direct appropriate questions to the witnesses. The Student Conduct Officer will determine if the accused student’s questions are appropriate and if the accused student’s questions will be posed verbally or in writing.

8. When the case against the accused student has been presented, opportunity will be given for the accused student to make a statement regarding the alleged violations. The hearing body or the Student Conduct Officer may question the accused student if he or she chooses to make a statement.

9. The charged student shall have the right to present witnesses and evidence to the hearing officer or panel, as well as to ask questions of any witnesses. At the determination of the hearing officer or panel, this questioning may take place through the submission of written questions to the hearing officer or panel for consideration; however, the parties’ advisors may still actively advise and assist in drafting those questions. The hearing officer or panel shall ask the questions as written, and will limit questions only if they are unrelated to determining the veracity of the charge leveled against the charged student. In any event, the hearing officer or panel shall err on the side of asking all submitted questions, and must document the reason for not asking any particular question(s).

10. Where the hearing officer or panel determines that a party or witness is unavailable and unable to be present due to extenuating circumstances, the hearing officer or panel may establish special procedures for providing testimony from a separate location. In doing so, the hearing officer or panel must determine there is a valid basis for the unavailability, ensure proper sequestration in a manner that ensures testimony has not been tainted, and make a determination that such an arrangement will not unfairly disadvantage any party. Should it be reasonably believed that a party or witness who is not physically present has presented tainted testimony, the hearing officer or panel will disregard or discount said testimony.

11. The accused student will have an opportunity to make a statement at the conclusion of the hearing process. This closing statement by the accused student will precede the closing statement of the Student Conduct Officer.

12. The hearing body may recall any witness after testimony, if clarification is needed.

13. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Student Conduct Officer will call for adjournment.

14. Concerns for the personal safety, well-being, and/or fears of confrontation of the Complainant, the accused student, and/or other witness during the hearing may be accommodated by providing separate facilities, by using a visual screen, and/or by permitting participation by telephone, videophone, closed circuit television, video conferencing, videotape, audio tape, written statement, or other means, where and as determined in the sole judgment of Student Conduct Officer to be appropriate.

**FINDINGS OF THE HEARING BODY**

After hearing both sides of the case, the hearing body will, in a closed session, deliberate and reach a decision regarding the responsibility of the accused student for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

In cases heard by a Student Conduct Board panel, a majority vote is necessary to reach a decision regardless of the quorum.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

A. Upon finding a student responsible for an academic violation of the Student Code of Conduct, the following sanction shall be imposed:
a. If the instructor has published a minimum sanction for academic dishonesty in the course or in a written syllabus or other document distributed to members of the class, this minimum sanction shall be followed.

b. In the absence of a published minimum sanction, the student shall receive, at a minimum, a grade of zero for the work involved.

c. A higher sanction, not limited to the grade of “F” for the course, may be entered at the discretion of the hearing body.

d. In addition to the sanction of the instructor or hearing body, the additional sanction of Student Conduct Probation may also be imposed.

B. If a student is found responsible for academic misconduct as a second offense, the minimum sanction will be:

a. A minimum grade of “F” in the course.

b. Student Conduct Probation for a defined period of time, by the Student Conduct Officer.

C. If a student is found responsible for academic misconduct after a second offense, the minimum sanction will be:

a. A minimum grade of “F” in the course.

b. Suspension from the University for a defined period of time, not to exceed two (2) full academic semesters, may be added at the discretion of the Student Conduct Officer and/or the hearing body.

c. Other sanctions greater than those listed may be recommended to the Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, or his/her designee, for further actions.

D. If the hearing body finds the charged student responsible for the violation, the Student Conduct Officer will read the finding and the sanctions into the audio recording and will forward the finding to the instructor and his/her Dean/Chair.

E. Additionally, the Student Conduct Officer will communicate the finding to the adjudicated student in writing within two University business days (Monday-Friday) of the conclusion of the hearing.

F. Information related to the student and the case will be kept on file in the Office of Student Affairs and/or in a secure Student Conduct Database.

G. If a student is found not responsible for a violation of academic misconduct, the hearing body shall refer the paper, assignment, or test to the appropriate Dean. In consultation with the instructor, the Dean shall facilitate a resolution concerning a fair grade for the work in question. In such cases, no record of academic misconduct will remain on file.

BEHAVIORAL MISCONDUCT

A. If the hearing body finds the charged student responsible for the violation, the Student Conduct Officer will read the finding and the sanctions into the audio recording and will forward the finding to the complainant.

B. Copies of the finding and sanction may also be forwarded to other relevant offices (i.e. Campus Police, Residence Life, and Bursar’s Office).

C. The Student Conduct Officer will read the sanction into the audio recording and will be responsible for notifying the adjudicated student of the finding and the sanction in writing within two (2) University business days (Monday-Friday) of the conclusion of the hearing.

D. Information related to the student and the case will be kept on file in the Office of Student Affairs and/or in a secure Student Conduct Database.

E. If a student is found not responsible for a violation of behavioral misconduct, the hearing is adjourned and no official records will be kept in the Office of Student Affairs. Notations of the charge and outcome may be kept in a Student Conduct Database for reference purposes only.

Following a hearing, both the charged student and the complainant/alleged victim (where applicable) shall be provided a written decision via institution email of the outcome and any resulting sanctions. The decision should include details as to how to appeal (as noted below). Additionally, the written decision must summarize the evidence in support of the sanction. The same form will be completed, regardless of whether the student opts for a student conduct panel or an administrative hearing.

At the request of the adjudicated student, the Student Conduct Officer will meet with the student and provide clarification of the finding and sanction. At this time and at the student’s request, information on and assistance with the appeal procedures as outlined in the Student Handbook will be provided. Adjudicated students are advised not to contact or communicate with members of the panel about the hearing or its outcome.

The finding and sanctions are considered final unless appealed by the adjudicated student.

In cases where no decision can be reached, the Student Conduct Officer may appoint another hearing panel or drop the charges.

SANCTIONS

In determining the severity of sanctions or corrective actions the following should be considered: the frequency, severity, and/or nature of the offense, history of past conduct, an offender’s willingness to accept responsibility, previous
institutional response to similar conduct, and the institution’s interests. The student conduct panel or hearing officer will determine sanctions and issue notice of the same, as outlined above.

The following are student conduct sanctions that may be imposed upon the student. This list is not exhaustive and the University reserves the right to modify or enlarge the list at any time depending on the nature of the violation(s).

Upon imposition of a sanction, the student is notified by email to his/her student email account (and by postal mail to the address listed in the Banner Student Identification System, upon request). In cases of suspension or expulsion, the student (and his or her parents, if the student is a minor) will be notified by certified mail.

1. **Student Conduct Warning**
   A Student Conduct Warning is an official written reprimand.

2. **Student Conduct Probation**
   a. Student Conduct Probation is a period of time during which further violations of the rules and regulations of the University may result in suspension or expulsion. Probation may be imposed for a period of time ranging from the remainder of the semester in which the violation occurred to the remainder of the student's matriculation at the University. Restrictions may be imposed in conjunction with probation and may include:
      1. **Community Service Hours** – Students may be required to complete work at a designated location for a specified number of hours and provide documentation of completed hours.
      2. **Educational Programs** – Students may be required to attend programs on special topics related to the offense. This does not include academic courses for credit.
      3. **Restricted presence on campus** – Students may be restricted on campus except to attend classes or complete coursework.
      4. **Special Projects** – Students may be required to write papers and/or present programs on topics related to the offense.
      5. **Substance Abuse Assessment** – Students may be required to submit to an assessment for substance abuse. Periodic drug testing, not to exceed two random tests per semester for a minimum of three semesters, may be required.
      6. **Restitution** – Students may be required to reimburse the University or other persons, groups, or organizations for damages incurred as a result of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
      7. **Confiscation** – The University reserves the right to confiscate goods used or possessed in violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Items confiscated by Campus Police will not be returned as those items may be used as evidence in any criminal proceedings.
      8. **Fines** – Students may be required to pay a Student Conduct fine in relation to violations of alcohol and marijuana violations, or damage to property.
      9. **Delays in obtaining administrative services and benefits from the institution** – The University may place administrative holds on student records which may prevent release of transcripts, delay registration, and prevent graduation or receipt of diploma.

3. **Loss of Student Office/Leadership Position**
   Students in elected/appointed positions may lose the position as a result of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

4. **Forced Withdrawal**
   Students may be withdrawn from the academic course(s) within which the violation of the Student Code of Conduct occurred or from the institution as a whole without receiving academic credit for course(s), fees, or refund.

5. **Change of Grade**
   Students found in violation of the Student Code of Conduct may receive a change in grade for the course, test, paper, or work in which an academic irregularity occurred.

6. **Removal from the Residence Life Program**
   Students found in violation of the Student Code of Conduct may be removed from the Residence Life Program with no refund of fees. Additionally, these students may be responsible for payment of any remaining costs associated with the housing contract. Removal from the Residence Life program does not necessarily equal suspension or expulsion from the University.

7. **Temporary or Permanent separation of the Parties**
   Students may receive a change in classes, reassignment of residence, no contact orders (issued either by the court system or by the Student Conduct Officer), limiting geography of where parties can go on campus. If a student is temporarily suspended from a particular course, not to exceed two (2) class meetings, the student is still responsible for any material covered during the temporary suspension.

8. **Interim Suspension**
Interim suspensions – that is, suspensions while the investigation and adjudication process are proceeding – should only occur where necessary to maintain safety, and should be limited to those situations where the charged student poses a serious and immediate danger or threat to persons or property. In making such an assessment, the institution should consider the existence of a significant risk to the health or safety of the campus community; the nature, duration, and severity of the risk; the probability of potential injury; and whether less restrictive means can be used to significantly mitigate the risk.

Before an interim suspension is issued, the institution must make all reasonable efforts to give the charged student the opportunity to be heard on whether his or her presence on campus poses a danger. If an interim suspension is issued, the terms of the suspension shall take effect immediately. When requested by the charged student, a hearing to determine whether the immediate suspension should continue will be held within three (3) business days of the request.

Where the potential sanctions for the alleged misconduct may involve a suspension or expulsion (even if such sanctions were to be held “in abeyance”, such as probationary suspension or expulsion) the institution’s investigation and resolution procedures must provide these additional, minimum safeguards:

a. The charged student shall be provided with written notice of the complaint/allegations, pending investigation, possible charges, possible sanctions, and available support services. The notice shall also include the identity of any investigator(s) involved. Notice shall be provided via University email. Where applicable, a copy shall also be provided to any and all alleged victims via the same means.

b. Upon receipt of the written notice, the charged student shall have three (3) University business days to respond in writing. In that response, the charged student shall have the right to admit or deny the allegations, and to set forth a defense with facts, witnesses, and documents – either written or electronic – in support. A non-response will be considered a general denial of the alleged misconduct.

c. Based on this response, the investigation shall consist of interviews of the charged student, any alleged victims (where applicable) and witnesses, and the collection and review of documents or other physical or electronic information, as well as other steps as appropriate. The investigator should retain written notes and/or obtain written or recorded statements from each interview. The investigator shall also keep a record of any proffered witnesses not interviewed, along with a brief, written explanation.

d. The investigation shall be summarized in writing in an initial investigation report and provided to the charged student and any alleged victims (where applicable) in person or via email. This summary should clearly indicate any resulting charges (or alternatively, a determination of no charges), as well as the facts and evidence in support thereof, witness statements, and possible sanctions.

e. To the extent the student is ultimately charged with any violation, he or she shall also have the opportunity to respond in writing. The charged student’s written response to the charge(s) shall be due within three (3) University business days from the date of the initial investigation report. The charged student’s written response should outline his or her acceptance or denial in response to the charge(s), and where applicable, his or her defense(s), and the facts, witnesses, and documents – whether written or electronic – in support. A non-response to the charge(s) by the charged student will be interpreted as a denial of the charge(s).

f. The investigator shall conduct further investigation and update the investigative report as warranted by the charged student’s response.

g. A copy of the final investigative report will be provided to charged student and any alleged victims before any hearing. The final investigative report will be provided to the Student Conduct Board panel or hearing officer during the hearing. The investigator may testify as a witness regarding the investigation and findings, but shall otherwise have no part in the hearing process and shall not attempt to otherwise influence the proceedings outside of providing testimony during the hearing.

9. Suspension
A decision of suspension terminates the student’s status as an enrolled student for a specific period of time and prohibits the student from attending classes. A suspended student may not participate in University sponsored activities or be present on campus without specific authorization from the Student Conduct Officer. The Student Conduct Officer may further impose a summary suspension in cases where a suspended student chooses to violate the terms of his/her suspension. Suspended students may not receive academic credit of any kind from another institution if earned during their period of suspension from the University. Students may not receive a refund of fees.

10. Expulsion
A decision of expulsion constitutes a permanent severance of the student’s relationship with the University. An expelled student may not enter any part of the campus without specific authorization from the Student Conduct Officer and/or Campus Police. Students shall not receive a refund of fees. Students shall receive the grade of “F” in any classes that he or she is enrolled.

11. Revocation of Admission and/or Degree
Admission to or a degree awarded by the University may be revoked for fraud, misrepresentation, or other violation of University standards in obtaining the degree, or for other serious violations committed by a student prior to graduation.

12. Withholding Degree
The University may withhold awarding a degree otherwise earned until the completion of the process set forth in this Student Code, including the completion of all sanctions imposed, if any.

