

Facilitating Student Achievement of Ethical Understanding

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Context

The student conduct process begins when alleged charges are filed against a student. He/she is then called into a student conduct conference meeting with the Director of Judicial Affairs to discuss the student conduct violation. The Judicial Affairs Office has the duty to provide adequate information for students to be aware of their violation and have the opportunity to reflect on it prior to coming into the office. Once in the meeting, the environment is one of equality and respect. The Director listens with respect and discusses ethical considerations and potential sanctions.

Ethical Understanding

The Judicial Affairs Office helps students achieve the University's Learning Outcome, *Ethical Understanding*. **Students who have gone through the student conduct process will be able to understand and apply ethical considerations, as demonstrated by 1.) verbal articulation in student conduct meeting and 2.) pre and post survey results.** The data gathered will measure student ability to understand the severity and consequences of their actions, and the effect that their actions have on their future and on other members of our community. It is our goal that students come out of the student conduct process with an understanding and ability to apply ethical considerations in their future decisions and behavior.

Methodology

1.) Verbal articulation - Every student must articulate an understanding of the policy they violated, the ethical considerations, and the proposed sanctions before leaving the meeting.

2.) Pre and post survey results - A paper survey helps confirm in writing what the students shared verbally with the Director during the student conduct meeting. Pre and post survey data shows the relationship between the student's ethical understanding and the student conduct meeting.

The surveys include the following two statements:

- 1. I understand why I am being referred to Judicial Affairs.**
- 2. The outcome and sanction I was offered is fair.**

Results

When students answer the first statement, **"I understand why I am being referred to Judicial Affairs."** prior to meeting with the Director, it provides our office with information indicating whether or not they understand the unethical behavior they are being charged with.

37 students responded to the survey, four of which did not address the post-survey questions. These four surveys were omitted from the results. Based on the remaining 33 responses, 97% (32) of the students understood why they were being referred to Judicial Affairs both before and after the student conduct meeting.

This second statement, **"The outcome and sanction I was offered is fair"**, will indicate whether or not students choose to take responsibility for their actions. If a student agrees that their outcome was fair, they have taken responsibility, indicating an understanding that ethical considerations were violated by their behavior.

91% (30) of the 33 Post survey respondents stated that the outcome of their student conduct meeting was fair. Some responses included:

"My sanctions allow me to reflect on what I've done and learn."

"I understand the conditions and will make sure it does not happen again."

Most students indicate that they believe the outcome and sanction they were offered was fair. To improve the post survey, we will add a question that asks students to more carefully reflect on their ethical understanding, in addition to reflecting on the fairness of the sanction.