TEMPORARY University Policy 20-T4: Student Code Health and Safety Violations

Covered Individuals: All Students
Responsible Executive: Vice President for Student Affairs
Policy Custodian: Division of Student Affairs
Last Revised: February 10, 2021
Previous USU Policy Number: Temporary

20-T4.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Utah State University (USU) has adopted numerous health and safety protocols to reduce the possible transmission of the COVID-19 virus. This policy outlines how the various mechanisms USU has created, including the USU Student Code of Conduct (Student Code) and the Disruptive Classroom Policy, may be used to maximize adherence to these protocols by students.

20-T4.2 POLICY

20-T4.2.1 Requirement to Follow Health and Safety Policies and Directives

USU’s Student Code requires all students to comply with federal, state, and local laws and expressly reserves the university’s authority to pursue disciplinary action for violations of law that affect the University’s educational interests. This prohibition applies to all federal, state, and local laws related to COVID-19 prevention and reduction. Similarly, the Student Code prohibits misconduct that interferes with University functions or threaten the well-being and the educational purposes of students.

Consistent with the Student Code’s intent to prohibit conduct that endangers the health and well-being of the university community or interferes with the university’s operations, the following conduct is prohibited and subject to disciplinary action:

- Failing to comply with any directives and/or directions of University officials, including instructors, regarding health or safety practices and procedures, and the safe use of university equipment.
- Conduct that intentionally or recklessly threatens or endangers the health and/or safety of any person.
20-T4.2.2 Reporting Violations

Faculty, staff, and other members of the USU community who identify a student who is not complying with USU’s COVID-19 directives, will refer the student to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (Student Conduct) using this Maxient form. Upon receipt of the completed form, Student Conduct will contact the student about the reported violation.

20-T4.2.3 Due Process

As with all Student Code violations, a student accused of violating health and safety policies will be afforded the appropriate level of due process, including receiving timely notification of the violation and an opportunity to evaluate the evidence and respond to the alleged violation. The student will also be allowed to appeal a consequence or sanction, but they will not be allowed to attend in-person classes or activities before the appeal process is complete, unless permission to do so is obtained from Student Conduct.

20-T4.2.4 Consequences and Sanctions

Student Conduct will determine and impose the appropriate consequence or sanction for the violation. The sanction determination will be guided by education and personal betterment and will be informed by Student Conduct’s guidelines for COVID-19 violations. Each violation of a COVID-19 directive or policy will be evaluated independently taking into consideration the circumstances of the violation and all aggravating and mitigating factors.

20-T4.3 TERM

This is a temporary policy created to address an emergency situation. This policy will be reviewed on or before August 15, 2021 and will expire on December 31, 2021. USU reserves the right to rescind, retire, or modify this policy at any time, with or without notice, as deemed necessary and appropriate by the president and the USU COVID-19 Action Committee.