A student responsible for any type of violation of the Student Code of Conduct will not be permitted to avoid sanction by withdrawing from a class or the University. An administrative hold may be placed on any student who does not respond to requests to adjudicate alleged violations. Students who withdraw from a class before adjudication occurs may be added back to the class and the appropriate sanction applied.

Other than expulsion or revocation or withholding of a degree, sanctions shall not be made part of the student’s permanent academic record, but shall become part of the student’s conduct record.

Students expelled or suspended for any behavioral reason will be entered into the University System of Georgia’s Student Disciplinary Actions Reporting System (SDARS) and are subject to review by other institutions within the University System.

Students who are suspended or expelled from the University for any length of time should be aware of the impact this action may have on the following:
1. Tuition, Residence Hall costs and fees (suspension does not forgive financial obligations).
2. Student financial aid including HOPE scholarship and institutional scholarships.
3. Athletic participation and eligibility.
4. Health insurance.
5. Participation in the Residence Life program.
6. Meal plans.
7. Use of University resources and access to University facilities/campuses.
8. Immigration status for international students.
10. Internships, co-ops, and study aboard opportunities.
11. Class withdrawal.

This is not an exhaustive list.

ADMINISTRATIVE WITHDRAWALS
Students may be administratively withdrawn from classes and/or the University, after consultation with appropriate University personnel, when it is determined that because of physical, mental, emotional, or psychological health conditions, the student:

1. poses a significant danger or threat of physical harm to the student or to the person or property of others, or;
2. interferes with the rights of other members of the University community or with the exercise of any proper activities or functions of the University or its personnel, or;
3. is unable to meet institutional requirements for continued enrollment as defined in this Student Code of Conduct or other policies and/or publications of this University.

Students may make a request in writing for an appropriate hearing prior to the final decision concerning continued enrollment.

APPEALS
Students adjudicated under the Student Code of Conduct have the right to appeal decisions of the Student Conduct Officer and Student Conduct Board panel, and the Vice President of Student Affairs provided specific relevant grounds for appeal are cited.
APPEAL PROCEDURES
Where the sanction imposed includes a suspension or expulsion (even for one held in abeyance), the following appellate procedures will be provided to the charged student. The charged student shall have the right to appeal the outcome on any of the following grounds:

1. To consider new information, sufficient to alter the decision, or other relevant facts not brought out in the original hearing, because such information was not known or knowable to the person appealing during the time of the original hearing.
2. To allege a procedural error within the hearing process that may have substantially impacted the fairness of the hearing, including, but not limited to, whether any hearing questions were improperly excluded, whether the decision was tainted by bias, or whether there was a violation of the student’s due process.
3. To allege that the finding was inconsistent with the weight of the information.

Appeals may be made by the charged student for the above reasons in any case where sanctions are issued by a hearing panel or administrative officer – even those in which such sanctions are held “in abeyance,” such as probationary suspension or expulsion.

The appeal must be made in writing, and must set forth one or more of the bases outlined above, and must be submitted within five (5) University business days of the date of the final written decision.

The appeal should be made to the Chief Student Conduct Officer, as designated by the Vice President of Student Affairs. The appeal shall be a review of the record only, and no new meeting with the charged student or any alleged victim(s) will be held.

The Chief Student Conduct Officer will convene an Appeals Panel comprised of three members (one faculty, one staff, and one student) of the Student Conduct Board, who were not involved in the original hearing. Appeal proceedings will be held within five (5) University business days of the receipt of the written notification from the charged student.

The Appeals Panel will make one of the following decisions:

1. Affirm the original finding and sanction.
2. Affirm the original finding but issue a new sanction of lesser severity.
3. Remand the case back to the original decision-maker to correct a procedural or factual defect.
4. Reverse or dismiss the case if there was a procedural or factual defect that cannot be remedied by remand.

The Chief Student Conduct Officer shall then issue a decision in writing to the charged student and any alleged victim(s) within five (5) University business days of the Appeal Panel’s decision.

The Appeal Panel’s decision may be appealed in writing within five (5) University business days (as determined by the date of the decision letter) to the President of the institution solely on the grounds set forth above.

The President will make one of the following decisions:

1. Affirm the original finding and sanction.
2. Affirm the original finding but issue a new sanction of greater or lesser severity.
3. Remand the case back to the original decision-maker to correct a procedural or factual defect.
4. Reverse or dismiss the case if there was a procedural or factual defect that cannot be remedied by remand.

The President’s decision shall be issued in writing to the charged student and any alleged victim(s) within (5) University business days. The President’s decision shall be the final decision of the institution.

Should the charged student wish to appeal the President’s decision, he or she may appeal to the Board of Regents in accordance with the Board of Regents Policy 8.6, which can be found at http://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section8/C2363.

RECUSAL/CHALLENGE FOR BIAS
Any party may challenge the participation of any institution official, employee, or student panel member in the process on the grounds of personal bias by submitting a written statement to the Vice President of Student Affairs, the institution’s designee setting forth the basis for the challenge, as the Vice President of Student Affairs is not responsible for the investigation or adjudication of any alleged violation. The written challenge should be submitted within a reasonable time after the individual reasonably should have known of the existence of the bias. The Vice President of Student Affairs will determine whether to sustain or deny the challenge, and if sustained, appoint a replacement.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT
Student conduct records (including, but not limited to written findings of fact, transcripts, audio recordings, and/or video recordings), except those pertaining to suspension or expulsion, will be maintained for a minimum of five (5) years after
the student’s date of graduation or last date of attendance. Records involving suspension or expulsion will be retained permanently.

**INTERPRETATION AND REVISION**

Any question of interpretation or application of the Student Code shall be referred to the Student Conduct Officer or his or her designee for final determination, unless otherwise determined by the President.

The Student Code shall be reviewed at least every three (3) years under the direction of the Vice President of Student Affairs. Any revisions shall be subject to the approval of the President.
SECTION VI

POLICIES RELATED TO STUDENTS
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA POLICY

REGENTS' STATEMENT ON DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR
Any student, faculty member, administrator, or employee, acting individually or in concert with others, who clearly obstructs or disrupts, or attempts to obstruct or disrupt any teaching, research, administrative, disciplinary, or public service activity, or any other activity authorized to be discharged or held at any USG institution is considered by the Board to have committed an act of gross irresponsibility and shall be subject to disciplinary procedures, possibly resulting in dismissal or termination of employment (BoR Minutes, 1968-69, pp. 166-168; 1970-71, p. 98). Board of Regents Policy Manual, http://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section12/policy/12.2_disruptive_behavior/

MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND STUDENT RIGHTS
Introduction
Middle Georgia State University faculty members are entitled to full academic freedom as set forth by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) in the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure with 1970 Interpretive Comments as modified in 1989 and 1990, which may be found at http://www.higher-ed.org/resources/AAUP_1940stat.htm

In their interactions with students in the classroom and in other instructional venues, faculty members are expected to maintain at all times the highest standards of academic professionalism and are not to use their courses for purposes of political or ideological indoctrination. Faculty members are also to make every effort to assure unimpeded intellectual diversity in their classes, and they should avoid the appearance that students who disagree with their views on matters of opinion will in any way be penalized or put at a disadvantage.

ALCOHOL & DRUG-FREE CAMPUS POLICY
Middle Georgia State University is an Alcohol and Other Drugs-Free Campus
Middle Georgia State University recognizes and supports local, state, and federal laws and policies of the Board of Regents, with respect to the sale, use, distribution, and possession of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs, as well as the Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990 with respect to the manufacture, distribution, sale, possession, or use of marijuana, controlled substances, or dangerous drugs on University campuses and elsewhere.

Standards of Conduct
- State of Georgia Statutes declare that it is unlawful for any person less than 21 years of age to possess or consume alcoholic beverages.
- It is unlawful to sell, give, serve, or permit to be served alcoholic beverages to a person less than 21 years of age. Furthermore, servers can be held civilly liable for damage caused by underage drinkers to whom they provided alcoholic beverages.
- It is unlawful to be under the influence of, use, possess, distribute, sell, offer, or agree to sell, or represent to sell narcotics, hallucinogens, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances, except as where permitted by prescription or law.
- To receive federal student aid, a student must not have a drug conviction for an offense that occurred while they were receiving federal student aid (such as grants, loans, or work-study).

Alcohol Policy
Middle Georgia State University expressly prohibits the use, possession, sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages on campus by any campus constituency. Student activity funds or state funds may not be used for the purchase of alcoholic beverages. Middle Georgia State University is committed to recognizing, upholding and enforcing the laws of the State of Georgia. Violation of those state laws, incorporated into the Middle Georgia State University Alcohol and Drug-Free Campus Policy, will not be condoned on the campus or at any activity held off campus by any constituency. Exceptions to the policy of no alcohol on campus may from time to time be permitted at the discretion of the president of Middle Georgia State University.

Drug Policy
Middle Georgia State University prohibits the possession, use, or distribution of drugs and alcohol by students and employees on the Middle Georgia State University campus or as any part of Middle Georgia State University’s activities, whether on or off campus. Middle Georgia State University is committed to recognizing, enforcing and reprimanding the laws of the State of Georgia. Violations of those state laws, incorporated into the Middle Georgia State University Alcohol and Drug-Free Campus Policy, will not be condoned on the campus or at any activity held off campus by any constituency.

**Student Organization Responsibility for Drug Abuse**

Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 20-3-90 et seq., provides that any student organization functioning at any university system institution which knowingly permits or authorizes the sale, distribution, serving, possession, consumption, or use of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug when such sale, distribution, serving, possession, consumption, or use is not in compliance with the laws of this state shall have its recognition as a student organization withdrawn, shall be expelled from campus for a minimum of a calendar year from the year of determination of guilt. The organization shall also be prohibited from the use of all property and facilities of the university system institution with which it is affiliated. These disciplinary actions are subject to administrative review and hearing procedures as are provided in the code.

**Travel Policy**

Students should be aware that they are responsible for abiding by the Drug-Free Campus Policy and that they may be held liable, both civilly and criminally, in the case that they are found in violation. When students travel, they should know that their point of destination is considered an extension of the campus. Violations occurring off campus will be treated the same as if the violations occurred on campus.

All students participating in extra-curricular travel are required to complete the necessary travel forms prior to departure and return them to the Office of Student Life. These forms are available in the Office of Student Life.

**Risks Associated with the Alcohol Abuse and Illicit Drug Use**

The inappropriate or excessive use of alcohol and other drugs are associated with a variety of personal health risks, and risks to others. Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely, increasing the likelihood that the driver will be involved in an accident. Moderate doses of alcohol may increase the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts, including murder, rape, armed robbery, vandalism, spouse and child abuse, and drunk driving. High doses of alcohol often cause marked impairment in higher mental function, severely altering a person’s ability to learn and remember information and make judgments. Heavy use may cause chronic depression and suicide and is also greatly associated with the abuse of other drugs. Very high doses cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce the effects described. The use of even small amounts of alcohol by a pregnant woman can damage her fetus.

Long-term heavy alcohol use can cause digestive disorders, cirrhosis of the liver, circulatory system disorders, and impairment of the central nervous system, all of which can lead to dependence, particularly in person with one or more parents or grandparents who were problem drinkers. At least 15-20 percent of heavy users will eventually become problem drinkers or alcoholics if they continue drinking. Sudden cessation of alcohol intake by alcoholics is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, or convulsions, which can be life threatening.

Use of Illicit Drugs interferes with the brain’s ability to take in, sort and synthesize information. They distort perception, which can lead users to harm themselves or others. Drug use also affects sensation and impairs memory. Illicit drugs all have some health-threatening qualities, some more than others. Examples are lung damage for marijuana, central nervous system disorders for cocaine, heroin, and hallucinogens, and liver damage from inhalants. Dependence and addiction are constant threats to users. HIV is widely spread among intravenous drug users. Regular abuse of these substances generally exposes users to criminal elements who may influence users to become involved in criminal activities in addition to their already illegal drug use.

**Information on Alcohol and Drugs and Treatment Referral**

Middle Georgia State University has no drug and alcohol treatment or rehabilitation programs. A Behavioral Health Provider list with options for addiction treatment is available from the Counseling Services (478) 471-2985 on the Macon Campus and (478) 934-3092 on the Cochran Campus. Programs listed as representative referral sources should not be interpreted as an endorsement by the University.
Suspension from Public Institution for Convicted Drug Offenders
Georgia law (see O.C.G.A. §20-1-23) mandates that any student of a public educational institution who is convicted of any felony offense involving the manufacture, distribution, sale, possession, or use of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug, shall, as of the date of conviction, be suspended from the public institution in which such person is enrolled. The suspension shall be effective as of the date of conviction for the remainder of the term. A convicted student would forfeit any right to any academic credit otherwise earned or earnable for such term. The only exception allowed is in cases where the institution has taken student conduct action for the same offense prior to conviction.

Student Conduct Sanctions for Alcohol/Drug Offenses
Sanctions that may be imposed by Middle Georgia State University for violators of this Policy include the following or any combination thereof: Reprimand; Restrictions; Probation; Suspension; Forced withdrawal or expulsion; Referral; Monetary fine.

