

## **Classroom Conduct Guideline (Updated January 2011)**

The classroom environment is important to student learning. Creating an optimal classroom environment is a shared responsibility between the instructor and students. The instructor's responsibility is to promote and assist student learning by maintaining a learning environment in the classroom. The learning environments will reflect the University of Missouri's core values, **Respect, Responsibility, Discovery, and Excellence**. The instructor has the responsibility to conduct class in a manner that exemplifies professionalism that supports and maintains an optimal classroom environment. The syllabus for the course is an acknowledged mechanism for an instructor to present his/her expectations on classroom conduct that is appropriate for the course.

Likewise, the students also have responsibilities in maintaining an optimal classroom environment. Student actions may have a positive impact on the classroom environment resulting in improved learning. However, student actions may disrupt the learning environment and can detract from learning. This guideline includes examples of student actions that are conducive to student success and disruptive actions that distract from learning. To protect the classroom environments, guidelines and procedures have been developed with input from students, faculty and administrators. The objective of this guideline is to communicate the standards established by existing MU policies related to classroom conduct.

**Professional conduct** allows all students the opportunity to experience an optimal learning environment. The following list includes examples of professional conduct expected of all students.

- Attendance and punctuality
- Active participation
- Active engagement during class
- Intellectual inquiry
- Being respectful of others who express opinions that differ from your opinions
- Adhering to faculty instructions and requests related to the class.

**Certain actions** can disrupt the learning environment and prevent all students in the class from having the opportunity to experience an optimal learning environment. The list below includes examples of student actions that could obstruct or disrupt teaching.

- Making or receiving cell phone calls during class.
- Using cell phones to read and/or send text messages during class.
- Use of laptops for email, instant message, Facebook, surfing the web, playing games, etc.
- Arriving late or leaving early without valid cause
- Inappropriate and /or loud or disruptive talking. (Classroom conversation should be limited to what is relevant to the class discussion.)

The lists above are not all inclusive. Faculty can add other items to the list specific for students in their class, using the course syllabus or other appropriate communication methods.

**Therefore, students should carefully review the policies outlined in the syllabus for each course and University policies.** The University of Missouri has an existing policy that governs the standard of student conduct. The policy can be viewed at the following links:

<http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/gc/rules/programs/200/010.shtml>

**Standard of Conduct Code B.3. establishes that obstruction or disruption** of teaching, research, conduct proceedings or other University activities is a violation of the current university policy.

**Standard of Conduct Code B.9. establishes that “disruptive or disorderly conduct”** including lewd or obscene conduct or expression is a violation of current university policy.

**Standard of Conduct Code B.10. establishes that failure to comply** with the policies stated in the syllabus is considered a failure to comply with directions of University officials acting in performance of their duties and is a violation of current university policy.

**Violation of these guidelines can lead to sanctions including warnings, probation, loss of privileges, suspension or dismissal as outlined at:**

<http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/gc/rules/programs/200/020.shtml>.

## **FACULTY GUIDELINES**

1. Clearly defined expectations are communicated by the faculty in the course syllabus. Faculty are encouraged to discuss with the class expectations on the first day of class.
2. If a student exhibits disruptive or disorderly conduct that negatively affects the learning environment, the faculty should communicate with the student. The faculty needs to clearly describe the concern and what the student needs to do to resolve the issue. All communication faculty have with students regarding student conduct should be documented.
3. If student conduct creates a serious concern or if student's conduct does not change after faculty has communicated with the student, then the faculty should inform administrative contacts including course administrator (where appropriate), department chair and associate dean. In consultation with appropriate administrator, these cases can also be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.
4. In the event that student conduct or behavior is considered to be potential for immediate harm, call 911.

Contact Information for Office of Student Conduct:

Donell Young  
N229 Memorial Union  
573-882-3621