

Bard Student Handbook

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2011-2012

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Community Standards of Behavior, 2011–2012

**Community Standards of Behavior
2011-2012**

The Bard College community is committed to freedom of thought and speech, the attainment of the highest quality of academic and personal achievement, and ensuring that academic freedom and uncensored debate continue in an atmosphere uncorrupted by discrimination, harassment, or intimidation. The Bard College Community Standards of Behavior represents our commitment to live within a value system that we believe best supports academic freedom and is reflected in the way our policies are written. All community members are expected to strive to meet the standards laid out and to be honest when a breach has occurred.

We understand that in an open educational environment there can be no idea or belief that is intrinsically too abrasive, repugnant or abhorrent to hold. We also understand that openness is not a universal invitation to say anything to anyone at anytime. Everyone who lives, works, or studies at Bard is here by choice and, as part of that choice, is encouraged to commit to standards of behavior that emphasize caring, civility, and a respect for the personal dignity of others. Each one of us has the authority and the responsibility to create a positive environment, to interrupt dishonest or abusive behavior, and to affect change. Conflicts between individuals will arise in any community. At some time in our life at Bard it is likely that each of us will be called on to take a strong stand. When possible, this should be done in a constructive way that promotes understanding.

People with integrity monitor themselves, acknowledge when they have breached trust with another individual or with the collective, and seek ways to mend the ruptures. When this does not happen, behavior alleged to violate the spirit and intent embodied in this general statement or found elsewhere in the Student Handbook or in the Bard College Catalogue will be investigated in a manner that respects the rights of all parties. Violators of Bard College policies are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with procedures set out in the Student Handbook. A process emphasizing individual understanding and growth determines the consequences of actions that are detrimental to the community.

The responsibility for campus life should be shared by the entire community, all members of which should make every effort to resolve problems through various types of mediation available on campus. Resources include friends, peer counselors, area coordinators, and the staff of the Dean of Student Affairs Office. Cases involving academic concerns are referred to the Dean of the College's Office. If informal avenues of mediation fail or are deemed inappropriate, a structure exists to aid students in resolving conflicts.

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