Legal Sanctions – Alcohol Offenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Alcohol Offenses</th>
<th>Typical Penalty – First Offense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Possession of or attempt to purchase alcohol by a person under 21 years of age</td>
<td>$300 fine, up to three years probation, 20 hours of community service, up to 6 months in jail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUI</td>
<td>1st offense: $750 - $1,000 fine, 40 hours community service, jail 10 days to 12 months (all except 24 hours of jail time may be suspended or probated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Over age 21: driver’s license suspended for one year, may get limited driving permit (go to work and school) after DUI school in 120 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Under age 21: license revoked 6-12 months depending on blood alcohol level, no limited driving permit issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using a false driver’s license, ID, or allowing someone to use your driver’s license or ID</td>
<td>$100 - $200 fine, 12 months probation, up to 12 months in jail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing alcohol to a person under age 21</td>
<td>$1,000 fine, 12 months probation, up to 12 months in jail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legal Sanctions – Illicit Drug Offenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Drug Offenses</th>
<th>Typical Penalty – First Offense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase/Possession of controlled substance</td>
<td>Felony: $1,000 fine, 2 to 15 years in jail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trafficking controlled substance (not marijuana)</td>
<td>Felony: $100,000 to $1 million fine, 5 to 15 years in jail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession of 1 ounce or less marijuana</td>
<td>Misdemeanor: Fine up to $1,000; 12 months jail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession of more than 1 ounce marijuana</td>
<td>Felony: 1 – 10 years jail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trafficking marijuana</td>
<td>Felony: Fines from $100,000 to $1,000,000; 5 to 15 years jail or probation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trafficking marijuana to minor</td>
<td>Felony: Fine up to $250,000; 2 to 20 years in jail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eligibility for Federal Financial Aid
Higher Education Act Amendment (October 1998) Section 484
Section 484, Student Eligibility, is amended to authorize the suspension of a student’s federal loan eligibility if he or she has been convicted of a drug-related offense. The section states that a student who has been convicted of any offense under any federal or state law involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance shall not be eligible to receive any grant, loan, or work assistance under this title during the period beginning on the date of such conviction and ending after the interval specified in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Ineligibility for Grants, Loans, or Work Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For possession of a controlled substance, ineligibility period is:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Conviction 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Conviction 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For sale of a controlled substance, ineligibility period is:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Conviction 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Conviction Indefinite</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASSESMENT & CARE TEAM (ACT)

Middle Georgia State University has in place appropriate crisis and emergency response procedures. However, in an era of increasing concern regarding the prevention of campus violence, the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia has directed that each institution develop a plan and select a committee to address potential behavioral concerns. In response, the University has established an Assessment & Care Team (ACT). The Team will serve as an additional measure for campus safety by actively addressing behavioral concerns that have the potential to negatively impact the safety and/or wellbeing of the campus environment. The Team is a complement to, not a replacement for, the University’s existing crisis and emergency response procedures. It will operate in cooperation with existing campus and community resources while exercising due diligence to protect the campus community and the individual.

It is critical to understand that even with the best intentions, situations may arise that are unforeseen by any member of the campus community.

What is Behavior of Concern?
Behaviors of concern could be defined as those that the reasonable person would consider to be: disturbing, bizarre, out-of-the-ordinary, out-of-character, inappropriate, disruptive and that may potentially impede the individual’s ability or the ability of others to function successfully or safely.

Behavior of Concern includes but is not limited to:
• Suicidal or self-injurious thoughts, words, or actions
• Unusual anxiety, depression, paranoia, elation
• Unusual desire for isolation,
• Dramatic change in appearance, behavior, circumstances
• Use of drugs and/or alcohol
• Difficulty managing anger
• Lack of civility, respect for others
• Acting out and/or disruptive behavior
• Behavioral violations of the Student Code of Conduct
• Verbal or written indications of violent fantasy, intentions, past
• Participation in gang-related activity on campus
• Recent contact with law enforcement
• Mental health history related to dangerous behavior
• Unusual interest in police, military, terrorist activities and materials, previous incidents of violence
• Fascination with weaponry

What to Report and How to Report
It is the responsibility of every member of the University community to provide a proper response to a situation in which an individual or group of individuals is exhibiting behaviors that are considered to be:

1. a life threatening emergency;
2. a non-life threatening emergency; or
3. behavior of concern.

a. A Life Threatening Emergency - should immediately be reported to law enforcement and/or medical personnel by dialing “911.” Also call the appropriate campus police station. Police officers will escort medical personnel to the location.

For the safety of the campus community, consider any threat, explicit or implied, a statement of intent.

b. Non-Life Threatening Emergency - should be reported to the appropriate campus police station and the dispatcher advised of the situation.

Police Department (Campus Police)
Cochran Campus: (478) 934-3002
Eastman Campus: (478) 374-6403
Dublin Campus: (478) 274-7751
Macon Campus: (478) 471-2414
Behavior of Concern - should be reported to the Assessment & Care Team by contacting the Office of Student Affairs (478-757-7383) or by contacting (phone/e-mail) a Team member. Any behavioral concerns that have the potential to negatively impact the safety and/or well-being of the campus environment should be reported. A current list of all ACT members can be found at http://www.mga.edu/student-conduct/act.aspx.

Faculty and/or staff members may be called to serve on the team based on specific circumstances, not limited to field of study, campus location, or knowledge of the individual being assessed.

CAMPUS INCIDENT REPORT POLICY AND CRIME STATISTICS

Students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors are subject to all Federal, State and local criminal laws in addition to campus policies. Any person engaged in criminal activity on a campus of Middle Georgia State University is subject to discipline, arrest and prosecution. Responsibility for law enforcement rests with Middle Georgia State University Police Department. The Middle Georgia State University Police reserve the right to request assistance from other agencies when deemed necessary by the Chief of Police.

University police are employed and authorized to investigate criminal activity and to make arrests. Any report of crime on campus made to University authorities will be investigated in accordance with applicable policies and procedures. To report an emergency, dial 911 or 9-911 by campus phone.

After reporting the emergency, call University Police at:
Macon Campus – (478) 471-2414
Cochran Campus – (478) 934-3002
Dublin Campus – (478) 274-7751
Eastman Campus – (478) 374-6403
Warner Robins Campus – (478) 731-9901

The University Police will thoroughly investigate the complaint and forward it to any other departments that may need to address administrative sanctions.

If, for any reason, a report of criminal activity cannot be made in the manner described above, a written report should be delivered in person to the University Police at the Macon, Cochran, Dublin, Warner Robins or Eastman Campus.

At the Robins Resident Center reports should be filed with military authorities as required under Air Force policy. For further information, contact the Office of the Director, Robins Resident Center, and telephone (478) 327-7307. -

For a report on crime statistics for Middle Georgia State University, the Office of Postsecondary Education Criminal Offenses is available at http://www.mga.edu/police

Student Safety and Crime Prevention

Personal safety begins with the individual accepting responsibility for his or her own safety and demonstrating concern for the safety of others. To maintain a safe campus, students, faculty, and staff must participate in campus security by being attentive to their surroundings at all times.

• Report any suspicious persons or activity to University authorities immediately.
• Walk with others and remain in lighted areas at all times.
• Be mindful of the accessibility of the campus to those without authority or invitation.
• Secure belongings; never leave personal property unattended in public places.
• Lock automobile and secure valuables.

Campus Safety Seminars

In addition to the printed information distributed each year, the Office of Student Life and the University Police schedule various seminars relating to personal safety and the security of property for members of the University community.
These seminars deal with sexual assault, self-defense, crime prevention, and other related topics. Notices announcing these seminars and encouraging student and employee participation will be posted throughout the campus prior to the event. Any campus organizations or group interested in a special presentation should contact the Office of Student Affairs at (478) 757-7383.

**Possession of Weapons on Campus**

University policy prohibits possession of guns or any type of deadly weapon, except as permitted by Georgia law, on the campuses of Middle Georgia State University. See University policy for more information. Revised 7-1-17.

**CHILDREN ON CAMPUS**

Under no circumstances should children be left unattended on any Middle Georgia State University campus. For complete policy visit Minors on Campus.

**CLASSROOM/CAMPUS VISITORS**

Bringing visitors, including children, to the classroom is strictly at the discretion of the professor. The student should discuss this matter with the professor prior to any type of classroom visitation. Similarly, unaccompanied children of student-parents are not allowed to visit in campus facilities.

**CONSENSUAL RELATIONSHIPS**

**General Statement**

Recognizing that Middle Georgia State University administrators, faculty and staff members are professionals whose conduct must not jeopardize the trust and confidence of the students they serve or the general public which supports the institution, the University considers it inappropriate for administrators, faculty, staff and members of the University community to have amorous or sexual relations with individuals with whom teaching, evaluative, advocacy, counseling, advising or supervisory responsibilities exist. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of all administrators, faculty and staff members to avoid such relationships that result in conflicts of interests with students over whom they are in a position of authority by virtue of their teaching, research, committee assignments, or administrative assignments. In order to assure that the evaluation of students is conducted fairly and without any perception of favoritism or bias, administrators, faculty and staff members should make an earnest effort to avoid all appearance of sexual overtures and sexual relationships with such students, even when considered consensual. The significant power differential between administrators, faculty and staff members and students makes such consensual amorous or sexual relationships suspect. Failure to abide by this policy may prompt disciplinary action by the University.

**Procedures**

1. Members of the University community who desire to complain of a violation of policy may initiate a complaint with the Director of Human Resources. Complaints must be filed within ten working days of the time at which the complainant becomes aware of the adverse effect of an alleged violation of this policy.
2. Faculty members accused in a complaint filed alleging a violation of this policy shall be subject to procedures and sanctions.
3. For purposes of this policy, administrators, faculty and staff members shall include all full- or part-time University personnel. Persons in positions to evaluate students referred to in this policy may include, but are not limited to, those engaged in supervising instruction, evaluating academic performance, or serving on committees for awards, prizes, or other similar distinctions; and also making decisions relative to scholarships, grants, and other forms of financial assistance.

**COPYRIGHT**

The Higher Education Act of 1965, amended in August 2008 by the enactment of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA), requires all postsecondary institutions that participate in Title IV student aid programs to develop and implement written plans to effectively combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material by users of the institution's network, without unduly interfering with educational and research use of the network. These regulations went into effect July 1, 2010. The University's policies prohibit illegal peer-to-peer file sharing and downloading. Visit MGA's copyright information web page at
DIPLOMA REPLACEMENT
Each student who completes an authorized program at Middle Georgia State University leading to a degree, or certificate, has paid the required graduation fee, is certified by the Office of the Registrar, and approved by the faculty as a graduate of that program, is entitled to one (1) diploma attesting to that accomplishment. The diploma is intended only as a symbolic recognition of academic achievement. The student’s Middle Georgia State University transcript is, instead, the proper official document of record for the award.

Graduation Holds: A student who has a graduation hold will not be certified for graduation by the Registrar and a diploma printed until the hold is satisfied. If the Office responsible for the hold concurs, and at the student’s request, a letter may be prepared by the Office of the Registrar certifying that the student has completed the requirements of the program.

Diploma Receipt: Diplomas will be mailed at an announced date each term. In cases where mailed diplomas are not received, the student has up to 60 days after graduation to identify the non-receipt to the Office of the Registrar. A replacement diploma will be furnished free of charge however the student will be required to personally receipt the document.

Diploma Errors: While every effort is made to ensure that diplomas are printed correctly, students should carefully review the document upon receipt and immediately identify any problems to the Office of the Registrar. Incorrect diplomas must be returned to the Registrar within 45 days before the issuance of the corrected document. A replacement diploma will be issued at no charge.

Duplicate Diplomas: There may be instances where a diploma issued for a previous graduation is destroyed or lost over time. Students desiring a replacement must make a request in writing by completing the Replacement Diploma Order Form. Students should recognize that the replaced diploma most likely will not replicate their previous awarded document as the signature of the responsible officials may have changed, or perhaps even the name of the College. The diploma issued will be the same award document as given current graduates. Effective July 1, 2015, all duplicate diplomas will reference Middle Georgia State University.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN RECREATION & WELLNESS AND STUDENT LIFE ACTIVITIES
Middle Georgia State University takes great pride in having students participate in collegiate activities of both noncompetitive and competitive nature. For this reason, any student seeking to participate in such activities (clubs, organizations, recreational/intramural tournaments, etc.) must comply with eligibility guidelines, including but not limited to:

1. Unless a student is a first-semester freshman or transfer student, the student must be currently matriculating with at least the minimums as listed below and have successfully matriculated the previous semester (excluding summer semester) with the same minimums:
   a. Recreation & Wellness facility use and programming to exclude Intramurals and Club Sports: Registered in one (1) hour on campus class and paid R&W Fee for current semester
   b. Student Life activities: Registered in at least three (3) hours for the current semester.
   c. Intramurals activities: Registered in at least three (3) hours for the current semester.
   d. Club Sports activities: Registered for at least six (6) hours during the current semester.

2. The student must be in good academic standing and have no holds on his/her record.

3. To be eligible to serve as an officer in any University-sponsored organization; to be a candidate in any University election; or to represent the University in any official capacity a student must have earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 and must not be on disciplinary or scholastic probation. Additional requirements for participation in specific activities and/or organizations may apply.

4. The student must be eligible based on guidelines of the organization sponsoring the activity. Organizations can be the club, program, office, department, association, or any other entity that sponsors a program in which a student may participate.
5. The Vice president, Assistant Vice president, or other designated staff member will review students representing Middle Georgia State University in such activities for eligibility and for fitness to represent the University.

6. Participation in activities (non-competitive and competitive) is not guaranteed.

7. All required forms must be completed ten (10) business days prior to date of travel or deadlines for competition entry and turned in to the appropriate office based on the sponsoring organization of the trip or event in order to allow for proper processing time.

