

# Students Rights and Responsibilities

## Introduction

Stevens Institute of Technology is dedicated to providing an environment that reflects its core values of honor, academic integrity, trust, and mutual respect; and which offers opportunities for every student to develop academically, personally and professionally. To this end the conduct of Stevens undergraduate and graduate students is expected to reflect these values. The Student Code of Conduct provides guidance concerning the kinds of expressions that are consistent with Stevens mission and values, and promotes interactions and behaviors appropriate in a higher education community. The Student Code of Conduct fosters a climate in which all students, faculty, and staff feel safe, and valued. It is applicable in any university owned, operated, leased, controlled or affiliated property, at university sponsored or officially sanctioned activities on or off campus. These include but are not limited to: All Stevens housing All Stevens owned, operated or affiliated fraternities and sororities All Stevens academic and administration buildings Activities approved, recognized or sponsored by the University While providing a safe and supportive environment, the university complies with State and Federal laws and regulations, and also affords each student the opportunity to exercise certain liberties. In turn students are expected to function as responsible and productive members of the Stevens community – these mutual expectations foster a productive and resourceful learning community.

## Student Rights

### *Access to Higher Education*

All facilities and services at Stevens are accessible equally to all enrolled students, regardless of race, religious creed, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, or physical challenges.

### *[Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)/Buckley Amendment](#)*

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record, however there are certain exceptions – visit [www.gov.edu](http://www.gov.edu) for further information and clarification.

### *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)*

HIPAA is the “Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996”, Public Law 104-191. HIPAA contains three parts relevant to healthcare information, which include requirements related to -- Privacy of individually identifiable health information; Security of electronic health information; and Standardization of transaction and code sets. There are two exceptions to this rule: certain infectious diseases must be reported to the Department of Public Health under requirements of the law, and documents must be surrendered upon the receipt of a court ordered subpoena. Visit [www.njha.com](http://www.njha.com) for further information and clarification

### Student Responsibilities

Each Stevens undergraduate and graduate student is charged with the responsibility to observe

and abide by the Student Code of Conduct. It is also the students' responsibility to ensure that their guests are aware of and abide by the code. The Stevens student will be held responsible for any behavior of their guests not in keeping with the Student Code of Conduct. A guest is anyone currently not matriculating at Stevens or employed by the university. Additional responsibilities include:

- Knowledge and observance of established university policies
- Continually upholding the Student Code of Conduct while participating in groups or organizations, with the understanding that individuals, groups and/or organizations may be held accountable for their actions.
- Undergraduates adhering to all aspects of the Stevens Honor System
- Respect for the exchange of scholarly discussion
- Ensuring guests are aware of, and abide by the tenets of the Student Code of Conduct, and comply with all rules and regulations while on Stevens property, included but not limited to Residence Halls, academic buildings and university owned and/or monitored facilities. Student hosts assume responsibility for any damage caused to university property by their guest(s).
- Assuming the consequence of one's own actions, including those which defame, libel, injure or sexually harass others.
- Upholding the Code of Conduct while participating in a group or organization, as all groups and organizations may be held accountable for the actions of its members. Group misconduct need not be officially approved by the entire membership in order to be grounds for disciplinary action. In some cases, the conduct of a single member may provide sufficient grounds for action against the entire group.
- Complying with the Student Code of Conduct, and all laws of the city, state, and nation.
- Insure that no student organization, constitution or other organizational document includes discriminatory clauses pertaining to race, creed, religion, color, sex, national origin, disability or sexual orientation.

## **Student Liberties**

- Respect for personal feelings, freedom from indignity and to expect an education of the highest quality.
- To participate in student self governing bodies which provide channels of communication and means for using democratic processes to solve problems.
- Forums to hear and participate in dialogue and to examine diverse views and ideas
- An environment that fosters productive scholarly discussion.

- Access to a disciplinary process that is consistent with the Student Code of Conduct and procedures that are published in the Student Handbook.

## **Conduct Required**

All individuals shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the mission of the university. Any student who fails to conduct himself/herself in such a manner violates this code and a disciplinary sanction may be imposed. The following are behaviors consistent with the Student Code of Conduct:

- Integrity by maintaining an ongoing dedication to honesty and responsibility.
- Trustworthiness by acting in a reliable and dependable manner
- Respect by treating others with civility and decency

## **Code of Conduct**

### **Conduct Prohibited**

**The following are violations of the Student Code of Conduct and may result in expulsion or a lesser sanction:**

1. Commission of an act which would constitute an offense under appropriate federal, state, or local criminal statutes.
2. Violation of university regulations or campus policies approved by either the Board of Trustees or the President and/or described in official university publications.
3. Academic dishonesty and impropriety: for undergraduates enrolled in undergraduate courses all behaviors which violate the Stevens Honor System (<http://www.stevens.edu/honor/>), including, but not limited to plagiarism, academic cheating, and failure to report an Honor System violation; those enrolled in graduate courses are subject to the policy on academic improprieties contained in the Graduate Handbook (<http://www.stevens.edu/gradacademics/handbook/grades.html>).

### **Falsification of Records**

4. Furnishing false information to the university, and/or forging, altering or misusing university documents, records or identification, including, but not limited to, giving false testimony or other evidence at a disciplinary proceeding.
5. Unauthorized use of the name or insignia of the university by an individual or a group.