

Learning to take responsibility: Overcoming Student Conduct Violations

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Learning Objective

After participation in the judicial affairs process, students will be able to **understand** the policy(ies) they violated and how their actions impact their status and ability to be successful at the university. They will **describe** the impact of their behavior on the campus community.

Purpose

Students that violate the student conduct code are called into a judicial meeting with the director to discuss the student conduct code violation. During this meeting, the environment is one of equality and respect. The director researches the case, listens to both sides of the situation, and takes into account all necessary factors before offering the student a Settlement Agreement. This Settlement Agreement outlines the outcome of the meeting including the sanctions and terms the student must abide by to avoid additional violations. Students need to fully understand the consequences of their actions and need to be able to articulate why it is in their best interest to avoid future violations.

Methodology

Students were asked to articulate the consequences of their actions and why it is in their best interest to avoid future violations during the judicial meeting. In addition, students were sanctioned to create an Action Plan that addresses their student conduct code violation. This action plan included three sections: "1. How your violation affects you and the campus community, 2. What steps should you take to avoid these student conduct violations in the future, and 3. Why it is in your best interest to abide by your action plan."

Findings

After reviewing the Action Plans that students turned in, we realized that student responses showed an understanding of the effects of their actions on other students and their community, but were missing the understanding of how they violated campus policy and what the consequences of those actions meant for their future.

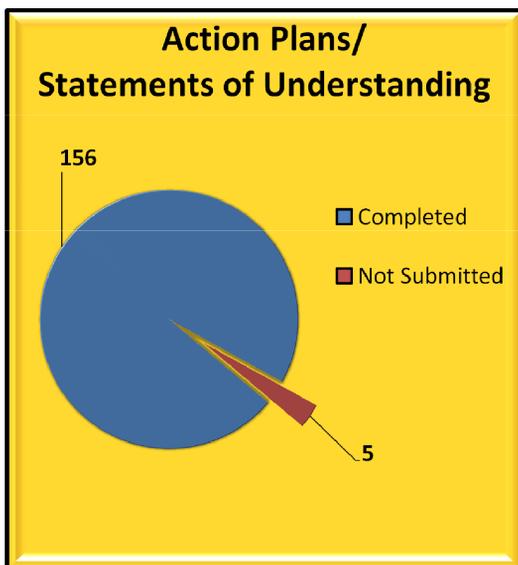
In addition, the length of the responses showed that the students took the Action Plan seriously and spent time and effort to complete it, but did not directly answer the violation and consequence sections in their Action Plan.

Changes to Methodology

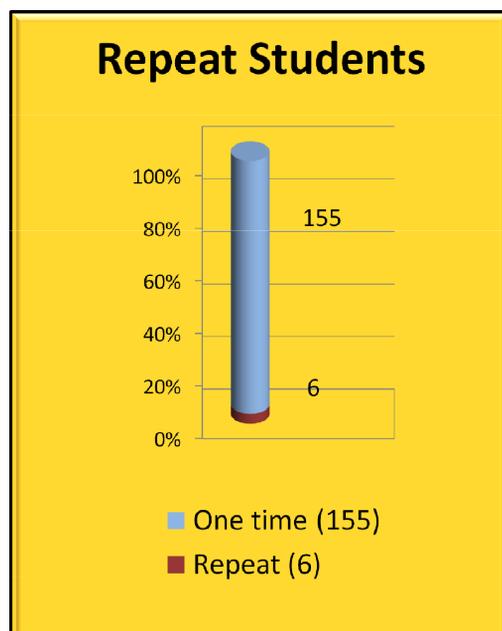
The prompt was changed from an Action Plan to a Statement of Understanding in order to provide more focus on the violation and consequences of the student's actions (below). The learning objective was shortened to focus only on student conduct code violations and the impact of these violations on their success at the university, and not on the impact of their actions on the campus community.

Students whose responses do not meet the requirements of the Statement of Understanding are asked to resubmit it. The Director for Judicial Affairs is available for those students who need help in better understanding their Settlement Agreement and/or Statement of Understanding.

2007-2009 Results



Out of 161 sanctions assigned, 156 were completed. Only five were not submitted. Students that do not submit a completed sanction have a hold placed on their record as a result.



Out of 161 cases, only six were referred to Judicial Affairs for a second time, resulting in a 96% success rate.

Original Sanction: Action Plan

Create an action plan to address your student conduct code violation. This action plan must include: 1. How your violation affects you and the campus community, 2. What steps should you take to avoid these student conduct violations in the future, and 3. Why is it in your best interest to abide by your action plan.

Improved Sanction: Statement of Understanding

Write a statement of understanding which includes:

- Describe your student conduct code violation
- Articulate the outcome of the judicial meeting
- Explain why it is in your best interest to adhere to the conditions of the Settlement Agreement to avoid additional violations and to be successful at the university

2009-10 Next Steps

Our next step is to track students for a minimum of five years and measure student learning and success in their academic career by showing low numbers of repeat student conduct code violations.