8. Any student who is a member of a club sport, intramural team, or participates in any part of the Recreation & Wellness Program is subject to validation of hours, academic standing, and/or any other eligibility requirements set forth by the Department of Recreation & Wellness regarding Intramurals, Club Sports, or Program participation as seen fit by the staff of the department.

9. All additional dues, fees, or other costs associated with programming of departments, programs, or clubs must be paid prior to participation by an individual.

EXTERNAL PARTIES

External Parties (local businesses and community service organizations) are permitted to solicit on campus provided the External Party is sponsored by a campus organization or as an authorized participant in an appropriate University sponsored activity.

On Campus Participation by External Parties

Any organized use of the campus by external parties must be approved by the University. Middle Georgia State University regularly hosts External Parties (local businesses/community service organizations) seeking to solicit to members of the campus community. An External Party desiring access to the campus for purposes of solicitation must either be the invited guest of a campus organization or must secure authorization to participate in the activities sponsored by the Office of Student Life, typically at the beginning of fall and spring semester. The primary purpose of these Student Life events is to provide students an opportunity to learn about Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) and other campus resources. Any External Party wishing to participate in these Student Life events (i.e. Club Rush or Vendor Fair) must comply with the following procedures. All outside parties wishing to obtain use of fields or facilities must contact the following offices for requirements and reservations:

Macon: Conference Center at (478) 471-2770
Cochran: Office of Campus Director (478) 934-3167
Dublin: Office of Campus Director (478) 274-7808
Eastman: Office of Campus Director (478) 374-6700
Warner Robins: Office of Campus Director (478) 929-6700

Procedures:
The External Party will submit a written request for space (one table and two chairs) to the Director of Student Engagement. The Director of Student Engagement will review the request based on:

1. The presence of an established storefront in the Middle Georgia area.
2. The direct benefit to Middle Georgia State University students that the organization is willing to provide, i.e. giveaways, significant discounts, coupons, service, etc.
3. A positive history between the organization and Middle Georgia State University.
4. Requests made prior to each event, understanding that the organization shall not have standing reservations for space.
5. A first-come, first-served and space-available basis.

The Director of Student Engagement reserves the right to choose organizations that will offer participating students a diverse Club Rush experience.

Publication Distribution

The Office of Student Life supports the concept that the University community serves as a safe arena for the free and open exchange of ideas. A request by an External Party for the distribution of a publication(s) is considered based on compliance with the following procedures.

Procedures:
The External Party will submit a written request to the Student Life Coordinator for campus distribution of a publication(s) provided:

1. The publication supports the mission and policies of the University.
2. The publication must be free to all members of the community.
3. The External Party must provide free-standing, professional-quality (not homemade) distribution racks appropriate for the publication.
4. The return of the distribution racks is not guaranteed.
5. The distribution racks will be located in the Student Life Center on the Macon Campus, in the Student Activity Center on the Cochran Campus, in the Student Activity Center on the Dublin Campus, in the Game room on the Eastman Campus and in the Thomas Hall Student Lounge on the Warner Robins Campus.
6. The specific location of the distribution racks is not guaranteed and will be at the discretion of the Student Life Coordinator.
7. The sponsoring organization must fill the distribution racks in a timely manner or the racks will be removed.

The opportunity for regular distribution of any publication by an External Party is made on a space-available basis and at the discretion of the Director of Student Engagement.

Advertisement
Local businesses, agencies, and organizations may request placing advertisements on campus. These requests are made to and approved by the Office of Student Life on each campus and will be allowed on a “space available” basis. The Recreation & Wellness Program may also approve for club sports sponsors in agreement for advertising space at club event. Advertisements not approved by the Office of Student Life will be removed.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)
Middle Georgia University complies with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). FERPA affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access. Students should submit to the Office of the Registrar written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The registrar will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the Office of the Registrar, the registrar shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading, or in violation of their right to privacy. Students may ask the University to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading, or in violation of their privacy rights. They should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading, or otherwise in violation of their right to privacy. If the University decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the University will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

Note: FERPA was not intended to provide a process to be used to question substantive judgments which are correctly recorded. The rights of challenge are not intended to allow students to contest, for example, a grade in a course because they felt a higher grade should have been assigned.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests.

A school official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the University has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, collection agent, or official of the National Student Loan Clearinghouse); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. The University may disclose education records in certain other
circumstances:

a. to comply with a judicial order or a lawfully issued subpoena;
b. to appropriate parties in a health or safety emergency;
c. to officials of another school, upon request, in which a student seeks or intends to enroll;
d. in connection with a student’s request for or receipt of financial aid, as necessary to
determine the eligibility, amount, or conditions of the financial aid, or
e. to enforce the terms and conditions of the aid;
f. to certain officials of the U.S. Department of Education, the Comptroller General, to state
and local educational authorities, in connection with certain state or federally supported
education programs;
g. to accrediting organizations to carry out their functions;
h. to organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the University;
i. the results of an institutional disciplinary proceeding against the alleged victim of a crime of
violence may be released to the alleged victim of that crime with respect to that crime.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by
the University to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that
administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400
Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, 20202-5920.

5. The University designates the following as public or "Directory Information": The student's name,
USPS mailing addresses, telephone number, major field of study, degree sought, expected date of
completion of degree requirements and graduation, degrees and awards received, dates of
attendance, full or part time enrollment status, the previous educational agency or institution
attended, and participation in officially recognized activities and other similar information.

6. Students may restrict the release of "Directory Information", except to school officials with
legitimate educational interests and others as indicated in point #3 above. To do so, a student must
make the request in writing to the Office of the Registrar, Middle Georgia State
University, 100
University Pointe Drive, Macon, GA 31206-5144. A form is available in the Registrar's Office for
that purpose. Once filed, this request becomes a permanent part of the student’s record until the
student instructs the University, in writing, to have the request removed. For purposes of compliance
with FERPA, the University considers all students independent.

FORMATION AND FUNCTIONING OF RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (RSO)
The Offices of Student Life will provide assistance to any student, staff, or faculty member who is interested
in the formation of a new campus club or organization. Recognition of new student organizations is limited
to specific times as designated by the Office of Student Life. For fall semester, recognition begins on the
first day of the semester to the last business day in September. Likewise for spring, recognition begins on
the first day of the semester to the last business day in February. A copy of the Middle Georgia State
University Recognized Student Organization (RSO) Handbook is available online at:
http://www.mga.edu/student-life/.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
Middle Georgia State University (MGA) respects and honors the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment,
including the right to free speech, free expression, free exercise of religion, and the right to assemble
peaceably. The University abides by Board of Regents Policy 12.10 on Freedom of Expression. MGA agrees
with the University System of Georgia that these rights are of the utmost importance and are likewise
committed to protecting those rights.

As a public institution of higher education, MGA promotes open ideas and academic freedom on our
campuses. The policy that follows aims to promote campus safety, to ensure the proper functioning of the
academic environment and institution activities, and to protect individual rights. It should not be used to
unduly burden the free expression rights of any member of the University community.

The University community includes faculty, staff, students, administrators, recognized student organizations
of the University, and guests thereof. Any parameters placed on the time, place, and manner of expression
will not be based on the content of the expression. The full policy and procedures may be found in our University Policy Manual at: Freedom of Expression Policy

**GENERAL INFORMATION – WHERE TO GO FOR HELP?**

**Question Related To...**

**Academic Affairs**-  [Final Course Grade Appeal Form](#)
Academic Affairs-  [General Student Petition](#)
Academic Affairs-  [Student Petition for Course Substitution](#)
Academic Affairs-  [WF Grade Received Appeal Form](#)
Academic Freedom and Student Rights
Admissions
[Assessment & Care Team](#)
Business Office-  [Appeal Form](#)
Conflict Resolution
Consensual Relationships
Customer Service
Disability Services- Academic Accommodation
Disability Services- Access
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
Financial Aid-  [Dependency Petition Form](#)
Financial Aid-  [Max Time Frame Appeal Form](#)
Financial Aid-  [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
Financial Aid-  [Special Circumstances Appeal Form](#)
Nondiscrimination
Parking
Residence Life- General Concerns
Residence Life- Application
Residence Life- Contract Amendment
Residence Life- Freshman Residency
Residence Life- Maintenance Needs
Harassment/Sexual Assault
Student Conduct
University System of Georgia Board of Regents
Violations of the Law

**Publication**

Academic Catalog
Academic Affairs Forms Webpage
Academic Affairs Forms Webpage
Student Handbook
Admissions Webpage
Controller’s Webpage
Conflict Resolution Webpage
Student Handbook
Customer Service Feedback Form
Disability Services Policies and Procedures
Guide for Students with Disabilities
Registrar Webpage
Financial Aid Forms Webpage
Financial Aid Forms Webpage
Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy
Financial Aid Forms Webpage
Student Handbook
Parking Policy
Student Handbook
Residence Life Webpage
Residence Life Webpage
Residence Life Webpage
Student Handbook
Student Handbook
Bylaws of the Board of Regents
Police Department Webpage

**GRIEVANCES/COMPLAINTS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The Middle Georgia State University Student Code of Conduct reads, "Laws, statutes, and regulations at the national, state, and local levels grant public institutions the authority to establish standards reasonably relevant to the lawful missions, processes, and functions of the institution. Such standards are not intended to prohibit the exercise of a right guaranteed by the Constitution or a law of the United States to a member of the academic community."  *Middle Georgia State University Student Code of Conduct, Introduction, http://www.mga.edu/student-affairs*

Middle Georgia State University committed to a policy of fair treatment of its students. A grievance or complaint is a situation in which a student feels that the treatment he/she has received is not consistent with the University’s policies.
Students are encouraged to initially seek an informal resolution of these matters directly with the faculty or individual(s) involved when possible. When an informal resolution is not possible, students should file a written complaint by completing and submitting the student grievance report form located at https://www.mga.edu/student-affairs/docs/Student_Grievance-Complaint_Form.pdf. The form preferably should be submitted electronically but may be saved in pdf format and e-mailed as an attachment to grievances@mga.edu

Note: The basis on which a grade was awarded may not be challenged or appealed under this grievance process but through the grade appeal process found in the university catalog and the http://www.mga.edu/faculty-affairs/docs/Final_Course_Grade_Appeal_Form.pdf

A written complaint should include all of the following:
- Nature of the complaint
- Date and time of the incident
- Full names of all individuals involved
- The policy or procedure that was violated

When received electronically or via email, the grievance report form will be forwarded to the university official associated with the issue. Each official, upon receipt of the grievance, shall investigate the circumstances and attempt to resolve the issue. If unable to do so, the official will refer the matter to the next level of responsibility as indicated below:

1. Instructor or staff member
2. Department chair or director
3. Dean or assistant vice president
4. Associate provost or vice president

If the grievance involves a question of judgment or opinion not covered by University policies, the vice president for student affairs, the affirmative action officer, and other appropriate University official shall, after interviewing the student and all other parties involved, discuss the matter and make recommendations to the provost to resolve the issue. There shall be no retaliatory action taken by any person against a student of the University as a result of the student seeking redress under any of these procedures or for participating in any investigation as a complainant or witness.

**Formal Grievance Hearing**

The purpose of a formal grievance hearing is to hear the complaint of a student who has exhausted all other normal channels, but who has not received satisfaction. The student may appeal in writing to the president. The president will appoint a Grievance Committee of at least three persons, including a chair. The committee will meet within five working days after receiving the complaint to discuss the merits of the complaint and shall notify the parties concerned within ten working days of either its decision or of the time and place of a hearing if one is to be granted.

Formal grievance hearings shall be conducted during normal working hours and a tape recording shall be made of the proceedings. The Grievance Committee decision shall be made and reported in writing to the president and the student within ten business days. The student may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee to the president. Such appeal shall be in writing and shall be made within ten business days. The decision of the president shall be communicated to the student in writing within ten business days of receipt of the appeal. The president’s decision shall be final.

**GYMNASIUM USAGE**

The Wellness Center gymnasiums are available to current students, faculty, and staff with a valid Knight Card. Wellness program activities offered in the gymnasium include: free play basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, rock climbing (in Cochran) and group fitness classes. The gyms are available only when classes or other sponsored activities are not in progress.

Free Play hours are posted in the Wellness Center and Gym area and are subject to change without prior notice. Hours are also posted online at http://www.mga.edu/wellness/. Appropriate athletic attire must be worn at all times. No food is allowed in the gym unless approved by Recreation & Wellness professional staff. Lockers are available at the front desk of the Wellness Center as bags are not to be left sitting in the
gym. Inappropriate behavior will result in loss of Gym privileges. For more information about recreational activities and a full list of rules at Middle Georgia State University, call the Wellness Center at (478) 757-3620 on the Macon Campus, (478) 934-3478 on the Cochran Campus or visit http://www.mga.edu/wellness/.

The University assumes no liability for accidents or injuries incurred during participation in recreational activities including club sports, intramurals, or other events hosted by Recreation & Wellness, Student Life, or Residence Life.

Note: Morris Gymnasium on the Cochran Campus is used exclusively by the men’s and women’s varsity basketball teams.

HARASSMENT POLICY

Policy Statement
Middle Georgia University is committed to maintaining an academic and work environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity and can work freely together, both in and out of the classroom, to further education, service, and research. No member of its community, including faculty, staff or students, should be subjected to any form of harassment or retaliation based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation or other ideology. Each person has the right to work in a professional atmosphere that promotes equal employment opportunities and prohibits discriminatory practices, including sexual harassment. Therefore, Middle Georgia University will not condone harassment described above or the sexual exploitation of individuals in the workplace, and expects that all relationships within the community to be business-like and free of harassment.

