



**CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
POLICY NO: 1407**

EXCLUSION OF STUDENTS FROM CLASS

I. Introduction

Both students and faculty share the responsibility of maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students are expected to adhere to behavioral standards, and any deviations may lead to disciplinary actions. Faculty members have the professional duty to treat students with understanding, dignity, and respect, to guide classroom discussions, to set reasonable limits on the expression of opinions, and to intervene when a student's behavior is inhibiting the classroom environment in all modalities (i.e. face-to-face, hybrid, online synchronous, etc.). Disruptive behavior in academic settings hinders the educational process. While such conduct is addressed under the CSU Executive Orders and the CPP Student Conduct Code, this policy aims to clarify what constitutes disruptive behavior in academic settings, outline the actions faculty and relevant Department Chairs, and/or Associate Deans should take in response, and define the scope and authority of the Office of Student Conduct & Integrity to initiate disciplinary proceedings against students for disruptive conduct.

II. What Constitutes Disruption?

"Disruption" in an academic setting refers to behavior that a reasonable faculty member would view as interfering with normal academic functions. According to the Student Conduct Code, prohibited student conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Willful, material and substantial disruption or obstruction of a university-related activity, or any on-campus activity (e.g. disregarding classroom and/or laboratory safety).
- Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University or infringes on the rights of members of the University community.
- Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person within or related to the University community, including physical abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, or sexual misconduct.
- Failure to comply with directions or, or interference with, any University official or any public safety officer while acting in the performance of his/her duties.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Persistently speaking without being recognized or interrupting other speakers.
- Behavior that distracts the class from the subject matter or discussion such as having side conversation with peers, making comments that are not on topic, or creating excessive noise doing activities unrelated to the course content and activities.
- In extreme cases, physical threats, harassing behavior, insults directed at a specific individual, or refusal to comply with faculty direction.

Civil expression of disagreement with the course instructor, during times when discussion is permitted, is not considered disruptive behavior and is not prohibited.

It is important to note that some disruptive students may have emotional or mental health



challenges. While such students may be considered as having a disability and are protected under the Rehabilitation Act/ADA, they are held to the same standards of conduct as any student regardless of disability status.

Students are required to adhere to the behavior standards outlined in the Student Conduct Code and to refrain from disrupting classes and other academic settings.

III. Policy

1. When possible, instructors should first discuss behavioral concerns privately with the student. This initial conversation allows instructors to clarify behavioral expectations and provides students an opportunity to explain their behavior.

2. If a student is disruptive, the faculty member should ask the student to cease the disruptive behavior and warn that such behavior can result in academic or disciplinary action. If the behavior persists, direct the student to leave the room for the remainder of the class session.

Although permanent removal from a class requires initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings through the Office of Student Conduct & Integrity, faculty can remove a student from a single class when necessary to end a seriously disruptive or threatening situation.

3. If a faculty member determines it is appropriate to ask a student to leave the classroom, the faculty member shall file a Non-Academic Misconduct Incident Report with the Office of Student Conduct & Integrity and inform the Department Chair, Program Director and/or the Associate Dean of the College (as determined by the College) within 24 hours. The Office of Student Conduct & Integrity will follow up with the reporting faculty member to collaborate on a response and discuss next steps in the process.

4. If the student refuses to leave, the faculty member may adjourn the class.

5. If a student's behavior warrants an immediate threat to health and safety, faculty should contact University Police immediately by calling 911 or 909-869-3070. Faculty should recognize that, pending the investigation by Student Conduct, any and all impacts to students' grade can be subject to an appeal.

IV. Documentation

Faculty/Instructors should maintain detailed notes of incidents of disruption, including dates, times, witnesses, specifics of the disruptive behavior, and the impact on those present. Such documentation is crucial for any future proceedings. Referrals to the Office of Student Conduct & Integrity require written documentation containing factual and descriptive information. When submitting the incident report, keep in mind the student is entitled to access this documentation so all details should be kept objective and factual.

This policy aligns with CPP's commitment to maintaining a safe and productive educational environment, as outlined in the Student Conduct Code and related university policies.