

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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WPI Campus Code of Conduct

1. To balance rights and responsibilities within the WPI community, there follows the Trustees' Policy Statement of June 8, 1968:
 - A. We desire to protect the integrity and benefits of individual academic achievement, for these are vital to the academic life and institutional excellence of a university.
 - B. We desire that no WPI community members shall be subjected to improper duress, deprivation, or diminution of their person, their property, their dignity, or that peace of mind reasonably necessary for the pursuit of learning and personal growth.
 - C. We desire that the goals of WPI, its property, and its educational process be neither infringed upon nor hindered.
 - D. We desire to prevent the spread of behavior and practices that alone and in themselves appear tolerable, but that when widespread or repeated may threaten to undermine the morale, trust and good faith necessary in an academic community.
 - E. We desire to guarantee campus privacy without sanctuary and individual rights and privileges without license.
 - F. Students' responsibilities as citizens require that they conform to the laws of the commonwealth. WPI will not provide sanctuary for those students who violate their citizenship obligations. At the same time, WPI is concerned with students' rights as citizens to equal protection under the law.
2. To achieve these goals the WPI community subscribes to certain constraints upon individual behavior. Without infringing upon any of the basic rights and freedoms guaranteed within the general American society, the WPI community recognizes that membership in this particular academic community is freely sought and freely granted by and to its members, and that within this membership group certain specific behaviors that may be accepted by society in general cannot be accepted within an academic community without hindering the explicit goals of that academic community. The WPI code of conduct is guided by the spirit of these goals and any person who is accused of violating this code is entitled to the rights and procedures as outlined in the Campus Planner and Resource Guide. Members of the WPI community are expected to use common sense and good judgment in resolving all problems. While the Campus Hearing Board is available to hear grievances, it is hoped that the existing procedures in the community will be used first in attempting to resolve these problems.

The phrase "renders one liable for judgment" is used below to indicate accountability to the appropriate judicial body established under the constitution of the WPI campus judicial system. Some examples of situations relating to these general goals are listed below.

- A. Acts such as but not limited to abuse, assault, battery, blackmail, bullying, damage, dangerous and/or binge drinking, discrimination, fraud, harassment, hazing, impairing the wellbeing of another community member or self, injury, sexual misconduct and harassment, slander, stalking, suicidal gestures, theft, or threat renders one liable for judgment.
- B. Misappropriation of personal or WPI community property; unreasonably depriving someone of proper use of WPI property; abuse, damage or destruction of such property; or negligence contributing to these offenses, including negligence that could reasonably contribute to these offenses renders one liable for judgment.
- C. Disruption of the academic process, obstruction of teaching, disruptively infringing upon the consequences and prerogatives of that process, violation of the Academic Honesty Policy, and violation of the Acceptable Use Policy renders one liable for judgment.
- D. Unauthorized entrance, trespassing, unauthorized use or possession of lock picks, keys or card access, and unauthorized attendance renders one liable for judgment.
- E. Commission of offenses such as willful neglect of proper requests, broken promises, lying, and intentionally furnishing false information to a WPI official renders one liable for judgment.
- F. Disorderly, lewd, harassing, or indecent conduct on WPI owned or controlled property or at university sponsored or supervised functions that adversely affects the WPI community renders one liable for judgment.
- G. Violation of the WPI Drug and Alcohol Policy; being under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance; exhibiting offensive behavior while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs renders one liable for judgment.
- H. Conduct that menaces the safety of the WPI community, including but not limited to: fire safety issues (e.g. tampering with fire safety or warning devices, setting a fire, etc.); possession of explosive devices or materials (e.g. firecrackers, fireworks, dangerous chemicals or fuels, bombs, etc.); possession of a weapon, except as permitted by law, and then only as authorized in writing by WPI renders one liable for judgment. vFailure or refusal to provide valid identification to a WPI official in the performance of his or her duty or failure to comply with directions of the same renders one liable for judgment.

- I. Using status as a member of the WPI community to assist in the commission of an offense renders one liable for judgment.
- J. Violations of state, local or federal law renders one liable for judgment.
- K. Attempting, aiding, abetting, conspiring, hiring, or being an accessory to any act prohibited by this code renders one liable for judgment.
- L. Invasion of privacy, making unauthorized video or photographic images of a person in a location in which that person has a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g. shower/locker room, bathroom, etc.) renders one liable for judgment.
- M. Violation of the Relationship Statement for WPI and the Fraternity and Sorority Community renders one liable for judgment.
- N. Conduct that violates any other WPI policy that has been articulated within the Campus Planner and Resource Guide and/or appropriately posted on campus or WPI's Website renders one liable for judgment.

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