Definition
Examples of harassing conduct include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, intimidating, or hostile acts that relate to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability; and
2. Written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability that is placed on walls, bulletin boards, or elsewhere on University premises, or circulated on the campus.

Sexual harassment constitutes discrimination and is illegal under federal and state law, and Board of Regents' policy. For the purposes of this policy, sexual harassment is defined in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Guidelines, as unwelcome sexual advancements, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when, for example:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; or
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment or academic environment.

Sexual harassment may include a range of subtle and not so subtle behaviors and may involve individuals of the same or different gender. Depending on the circumstances, these behaviors may include, but not limited to: unwanted sexual advances or requests for sexual favors; sexual jokes and innuendoes; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; commentary about an individual's body, sexual prowess or sexual deficiencies; leering, whistling or touching; insulting or obscene comments or gestures; display in the workplace of sexually suggestive objects or pictures; and other physical, verbal or visual conduct of a sexual nature.

Responsibility as to the Harassment Policy
All members of the Middle Georgia State University community must ensure that their personal behavior does not constitute harassment. This responsibility extends to all who do business with Middle Georgia State University and to all who visit any Middle Georgia State University facility or attend any Middle Georgia State University-sponsored activity.

Faculty, administrators, and supervisors have the responsibility to prevent and to eliminate harassment in their respective areas. A complaint alleging harassment made to a faculty member, administrator, or supervisor requires immediate steps to address the matter under the procedures outlined in this policy.
Retaliation Also Prohibited
Middle Georgia University encourages the reporting of all perceived incidents of harassment. It is the policy of Middle Georgia University to investigate such reports. Middle Georgia University prohibits retaliation against any individual who reports harassment or participates in an investigation of such reports.

Individuals and Conduct Covered
This policy applies to all faculty, staff and students whether related to conduct engaged in by fellow employees or someone not directly connected to Middle Georgia University (e.g., an outside vendor, consultant or customer). Conduct prohibited by this policy is unacceptable in the workplace and in any work-related setting outside the workplace, such as during business trips, business meetings and business-related social events.

Procedures-Submitting a Complaint
1. Any faculty member, staff member, or student who believes that he or she is a victim of harassment should convey clearly his/her discomfort with the conduct to the alleged offender. (If the complainant has reason to fear reprisal from the alleged offender if step one is carried out, the complainant may move directly to the next step.)
2. If the conduct continues, the complainant should promptly report the matter to the appropriate University official designated to handle such complaints. The appropriate University official for the faculty and staff is their supervisor or department head, and for students, the vice president for student affairs. The appropriate Title IX coordinators and the Section 504 coordinator will be immediately notified that the process to address grievances has been started in order to insure appropriate fairness and a process which meets federal guidelines for handling grievances and complaints. Before any proposed resolution or decision has been communicated to any party to the grievance, the coordinators will review the process and issue a determination of compliance with federal requirements and guidelines.
3. The initial discussion between the complainant and the appropriate University official will be kept confidential to the greatest extent possible and dissemination of any information relating to the case will be limited, in order that the privacy of all individuals involved is safeguarded as fully as possible. The University will take steps to protect the complainant from retaliatory action based upon the filing of the complaint. The foregoing notwithstanding, the appropriate University official will inquire into all reports of alleged harassment brought to his or her attention.
4. During the initial meeting with the appropriate University official, a written summary of the complaint will be made and should be signed by the complainant.
5. The appropriate University official will inform the alleged offender (respondent) of the allegation and of the identity of the complainant, will provide him or her with a written summary of the complaint, and will proceed as set forth in the following section.
6. If the complainant has reason to be uncomfortable reporting as directed by this policy, the complainant should report the offensive behavior to any administrator (not a subordinate of the alleged offender) with whom the complainant feels comfortable. The administrator then has the responsibility of helping the complainant with the procedure.

Resolution of a Complaint
1. When a complaint is submitted, the appropriate University official will discuss the matter with the parties promptly, will notify the appropriate Vice president for the charge, and will initiate whatever steps he or she deems appropriate to affect an informal resolution of the complaint acceptable to both parties. If an informal resolution is reached, it will be documented in writing, approved by the appropriate University official, signed by the complainant and the respondent.
2. If an informal resolution satisfactory to the parties is not reached within 15 workdays after an incident is reported, or if, in the opinion of the appropriate University official, an informal resolution is not possible, a full investigation will be instituted. The investigation may include interviewing witnesses identified by the parties and such other inquiries, as the appropriate University official may deem necessary. Within thirty workdays of the initiated investigation, a report of the investigation results, along with a recommendation with regard to a resolution of the complaint and/or disciplinary action, will be made to the Title IX and Section 504 coordinator: Director of Human Resources
3. The Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Officer will review the results of the investigation to determine if harassment occurred; and, if so, take or recommend appropriate disciplinary and/or
other action. Individuals subjected to disciplinary action may exercise their appeal rights pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Faculty Handbook, the Employee Handbook or the Student Handbook as appropriate.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) RESOURCES APPROPRIATE USE POLICY

Overview
It is the policy of Middle Georgia State University to provide an environment that encourages the free exchange of ideas and sharing of information. Access to this environment and Middle Georgia State University’s information technology (IT) resources is a privilege and must be treated with the highest standard of ethics.

Middle Georgia State University expects all users to use IT resources in a responsible manner, respecting the public trust through which these resources have been provided, the rights and privacy of others, the integrity of facilities and controls, state and Federal laws, and Middle Georgia State University policies and standards.

Purpose
This policy outlines the standards for appropriate use of Middle Georgia State University IT resources, which include, but are not limited to, equipment, software, networks, data, and telephones whether owned, leased, or otherwise provided by Middle Georgia State University.

Scope
This policy applies to all users of Middle Georgia State University IT resources including faculty, staff, students, guests, external organizations and individuals accessing network services, such as the Internet via Middle Georgia State University resources.

Policy
- Use only those IT resources for which you have authorization
- Protect the access and integrity of IT resources
- Abide by applicable local, state, federal laws, University policies and respect the copyrights and intellectual property rights of others, including the legal use of copyrighted material
- Use IT resources only for their intended purpose
- Respect the privacy and personal rights of others
- Do no harm

Guidelines

User Responsibilities
Use of Middle Georgia State University IT resources is granted based on acceptance of the following specific responsibilities:

Use only those computing and IT resources for which you have authorization. For example, it is a violation:
- To use resources you have not been specifically authorized to use
- To use someone else’s account and password or share your account and password with someone else
- To access files, data, or processes without authorization
- To purposely look for or exploit security flaws to gain system or data access

Protect the access and integrity of computing and IT resources. For example, it is a violation:
- To use excessive bandwidth
- To release a virus or a worm that damages or harms a system or Network
- To prevent others from accessing an authorized service
- To send email that may cause problems and disrupt service for other users
- To attempt to deliberately degrade performance or deny service
- To corrupt or misuse information
- To alter or destroy information without authorization

Abide by applicable local, state, federal laws, University policies and respect the copyrights and intellectual property rights of others, including the legal use of copyrighted material. For example, it is a violation:
- To download, use or distribute copyrighted materials, including pirated software or music or videos
or games (aka: illegal peer-to-peer file sharing)
- To make more copies of licensed software than the license allows
- To operate and participate in pyramid schemes
- To upload, download, distribute or possess pornography
- To upload, download, distribute or possess child pornography

Use IT resources only for their intended purpose. For example, it is a violation:
- To use computing or network resources for advertising or other commercial purposes
- To distribute copyrighted materials without express permission of the copyright holder
- To send forged email
- To misuse Internet Relay Chat (IRC) software to allow users to hide their identity, or to interfere with other systems or users
- To send terrorist threats or "hoax messages"
- To send chain letters
- To intercept or monitor any network communications not intended for you
- To attempt to circumvent security mechanisms
- To use privileged access for other than official duties
- To use former privileges after graduation, transfer or termination, except as stipulated by MGA University

Respect the privacy and personal rights of others. For example, it is a violation:
- To use electronic resources for harassment or stalking other individuals
- To tap a phone line or run a network sniffer or vulnerability scanner without authorization
- To access or attempt to access other individual's password or data without explicit authorization
- To access or copy another user's electronic mail, data, programs, or other files without permission
- To disclose information about students in violation of Middle Georgia State University guidelines

**System and Network Administrator Responsibilities**
System Administrators and providers of Middle Georgia State University computing and IT resources have the additional responsibility of ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the resources they are managing. Persons in these positions are granted significant trust to use their privileges appropriately for their intended purpose and only when required to maintain the system. Any private information seen in carrying out these duties must be treated in the strictest confidence, unless it relates to a violation or the security of the system.

**Security Caveat**
Be aware that although computing and IT providers throughout Middle Georgia State University are charged with preserving the integrity and security of resources, security sometimes can be breached through actions beyond their control. Users are therefore urged to take appropriate precautions such as:
- Safeguarding their account and password
- Taking full advantage of file security mechanisms
- Backing up critical data on a regular basis
- Promptly reporting any misuse or violations of the policy
- Using virus scanning software with current updates
- Using personal firewall protection on personal computers
- Installing security patches in a timely manner

**Violations**
Every user of Middle Georgia State University resources has an obligation to report suspected violations of the Appropriate Use Policy for Computing and IT Resources. Reports should be directed to the institution, unit, center, office, division, department, school, or administrative area responsible for the particular system involved.

**Enforcement**
Failure to comply with the appropriate use of these resources threatens the atmosphere for the sharing of information, the free exchange of ideas, and the secure environment for creating and maintaining information property, and subjects one to discipline. Any user of any Middle Georgia State University system found using IT resources for unethical and/or inappropriate practices has violated this policy and is subject to student conduct proceedings including suspension of system privileges, suspension/expulsion from the institution, termination of employment and/or legal action as may be appropriate.
Although all members of the university system have an expectation of privacy, if a user is suspected of violating this policy, his or her right to privacy may be superseded by Middle Georgia State University's requirement to protect the integrity of IT resources, the rights of all users and the property of the Middle Georgia State University. Middle Georgia State University thus, reserves the right to examine material stored on or transmitted through its resources if there is cause to believe that the standards for appropriate use are being violated by a user or a trespasser onto its systems or networks.

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has developed policies related to Intellectual Property. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia Policy Manual 6.3.1 states the following:

“The University System of Georgia is dedicated to teaching, research, and the extension of knowledge to the public. The personnel at its institutions recognize as two of their major objectives, the production of new knowledge and the dissemination of both old and new knowledge. Inherent in these objectives is the need to encourage the development of new and useful devices and processes, the publication of scholarly works, and the development of computer software. Such activities

1. contribute to the professional development of the faculty, staff, or students involved,
2. enhance the reputation of the institutions concerned,
3. provide additional educational opportunities for participating students, and
4. promote the general welfare of the public at large

Patentable inventions and materials often come about because of activities of University System faculty, staff, or students who have been aided wholly or in part through the use of resources of the University System. It becomes significant, therefore, to insure the utilization of such inventions for the public good and to expedite their development and marketing. The rights and privileges, as well as the incentive, of the inventor or creator must be preserved so that his or her abilities and those of other faculty, staff, or students of the colleges and universities of the University System may be further encouraged and stimulated.

The University System recognizes and encourages the publication of scholarly works as an integral part of the processes of teaching, research, and service. The Board of Regents acknowledges that faculty, staff, or students regularly prepare for publication, usually through individual effort and initiative, articles, pamphlets, books, and other scholarly works which may be subject to copyright and which may generate royalty income for the author. Publication may also result from work supported either partially or completely by the institution. With the advent of innovative techniques and procedures, the variety and number of materials which might be created in a university community have increased significantly, causing the ownership of such copyrightable materials to become increasingly complex.”

The following definitions are outlined in 6.3.2 of the BOR Policy Manual:

1. ‘Intellectual Property’ shall be deemed to refer to patentable materials, copyrighted materials, trademarks, software, and trade secrets, whether or not formal protection is sought.
2. ‘Patentable Materials’ shall be deemed to refer to items other than software which reasonably appear to qualify for protection under the patent laws of the United States or other protective statutes, including Novel Plant Varieties and Patentable Plants, whether or not patentable thereunder.
3. ‘Copyrighted Materials’ shall include the following: (1) books, journal articles, texts, glossaries, bibliographies, study guides, laboratory manuals, syllabi, tests, and proposals; (2) lectures, musical or dramatic compositions, unpublished scripts; (3) films, filmstrips, charts, transparencies, and other visual aids; (4) video and audio tapes or cassettes; (5) live video and audio broadcasts; (6) programmed instructional materials; (7) mask works; and (8) other materials or works other than software which qualify for protection under the copyright laws of the United States (See 17 U.S.C. 102 et seq.) or other protective statutes whether or not registered thereunder.
4. ‘Software’ shall include one or more computer programs existing in any form, or any associated operational procedures, manuals, or other documentation, whether or not protectable or protected by patent or copyright. The term ‘computer program’ shall mean a set of instructions, statements, or related data that, in actual or modified form, is capable of causing a computer or computer system to perform specified functions.
5. ‘Trademarks’ shall include all trademarks, service marks, trade names, seals, symbols, designs, slogans, or logotypes developed by or associated with the University System or any of its institutions. (See 15 U.S.C. 1127.)

6. ‘Trade Secrets’ means information including, but not limited to, technical or nontechnical data, a formula, a pattern, a compilation, a program, a device, a method, a technique, a drawing, a process, financial data, financial plans, product plans, or a list of actual or potential customers or suppliers which (i) derives economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and (ii) is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy. (See O.C.G.A. 10-1-761.)

7. ‘Patentable Plant’ means an asexually reproduced distinct and new variety of plant. (See 35 U.S.C. 161.)

8. ‘Mask Work’ means a series of related images, however fixed or encoded: (i) having or representing the predetermined, three-dimensional pattern of metallic, insulating, or semi-conductor material present or removed from the layers of a semiconductor chip product; and (ii) in which series the relation of the images to one another is that each image has the pattern of the surface of one form of the semiconductor chip product. (See 17 U.S.C. 901.)

9. ‘Novel Plant Variety’ means a novel variety of sexually reproduced plant. (See 7 U.S.C. 2321 et seq.)

BOR Policy Manual Section 6.3.3 addresses the “Determination of Rights and Equities in Intellectual Property”. Middle Georgia State University has adopted the following policies in regards to the determination of rights and equities in intellectual property:

1. Sponsor-Supported Efforts
   The grant or contract between the sponsor and the institution, under which Intellectual Property is produced, may contain specific provisions with respect to disposition of rights to these materials. The sponsor may choose to do one of the following:
   a. specify that the materials be placed in the public domain
   b. claim reproduction, license-free use, or other rights
   c. assign all rights to the institution. In those cases where royalty income is realized by the institution, the inventor or creator may appropriately share in the royalty income. The nature and extent of inventor or creator participation in royalty income, however, shall be subject to sponsor and institution agreements.

2. Institution-Assigned Efforts
   Ownership of Intellectual Property developed as a result of assigned institutional effort shall reside with the institution; however, sharing of royalty income with the inventor or creator is authorized as an incentive to encourage further development of Intellectual Property. The nature and extent of inventor or creator participation in royalty income, however, shall be the decision of the institution.

3. Institution-Assisted Individual Effort
   Ownership of Intellectual Property developed by faculty, staff, or students of the institution where the institution provides support of their efforts or use of institution resources in more than a purely incidental way (unless such resources are available without charge to the public) shall be shared by the inventor or creator and the institution. The nature and extent of inventor or creator participation in royalty income, however, shall be the decision of the institution.

4. Individual Effort
   Ownership rights to Intellectual Property developed by faculty, staff, or students of the institution shall reside with the inventor or creator of such Intellectual Property provided that:
   a. there is no use, except in a purely incidental way, of institution resources in the creation of such Intellectual Property (unless such resources are available without charge to the public)
   b. the Intellectual Property is not prepared in accordance with the terms of an institution contract or grant
   c. the Intellectual Property is not developed by faculty, staff, or students as a specific institution assignment. The general obligation to produce scholarly and creative works does not constitute a specific assignment for this purpose. The nature and extent of the use of institution resources shall be subject to institution regulations and shall be determined by the institution.

5. Other Efforts
   Ownership rights to Intellectual Property developed under any circumstances other than those listed in this policy shall be determined on an individual basis and approved by the president of Middle Georgia State University or his or her designated representative. The nature and extent of inventor or creator participation in royalty income, however, shall be the decision of the institution.
**Intramural Eligibility**

1. A valid Knight Card must be presented to be eligible to sign-up for an intramural sport. The valid student ID must also be presented each time a student participates in an intramural event. NO VALID MGA ID = NO PLAY. To obtain a valid Knight Card, refer to Knight Card in the Student Resources section of this handbook.

2. Students must be enrolled in 3 credit hours in the same semester session the sporting activity takes place to be eligible to participate in the intramural program.

3. Faculty and full-time staff are also eligible to participate in Middle Georgia State University intramural sports with a valid Knight Card.

4. A signed liability waiver form for each participant MUST be on file in the Intramural Office.

5. A participant is only allowed to play for one team per sport per season. After entering one contest with a team, a player may not switch teams during the season. However, a participant can play for a men’s team and a co-ed team for the same sport in the same season. This applies for men’s and women’s sports. If a player’s team forfeits the season, the player can only transfer to another team after the Intramural Coordinator has reviewed the matter.

6. A player must participate with his/her team in a minimum of one (1) regular season contest in order to be eligible for playoff competition. “Participate” means that the player’s name appears on the game-sheet of the games won/lost.

7. Eligible players may create a team roster online at http://www.IMLeagues.com

8. Any eligible student may also register as a free agent online.

9. For more information, visit our website at: http://www.mga.edu/wellness

**Lost and Found**

Items found on campus are periodically turned in to the Police Department. The Police Department staff will attempt to identify and contact the owner of all items of value. Contact will be made via the Middle Georgia State University student e-mail system. Lost and Found items can be claimed at the respective Police Department for the campus that the property is located. All items will be kept in the Police Department for thirty calendar days after receipt of item or contact of owner. Items not claimed after thirty days will be donated or destroyed, as appropriate. For more information on lost and found or to report a lost item, please visit the Police Department website at http://www.mga.edu/police

**Nondiscrimination**

Middle Georgia State University is committed to ensuring a safe learning environment that supports the dignity of all members of the University community. Pursuant to Section 4.1.7 of the Policy Manual of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (BOR), federal and state laws and regulations, and our vision, mission, and values, Middle Georgia State University does not discriminate on the basis of sex or gender in any of its education or employment programs and activities. Moreover, Middle Georgia State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Educational and Employment Opportunity institution. Factors of race, national origin, color, sex, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, or disability are not considered in the admission or treatment of students or in employment. To that end, University policy prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate federal and state laws and regulations, including but not limited to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent executive orders, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

For questions and issues concerning equal opportunity and compliance, please contact:

Complaints of Sex or Gender Discrimination (including allegations of sexual harassment or sexual misconduct)
Title IX Coordinator & Chair of the Title IX Working Group
Jenia Bacote, J.D., Director of Diversity, Inclusion, & Equity/Title IX Coordinator
Middle Georgia State University
Phone: 478-471-2472
E-Mail: titleix@mga.edu

Nondiscrimination of Students, Employees, and Applicants (issues of discrimination generally)
Chair of the Nondiscrimination Working Group
Frances Marine Davis, University Counsel & Campus Affairs
ORIENTATION PROGRAM
Orientation is required for all new and transfer students attending Middle Georgia State University. Orientation is designed to provide essential information about academic programs and requirements, student organizations and activities, and the wide range of campus resources, both academic and non-academic, available to students. Most of all, orientation is intended to help new students connect with the campus community, to register for classes and to be well prepared for success.

Students may visit www.mga.edu/orientation to learn more about the orientation schedule and sign up for the session they wish to attend. For more information, please call the Orientation Office at (478) 275-6643.

PARKING REGULATIONS
In the interest of safe and courteous operation of motor vehicles, the University strictly enforces its traffic regulations on all campuses. It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with these regulations, as he/she shall be held accountable for any infractions. In addition, violators can be issued a state traffic summons that will require appearance before a county’s State Court System. The complete parking policy can be viewed at http://www.mga.edu/police/parking.aspx.

POSTING AND PUBLICITY
All publicity and promotional material for on- and off-campus events and activities, including but not limited to, posters, notices, and banners must be approved by the following offices:
Macon Campus – Offices of Student Life or Recreation & Wellness
Cochran Campus – Office of Student Life or Recreation & Wellness
Dublin Campus – Office of Student Services
Eastman Campus – Office of Student Services
Warner Robins Campus - Office of Student Life

Material must carry the office’s approved stamp before being posted. All publicity and promotional material should be presented to the appropriate office for approval at least two weeks in advance and must carry the name of the sponsoring organization or individual responsible for the event or activity, as well as the date(s), time(s), location(s), and contact information, either phone number or email address. Signs and flyers should not contain lewd or offensive words, symbols, or pictures. All approved materials must be posted in approved locations and removed after the event is over. A listing of approved locations is available. Any material posted in unapproved locations (i.e. glass doorways, painted or wooden surfaces), not bearing the approved stamp, or otherwise not in compliance with these regulations will be removed.

PRINTING, STUDENT
All students enrolled at MGA must pay a technology fee of $46 per semester. This fee is used to support technology improvements and/or upgrades on campus and to provide students an allotment of 300 free prints tied to their network login for printing at on campus computer labs and in the library. The cost per page for additional printing is $0.10 for black and white and $0.50 for color. Additional printing can be purchased at the library, if needed.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT & MISCONDUCT
Newly Updated: April 20, 2016
Effective Date: July 1, 2016
Middle Georgia State University is committed to ensuring a safe learning environment that supports the dignity of all members of the University community. Pursuant to Section 4.1.7 of the Policy Manual of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (BOR), federal and state laws and regulations, and our vision, mission, and values, Middle Georgia State University does not discriminate on the basis of sex or gender in any of its education or employment programs and activities. To that end, this policy prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

1.3.6.1 Sexual Harassment

Middle Georgia State University strictly prohibits employees from engaging in offensive or inappropriate sexual and/or sexually harassing behavior at work. All employees are personally responsible for ensuring that the workplace is free from sexual harassment.

Employees seeking additional information concerning the Sexual Harassment Policy of Middle Georgia State University are encouraged to contact the Department of Human Resources or the Title IX Working Group.

1.3.6.1.1 Unacceptable Behavior

The following behavior is specifically prohibited:

- Unwelcome sexual advances or request for sexual favors.
- Any conduct that threatens or insinuates that submission to or rejection of sexual advances will influence any aspect of employment.
- Conduct that interferes with an employee’s ability to do his/her job.
- Conduct that creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.
- Other sexual harassing behavior including, but not limited to, comments about an individual’s body, sexually degrading words to describe an individual, off-color jokes or language, innuendos, and materials that are sexually suggestive.

Sexual harassment will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

1.3.6.2 Sexual Harassment & Misconduct Training

Middle Georgia State University provides annual training to students, faculty, and staff. Details regarding training are described in Section 8.5.2 of the University Policy Manual.

1.3.6.3 Sexual Misconduct

Middle Georgia State University will not tolerate sexual misconduct, which is prohibited, and which includes, but is not limited to, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, and stalking. The University further strongly encourages members of the University community to report instances of sexual misconduct promptly. These policies and procedures are intended to ensure that all parties involved receive appropriate support and fair treatment, and that allegations of sexual misconduct are handled in a prompt, thorough and equitable manner.

Prevention is one of the primary mechanisms used to reduce incidents of sexual violence on campus. To that end, Middle Georgia State University provides prevention tools and conducts ongoing awareness and prevention programming and training for the campus community including students, faculty, and staff, including but not limited to the mandatory training described in Section 8.5.2 of the University Policy Manual. Such programs are designed to stop sexual violence through the promotion of positive and healthy behaviors. Programming will educate the campus community on sexual harassment, consent, sexual assault, alcohol use, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, bystander intervention, and reporting.

1.3.6.3.1 Definitions and Prohibited Conduct

**Community:** Students, faculty and staff, as well as contractors, vendors, visitors, and guests at Middle Georgia State University.

**Complainant:** An individual lodging a complaint. The complainant may not always be the alleged victim.

**Consent:** Words or actions that show a knowing and voluntary willingness to engage in mutually agreed-upon sexual activity. Consent cannot be gained by force, intimidation or coercion, by ignoring or acting in
spite of objections of another, or by taking advantage of the incapacitation of another, where the respondent knows or reasonably should have known of such incapacitation. Consent is also absent when the activity in question exceeds the scope of consent previously given. Past consent does not imply present or future consent. Silence or an absence of resistance does not imply consent. Minors under the age of 16 cannot legally consent under Georgia law.

**Dating Violence:** Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the alleged victim.

**Domestic Violence:** Violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the alleged victim, by a person with whom the alleged victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabiting with or has cohabited with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the alleged victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

**Incapacitation:** The physical and/or mental inability to make informed, rational judgments, and can result from mental disability, sleep, involuntary physical restraint, or from intentional or unintentional taking of alcohol and/or other drugs. Whether someone is incapacitated is to be judged from the perspective of an objectively reasonable person.

**Non-consensual Sexual Contact:** An intentional sexual touching upon a person, without consent or where the person is incapacitated, and/or by force, by another person or with any object. Sexual contact includes but is not limited to, intentional contact with the breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals, or touching another with these body parts, or making another touch the alleged victim or themselves with or on any of these body parts.

**Privileged Employees:** Individuals employed by the institution to whom a complainant or alleged victim may talk in confidence, as provided by law. Disclosure to these employees will not automatically trigger an investigation against the complainant’s or alleged victim’s wishes. Privileged Employees include those providing counseling, advocacy, health, mental health, or sexual-assault related services (e.g., sexual assault resource centers, campus health centers, pastoral counselors, and campus mental health centers) or as otherwise provided by applicable law. Exceptions to confidentiality exist where the conduct involves suspected abuse of a minor (in Georgia, under the age of 18) or otherwise provided by law, such as imminent threat of serious harm. Further, Privileged Employees must still submit anonymous statistical information for Clery Act purposes.

**Respondent:** Individual who is accused to have engaged in conduct that violates this Policy.

**Responsible Employees:** Those employees who must promptly and fully report complaints of or information regarding sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Responsible Employees include any administrator, supervisor, faculty member, or other person in a position of authority who is not a Privileged Employee. Student employees who serve in a supervisory, advisory, or managerial role are in a position of authority for purposes of this Policy (e.g., teaching assistants, residential assistants, student managers, orientation leaders, etc.). Responsible Employees are not required to report information disclosed at public awareness events (e.g., “Take Back the Night,” candlelight vigils, protests, “survivor speak-outs” or other public forums in which students may disclose incidents of prohibited conduct).

**Sexual Assault:** An umbrella term referring to a range of nonconsensual sexual contact, which can occur in many forms including but not limited to rape and sexual battery.

**Sexual Exploitation:** “Sexual Exploitation” occurs when an individual takes non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for his or her own advantage or benefit, or to the benefit or advantage of anyone other than the one being exploited. Examples of sexual exploitation may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Invasion of sexual privacy;
2. Prostituting another individual;
3. Non-consensual video or audio of sexual activity;
4. Non-consensual distribution of video or audio of sexual activity, even if the sexual activity or video or audio taken of sexual activity was consensual;
5. Intentional observation of unconsenting individuals who are partially undressed, naked, or engaged in sexual acts;
6. Knowingly transmitting an STD or HIV to another individual;
7. Intentionally and inappropriately exposing one’s breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals in non-consensual circumstances; and/or
8. Sexually-based bullying.

**Sexual Harassment:** Unwelcome verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct, based on sex or gender stereotypes, that is included in Section 1.3.6.1 above and/or: is implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of employment or status in a course, program, or activity; is a basis for employment/educational decisions; or has the purpose or effect of interfering with one’s work or educational performance creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or learning environment, or interfering with or limiting one’s ability to participate in or benefit from an institutional program or activity.

**Stalking:** Engaging in a course of conduct directed toward another person based upon sex that would cause a reasonable person (i) to fear for his or her safety or the safety of immediate family members or close acquaintances, or (ii) to suffer substantial emotional distress.

### 1.3.6.3.2 Reporting Sexual Misconduct

A complainant of sexual misconduct can choose among several reporting options at Middle Georgia State University: filing a criminal complaint with University Police; filing an administrative report with the institution; or filing an anonymous report at their institution. These processes are detailed below. An individual who believes he/she is a victim of sexual misconduct is encouraged to report allegations of sexual misconduct promptly.

**Institutional Reports**

Complainants of sexual misconduct who wish to file a report with the institution should notify a Responsible Employee or the Title IX Coordinator. Responsible Employees informed about sexual misconduct allegations involving any student must notify the Title IX Coordinator as soon as practicable. Responsible Employees should not attempt to resolve the situation, but must notify and report all relevant information to the Title IX Coordinator. Privileged Employees are not bound by this requirement but may, consistent with their ethical and legal obligations, be required to report limited information about incidents without revealing the identities of the individuals involved to the Title IX Coordinator. All members of the University community are encouraged to report incidents of sexual misconduct promptly.

The Title IX Coordinator’s contact information (available on the [Campus Safety webpage](#)) is as follows:

TBD (position currently vacant)
Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX Coordinator
Office of Human Resources
478.471.2700
Frances Marine Davis, JD
University Counsel & Campus Affairs (acting Title IX Coordinator)
Office of the President
478.471.2472
titleix@mga.edu

Deputy Title IX Coordinators, to whom reports may be made as well, are as follows:

Dr. Andre Nicholson
Assistant Professor of New Media and Communication
Department of Media, Culture & the Arts
College of Arts & Sciences
Deputy Title IX Coordinator
478.471.5789

Ms. Vicky Smith
Interim Executive Director of Human Resources
Office of Human Resources, Division of Finance & Operations
Acting Deputy Title IX Coordinator
478.471.2010
Complaints should include as much information as possible – that is: (1) the type of sexual misconduct experienced; (2) the name of the respondent; (3) the date(s), time(s), and place(s) of the sexual misconduct; (4) the name(s) of any individual(s) with knowledge of the incident; (5) whether any tangible evidence has been preserved; and (6) whether a criminal complaint has been made.

Information from complaints will be shared only as necessary to investigate and to resolve the alleged sexual misconduct. Complaints will be investigated and resolved as outlined below.

The Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator, will also assess the need for and institute interim measures as described below as appropriate and where reasonable, as well as work with University Police to determine the need to issue a broader warning to the community in compliance with the Clery Act or to report activity to the authorities.

Institutional reports will be investigated and adjudicated separately from any criminal complaints.

1. **Confidentiality:** Where a complainant or alleged victim requests that his or her identity be withheld or the allegation(s) not be investigated, the institutions should consider, through the Title IX Coordinator, whether this request can be honored while still providing a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for the institution. Honoring the request may limit the institution’s ability to respond fully to the incident and may limit the institution’s ability to discipline the respondent.

2. **Retaliation:** Anyone who, in good faith, reports what she or he believes to be misconduct under this Policy, or who participates or cooperates in, or is otherwise associated with any investigation, shall not be subjected to retaliation. Anyone who believes he or she has been the target of retaliation for reporting, participating or cooperating in, or otherwise being associated with an investigation should immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator for the institution. Any person found to have engaged in retaliation in violation of this Policy shall be subject to disciplinary action.

3. **False Complaints:** Individuals are prohibited from intentionally giving false statements to an institution official. Any person found to have intentionally submitted false complaints, accusations, or statements, including during a hearing, in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action.

4. **Amnesty:** Individuals should be encouraged to come forward and to report sexual misconduct notwithstanding their choice to consume alcohol or to use drugs. Information reported by an individual during an investigation concerning use of drugs or alcohol will not be used against the particular individual in a disciplinary proceeding or voluntarily reported to law enforcement; however, individuals may be provided with resources on drug and alcohol counseling and/or education, as appropriate.

**Law Enforcement Reports**

Because sexual misconduct may constitute criminal activity, a complainant also has the option, should he or she so choose, of filing a report with campus or local police, for his or her own protection and that of the surrounding community. Contacts for police at Middle Georgia State University are as follows:

- Macon Campus, including the Macon Downtown Airport: 478.471.2414
- Cochran Campus: 478.934.3002
- Dublin Campus: 478.275.7751
Complainants considering filing a report of sexual misconduct with law enforcement should preserve any evidence of sexual misconduct, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Clothing worn during the incident including undergarments;
2. Sheets, bedding, and condoms, if used;
3. Lists of witnesses with contact information;
4. Text messages, call history, social media posts;
5. Pictures of injuries; and/or

Anonymous Reports

Any individual who wishes to report an incident of alleged sexual misconduct anonymously, may do so by contacting the Middle Georgia State University Counseling Services and asking to speak to:

Ms. Ruth Hagemann
Licensed Professional Counselor
Title IX Investigator
478.471.2985

1.3.6.3.3 Interim Protective Measures

The Title IX Coordinator or his/her designee may impose interim protective measures before the final outcome of an investigation and until final resolution of the allegations, if failure to take the interim measures would constitute an immediate threat to the safety and well-being of the alleged victim or other members of the University community, or to ensure equal access to the University’s education programs and activities. Before any such measures are instituted, however, the Title IX Coordinator should, where practicable, provide the respondent with an initial opportunity to respond to the allegations and to the imposition of any interim protective measures specifically.

Imposing interim protective measures does not indicate that a violation of this Policy has occurred, and is designed to protect the alleged victim and community, and not to harm the respondent. To the extent interim measures are imposed, they should minimize the burden on both the alleged victim and the respondent, where feasible. Interim measures may include, but are not limited to:

1. Change of housing assignment;
2. Issuance of a “no contact” directive;
3. Restrictions or bars to entering certain institution property;
4. Changes to academic or employment arrangements, schedules, or supervision;
5. Interim suspension; and
6. Other measures designed to promote the safety and well-being of the parties and the institution’s community.

An interim suspension should only occur where necessary to maintain safety, and should be limited to those situations where the respondent poses a serious and immediate danger or threat to persons or property. In making such an assessment, the University should consider the existence of a significant risk to the health or safety of the alleged victim or the campus community, the nature, duration, and severity of the risk, the probability of potential injury, and whether less restrictive means can be used to significantly mitigate the risk.

Before an interim suspension is issued, the University will make all reasonable efforts to give the respondent the opportunity to be heard on whether his or her presence on campus poses a danger. If an interim suspension is issued, the terms of the suspension take effect immediately. When requested by the respondent, a hearing to determine whether the intermediate suspension should continue will be held within three (3) business days of the request.
1.3.6.3.4 Support Services

Once an individual makes a complaint, or receives notice that a complaint has been made against him or her, that individual should receive information about support services, such as counseling, advocacy, housing assistance, academic support, disability services, health and mental services, and legal assistance, as is available at their respective institutions.

Available support services at Middle Georgia State University, which are also listed on the institution’s Campus Safety webpage, include:

- The Middle Georgia State University Counseling Services, which is available to students during office hours at 478.471.2985 or 478.934.3092;
- Crisis Line of Macon & Bibb County, a 24-hour emergency number to reach the county’s Rape Crisis Team at 478.745.9292; and
- Crisis Line for Bleckley, Dodge and Laurens Counties, a 24-hour emergency number to reach the WINGS Rape Crisis Team at 478.272.8000.

In the event a medical examination is required to preserve evidence of rape or sexual assault, such examination would be necessary immediately after the incident, and prior to any change in the body of the victim by washing or elimination of fluids. If the Middle Georgia State University Health Clinics are not open immediately after an incident, the University will make every effort to help arrange for medical examination and treatment off campus, with the cooperation of the victim. Hours and contact information for the Middle Georgia State University Health Clinics, available when classes are in session, are available on the clinics’ webpage.

1.3.6.3.5 Process for Investigating and Resolving Institutional Reports

Jurisdiction: The University will take necessary and appropriate action to protect the safety and well-being of its community. Accordingly, sexual misconduct perpetrated against students by University students, faculty, or staff will be addressed whenever such acts occur on a campus, in connection with an institution’s program or activity, or in a manner that creates a hostile environment for members of the institution community. Further, the policy is applicable to all University System of Georgia students, faculty, and staff, as well as contractors, vendors, visitors, guests or other third parties.

Advisors: Both the alleged victim and respondent, as parties to the matter, shall have the opportunity to use an advisor (including an attorney) of his/her choosing for the express purpose of providing advice and counsel at his/her own expense. The selected advisor shall not otherwise be a party or witness involved in the investigation. The advisor may be present during any meetings and proceedings involved in the investigatory or resolution process in which the advisee is also eligible to be present. The advisor may advise the advisee, including providing questions, suggestions, advice on the proceedings, and guidance on responses to any questions of the participant, but shall not participate directly. The institution shall not prohibit family members of any party from attending if the party requests such attendance, but may limit the number to two family members.

Timeframe: Reasonable efforts will be made to complete the investigation and resolution within 60 calendar days of the initial complaint, though a longer period of time may be needed in some cases. The Title IX Coordinator will notify the respondent and the alleged victim, in writing, of any extension of this timeframe.

Investigations:

1. The Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator is primarily responsible for directly overseeing the investigation and resolution of complaints, and coordinating possible remedial actions or other responses reasonably designed to minimize the recurrence of the alleged conduct as well as mitigate the effects of any misconduct. The Title IX Coordinator will ensure prompt, fair, and impartial investigations and resolutions of complaints alleging violations of the sexual misconduct policy. The Title IX Coordinator shall be responsible for ensuring any individual participating in the investigation, resolution, or appeal of any sexual misconduct case has received regular training on issues pertaining to sexual misconduct.

2. If the facts, as alleged, could warrant sanctions under this policy, the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator shall designate an investigator to conduct a prompt, thorough, and impartial investigation into each complaint received. The investigation shall consist of interviews of the
complainant, alleged victim, respondent, and witnesses, and the collection and review of documents 
or other physical or electronic information, as well as other steps, as appropriate.
3. Unrelated charges and cases shall be investigated separately, unless the respondent consents to 
having them aggregated.
4. The respondent shall be provided with written notice of the complaint, pending investigation, 
possible charges, possible sanctions, and available support services. The notice should also include 
the identity of the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator and any investigator(s) involved. 
Notice shall be provided via University email. If confirmation of receipt is not received by the Title 
IX Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator, or the investigator, the Title IX Coordinator, Deputy 
Coordinator, or the investigator shall engage in other measures to ensure notice is received by the 
respondent. A copy shall also be provided to the alleged victim via the same means.
5. The designated investigator will timely begin the investigation and will schedule an initial interview 
with the complainant, alleged victim, respondent and any known relevant witnesses. The 
investigator should retain written notes and/or obtain written or recorded statements from each 
interview. The investigator shall also keep a record of any proffered witnesses not interviewed, 
along with a brief, written explanation.
6. Each party shall have three (3) business days to submit a written statement to supplement the notice 
of complaint and the verbal interview. In that response, the respondent shall have the right to admit 
or to deny the allegations, and to set forth a defense with facts, witnesses, and documents – whether 
written or electronic – in support. If respondent has not otherwise responded, a non-written response 
will be considered a general denial of the alleged misconduct.
7. Based on this response and other relevant information, the investigator shall continue to interview 
witnesses for both sides, to re-interview parties where necessary, and to collect and review 
documents or other physical or electronic information, as well as other steps, as appropriate.
8. Where the respondent is a student, the respondent has the right to remain silent during the 
investigation and resolution process, without an automatic adverse inference resulting. If the 
respondent chooses to remain silent, the investigation may ultimately still proceed and policy 
violation charges may still result, which may be resolved against the respondent.
9. The respondent and/or alleged victim may challenge the participation of the investigator on the 
grounds of personal bias by submitting a written statement to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy 
Coordinator setting forth the basis for the challenge no later than three (3) business days after the 
party reasonably should have known of the bias. The Title IX Coordinator will determine whether 
to sustain or deny the challenge, and if sustained, to appoint a replacement.
10. At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator will issue to the parties a written report setting 
forth charges and possible sanctions, as well as an explanation of the evidence against the 
respondent.
11. The parties shall have at least three (3) business days to respond to the report in writing. The 
respondent’s written response should outline his or her plea in response to the charge(s), and where 
applicable, his or her defense(s), and the facts, witnesses, and documents – whether written or 
 electronic – in support.
12. The investigator shall, as necessary, conduct further investigation and update the report as warranted 
by the response(s), and will update the report as necessary.
13. Upon completion of the investigation, the investigator will review the evidence with the Title IX 
Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator will ensure 
policies have been followed.
14. The Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator will contact the alleged victim(s) and the 
respondent(s) and schedule an opportunity to meet with each party individually. During these 
meetings, the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator shall review the report with the parties 
(individually). Should the report be acceptable to all parties, an informal resolution may be made, 
which would not require the parties to move to the hearing phase of these procedures. If, however, 
the parties agree on the conduct, but not on the sanctions, then the sanctions shall be addressed by 
the hearing panel.
15. Allegations of sexual misconduct involving a student that are brought against an institution’s faculty 
or staff will be investigated as outlined above, but will be further addressed and/or resolved through 
the institution’s applicable employment policies, and in accordance with the procedures for 
dismissal outlined in the Board of Regents Policy including procedures for appealing such decisions.
16. Where the respondent(s) is a student, a hearing, as well as corresponding procedures/rights to appeal, 
shall be set and administered as set forth below, and a final report shall be provided to all parties, 
which will also provide a date, time, and location for a hearing on the matter.
17. The final report should also be provided to the panel for their consideration in adjudicating the charges brought against the respondent. The investigator may testify as a witness before the panel regarding the investigation and findings, but shall otherwise have no part in the hearing process and shall not attempt to otherwise influence the panel outside of providing testimony during the hearing.

Hearings

1. The hearing will be conducted by the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator and/or his/her designee(s). The Panel must be composed of at least three (3) members.
2. The investigator shall not serve on the Panel.
3. No student shall serve on the Panel.
4. Both the alleged victim and respondent shall have the opportunity to present witnesses and evidence to the Panel. Both parties shall have the right to confront any witnesses, including the other party, by submitting written questions to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator and/or his or her designee for consideration. Witness testimony, if provided, shall pertain to knowledge and facts directly associated with the case being heard. Advisors may actively assist in drafting questions. The Panel shall ask the questions as written, and will limit questions only if they are unrelated to determining the veracity of the charge leveled against the respondent(s). In any event, the Panel shall err on the side of asking all submitted questions, and must document the reason for not asking any particular questions.
5. The Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator reserves the right to allow a party to testify in a separate room, when determined to be necessary. Where such a determination is made, special measures must be put in place to ensure no party is unfairly disadvantaged by this procedure. A party must still give testimony in the presence of the Panel, and the opposing party must have the opportunity to view the testimony remotely and to submit follow-up questions.
6. Similarly, where the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator determines that a witness or party necessary to the proceedings is unavailable and unable to be present due to exigent circumstances (e.g., on a study abroad program, medical restrictions on travel, etc.), he or she may establish special procedures for providing testimony from a separate location. In doing so, the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator must determine there is a valid basis for the unavailability, ensure proper sequestration in a manner that ensures the testimony has not been tainted, and make a determination that such an arrangement will not unfairly disadvantage any parties. Should it be reasonably believed that a party or witness who is not physically present has presented tainted testimony to the Panel, the Panel will disregard the testimony of that witness.
7. The standard of review shall be a preponderance of the evidence; however, any decision to suspend or to expel a student must also be supported by substantial evidence at the hearing.
8. The civil rules of evidence do not apply to the investigatory or resolution process.
9. Both the respondent and alleged victim shall be provided a written report via University email of the outcome and any resulting sanctions. The written report must summarize the evidence in support of the sanction. The report should include details on how to appeal, as outlined below.

Possible Sanctions

The severity of sanctions or corrective actions may depend on the severity, frequency and/or nature of the offense, history of past discriminatory, harassing, or retaliatory conduct, the respondent’s willingness to accept responsibility, previous institutional response to similar conduct, and the institution’s interests. The Panel will determine the sanction after review of the investigatory findings.

The broad range of sanctions includes but is not limited to: expulsion; suspension for an identified time frame or until satisfaction of certain conditions, or both; temporary or permanent separation of the parties (e.g., change in classes, reassignment of residence, no contact orders, limiting geography of where parties can go on campus) with additional sanctions for violating orders; required participation in sexual or relationship sensitivity training/awareness education programs; required participation in alcohol and other drug awareness and abuse prevention programs; counseling or mentoring; volunteering/community service; loss of institutional privileges; delays in obtaining administrative services and benefits from the institution (e.g., holding transcripts, delaying registration, graduation, diplomas); additional academic requirements relating to scholarly work or research on sexual misconduct; financial restitution; or any other discretionary sanctions directly related to the violation or conduct.

1.3.6.3.6 Appeals
Parties shall have the right to appeal the outcome on any of the following grounds: (1) to consider new information, sufficient to alter the decision, or other relevant facts not brought out in the original hearing, because such information was not known or knowable to the person appealing during the time of the hearing; (2) to allege a procedural error within the hearing process that may have substantially impacted the fairness of the hearing, including but not limited to whether any hearing questions were improperly excluded or whether the decision was tainted by bias; or (3) to allege that the finding was inconsistent with the weight of the information. Appeals may be made by the alleged offender for the above reasons in any case where sanctions are issued – even those in which such sanctions are held “in abeyance,” such as probationary suspension or expulsion.

The appeal must be made in writing, and must set forth one or more of the bases outlined above, and must be submitted within five (5) business days of the date of the final report.

Where the respondent or alleged victim appealing the outcome is a student, the appeal should be made to the Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee. The appeal shall be a review of the record only, and no new meeting with the respondent or alleged victim will be held. The non-appealing party shall be given the opportunity to respond to the appellant’s submission. The applicable Vice President, or his/her designee, may affirm the original finding and sanction; affirm the original finding but issue a new sanction of greater or lesser severity; remand the case back to the Title IX Coordinator to correct a procedural or factual defect; or reverse or dismiss the case if there was a procedural or factual defect that cannot be remedied by remand. The Vice President or his/her designee shall then issue a decision in writing to both the respondent and alleged victim simultaneously within a reasonable time period.

The decision of the Vice President or his/her designee may be appealed in writing within five (5) business days (as determined by the date of the decision letter) to the President of the University solely on the three grounds set forth above.

The President may affirm the original finding and sanction; affirm the original finding but issue a new sanction of greater or lesser severity; remand the case back to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator to correct a procedural or factual defect; or reverse or dismiss the case if there was a procedural or factual defect that cannot be remedied by remand. The President’s decision shall be issued in writing to both the respondent and alleged victim and shall be issued within a reasonable amount of time. The President’s decision shall be the final decision of the institution.

Should the respondent or alleged victim wish to appeal the President’s decision, he or she may appeal to the Board of Regents in accordance with the Board of Regents Policy 8.6.

1.3.6.3.7 Recusal / Challenge for Bias

Any party may challenge the participation of any institution official or employee in the process on the grounds of personal bias by submitting a written statement to the institution’s designee setting forth the basis for the challenge. The written challenge should be submitted within a reasonable time after the individual reasonably should have known of the existence of the bias. The institution’s designee will determine whether to sustain or deny the challenge, and if sustained, the replacement to be appointed.

1.3.6.4 Middle Georgia State University Campus Sexual Assault Victims’ Bill of Rights

1. The right to have any and all sexual assaults against them treated with seriousness; the right, as victims, to be treated with dignity; and the right for campus organizations that assist such victims to be accorded recognition.

2. The right to have sexual assaults committed against them investigated and adjudicated by the duly constituted criminal and civil authorities of the governmental entity in which the crimes occurred; and the right to the full and prompt cooperation and assistance of campus personnel in notifying the proper authorities. The foregoing shall be in addition to any student conduct proceedings.

3. The right to be free from any kind of pressure from campus personnel that victims not report crimes committed against them to civil and criminal authorities or to campus law enforcement and disciplinary officials; or, report crimes as lesser offenses than the victims perceive them to be.

4. The right to be free from any kind of suggestion that campus sexual assault victims not report, or under-report, crimes because:
5. The same right to legal assistance, or ability to have others present, in any student conduct proceeding that the institution permits to the accused; and the right to be notified of the outcome of such proceeding.

6. The right to full and prompt cooperation from campus personnel in obtaining, securing, and maintaining evidence as may be necessary to the proof of criminal sexual assault in subsequent legal proceedings.

7. The right to be made aware of, and assisted in exercising any options, as provided by State and Federal laws or regulations, with regard to mandatory testing of sexual assault suspects for communicable diseases and with regard to notification to victims of the results of such testing.

8. The right to counseling from any mental health services previously established by the institution, or by other victim-service entities, or by support groups consisting of fellow victims.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER COLLECTION AND USAGE NOTIFICATION
In compliance with section 3.10 of the Board of Regents Academic & Student Affairs Handbook, MGA collects and may use the social security number in performance of the University’s duties and responsibilities for the following purposes: admissions/testing; record identification and verification; classification of accounts; billing and payments; data collection; reconciliation; tracking for outcome data and transition from one education level to the next; benefit processing; tax and scholarship reporting; financial aid processing; athletics recruiting; accreditation of programs; as a condition of employment and employment processing; and reporting to authorized agencies of the state and federal government. To protect identity, MGA will secure all social security numbers from unauthorized access and will assign student and employees a unique identification number and will never release social security numbers to unauthorized parties. The unique identification number is assigned after application used for all associated employment and educational purposes at MGA. All social security numbers are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Students are encouraged to submit their social security numbers as part of their admissions process; however, it is the student’s right to refuse. (Approved Oct 2013 by Student Affairs Committee)

SOLICITING AND SELLING
Soliciting and selling for personal profit are not permitted on campus. Recognized Student Organizations proposing fund-raising projects must first seek approval from the Office of Student Life and comply with the fundraising policies and procedures outlined in the Recognized Student Organization Policies and Procedures Handbook found at http://www.mga.edu/student-life/.

STUDENT E-MAIL
Middle Georgia State University students are provided an e-mail account free of charge. The University considers this account an “official means of communication.” Middle Georgia State University will use this e-mail account to communicate important University-related information. Students are encouraged to check their accounts often.

Student e-mail accounts will remain active for a period of three full academic semesters after the student’s last semester of enrollment. For example, if a student is last enrolled summer semester, his/her student e-mail account will be deleted at the end of the following summer semester. All University information will be sent to this e-mail.

The Knightly News and Inside MGA are sent weekly to all students via e-mail. The Knightly News highlights the events, activities, and notices for all campuses for the week. Inside MGA highlights news and information for faculty, staff, and students.
STUDENT MEDIA
All student media shall be staffed with well-qualified, responsible student leaders and staff members who shall present the news in a balanced manner that follows the best practices of print and broadcast journalism. Student editors are selected by representatives of the Student Media Advisory Board, which shall advise editors on budget processes, production matters, staffing issues, legal questions, and any other topic that ensures the quality of student news and compliance with legal matters that protect the University from libel. The Student Media Handbook shall be reviewed and updated on an annual basis, which is done by the Board. The Fall Line Review (the campus literary magazine) and The Statement (the student newspaper), are staffed by student editors who are free to select the materials to be published without undue criticism or pressure; The Fall Line Review shall have a faculty advisor who works with the student editors and the Board, with the advisor typically a member if the English or Media, Culture, and the Arts Department. The Statement shall have a faculty advisor who works with the student editors and the Board, with the advisor typically a member of the Media, Culture, and the Arts Department. The KnighTVision, television training lab, is not, as such, an open forum; all materials to be aired and/or posted on the website are subject to the review of the Student Media Advisor and/or its faculty advisor.

TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS POLICY
In alignment with USG policy 9.1.7 Middle Georgia State University prohibits the use of tobacco products on any property owned, leased, or controlled by MGA. All faculty, staff, students, visitors, vendors, contractors, and all others are prohibited from using any tobacco products i.e. cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, snuff, pipes, electronic cigarettes, hookahs, or other similar products while on MGA property.

The implementation of this policy is a shared responsibility, which means all students, faculty, and staff share in the responsibility to help keep the campus tobacco-free. Violation of this policy may result in corrective action under the Student Code of Conduct or campus human resource policies. Persons refusing to comply may be asked to leave campus. For further information on the MGA Tobacco Free Campus Policy or the University System of Georgia Tobacco and Smoke-Free Campus Policy go to http://www.mga.edu/tobacco-free/policy.aspx.

TUITION AND FEES
All tuition and fees are due by the deadline published at the following: http://www.mga.edu/bursar/tuition-and-fees.aspx. Registration is not complete until all tuition and fees have been paid.

For the most accurate information regarding tuition and fees go to http://www.mga.edu/bursar/tuition-and-fees.aspx

USE OF LIKENESS FOR PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES
Middle Georgia State University reserves the right to photograph and/or videotape students, faculty, staff and guests while on University property, during University-sponsored events/activities or during events/activities where they are representing Middle Georgia State University. These images and audio may be used by Middle Georgia State University for promotional purposes, including use in the University’s advertisements, magazines, internal and external communication pieces, press releases, recruitment materials, website and social media pages, and other promotional materials. Those preferring not to be included may alert the photographer or communications representative at the event.
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