



# Assumption University

## Student Handbook 2023-2024

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This handbook provides information about policies, procedures, regulations, and activities at the University with which each Assumption University student should be familiar. In many instances more detailed information may be found in the Assumption University *Undergraduate Catalog* and other University publications. The policies stated herein are subject to revision, notice of which is made through normal channels of communication. Students are held responsible for checking their Assumption e-mail account, as this is the primary form of communication for the University.

## **ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT**

Assumption University is a comprehensive, private Catholic liberal arts institution, sponsored by the Augustinians of the Assumption. We awaken in students a sense of wonder, discovery, and purpose, forming graduates known for their intellectual seriousness, thoughtful citizenship, and devotion to the common good. Our curricular and co-curricular programs provide students with an education that shapes their souls, forms them intellectually, and prepares them for meaningful careers. We are a diverse community that welcomes different points of view and embraces all who share our mission. Enlivened by the Catholic affirmation of the harmony of faith and reason and by the pursuit of the truth in the company of friends, an Assumption education transforms the minds and hearts of students.

## **DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS**

### **OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**Hagan Hall (first floor)- 508-767-7325**

The Division of Student Affairs assists students in achieving a healthy balance between curricular and co-curricular life at Assumption University. The division is responsible for most co-curricular aspects of student affairs and coordinates the efforts of Community Standards, Campus Recreation, Residential Life, Student Activities, Counseling Services, and Health Services.

The division serves the University community in the following ways: articulating issues and policies related to student affairs; assessing student needs; recommending and implementing new programs to meet those needs; suggesting changes in institutional policy and structure to meet the educational goals of the University; promoting institutional priorities; enforcing University regulations.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

As a Catholic liberal arts University, Assumption is a Christian community committed to the education of the total person, in relationship to God, self and others.

The Division of Student Affairs supports the University's mission to prepare students for a lifetime of learning and contributing to society. By enhancing the connection between academic and co-curricular life, the division seeks to promote a campus culture characterized by:

- Collaboration among faculty, students and staff that highlights cross-generational relationships and friendship network
- Integration of individual freedom and communal responsibility
- Development of leadership skills that encourage self-reflection and critical thinking
- Awareness and participation in service to community
- A radical embodiment of Christ's command to love God and neighbor as oneself

- Openness to people of diverse backgrounds and life experiences to expand our worldviews, challenge our assumptions and develop a deeper understanding
- A joyful attitude about life
- High expectations for academic excellence
- Participation in both competitive sports and recreational activities that encourage the development of personal skills and values such as dedication, perseverance, responsibility, leadership, and self-confidence
- An interdisciplinary approach to cultivating a healthy lifestyle

## **THE CONDUCT CODE**

Assumption University strives to maintain an environment that is consistent with its mission and respectful of the rights of all individuals within the University community. All members of this community are freely and voluntarily united by this agreement in the pursuit of intellectual growth and discovery. The rules, policies, and regulations of the University, collectively known as the Conduct Code, help to foster a community that is worthy of our calling. The University reserves the right to deny the privilege of enrollment or continued enrollment to any student whose conduct or attitude is believed to be detrimental to the welfare of the University.

The Office of Student Affairs has responsibility for student accountability to the benefit and welfare of the University community, as well as the individual student. The University reserves the right to dismiss a student at any time without any definite public charge. Assumption University is also aware of its responsibility to the larger Worcester community in which it is located. Students are expected to observe all local laws and to conduct themselves off-campus in a way that reflects well on their association with the University community. Students involved in off-campus incidents may be subject to University disciplinary procedures.

Good conduct, civility, and a devotion to the common good are important pillars of a Catholic university like Assumption University. Behavior of students in and out of the classroom is expected to reflect the Christian value of respect for the rights of others. Students who infringe on the rights of others may be asked to leave our community.

Concisely stated, students are expected to respect and abide by all University policies, local, Commonwealth and federal laws. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary outcomes.

## **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT**

Assumption University is founded on the ideals of the Catholic faith and reason brought by a liberal arts education. The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which the Conduct Code is built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student but as a community member.

### **Rights of Assumption University Students**

- Right to a respectful, educational, and safe community that fosters intellectual growth in keeping with the mission of the University.
- Right to an academic environment that is intellectually engaging and challenging. Students have the right to class work that stimulates their minds, provided by professors who take great care and pride in the service they provide to their students. Professors will make themselves available to their students to support the successful academic careers of each student.

- Right to pursue knowledge and the resources and staff necessary to expand that knowledge and understanding. Students have the right to a supportive and knowledgeable staff and faculty to aid them in pursuing academic and personal success.
- Right to equality. Right not to be discriminated against based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information or family medical history, disability, marital or parental status, military or veteran status, immigration status, or any other unique attribute of any individual.
- The right to live without the fear of intimidation, force, threats, or emotional, verbal, or physical abuse of any kind.
- Right to free expression. Community members have the right to express their ideas freely, without fear of censure or retribution.
- Right to a healthy environment. Community members have the right to programs and services that promote and support a healthy lifestyle including the right to well-maintained facilities as well as a healthy food selection.
- Right to privacy, including the right and protection from unwarranted or unauthorized searches of person, personal spaces, and property in accordance with University policy.
- Right to appeal. Students have the right to a fair and equitable process in conduct and academic matters.

### **Responsibilities of Assumption University Students**

- All Assumption University students are considered adults and therefore bear full and ultimate responsibility for their actions.
- Responsibility to comply with federal, state, and local laws.
- Responsibility to know and abide by all Assumption University policies.
- Responsibility to respect the rights of the other members of the Assumption University community.
- Responsibility to follow proper institutional protocols when exercising the right to free expression.
- Responsibility to respect and honor the Mission of the University.
- Responsibility to cooperate with University officials.
- Responsibility for the actions of their guests.
- Responsibility to respect the environment, specifically the buildings and grounds of the University.
- Responsibility to always carry University identification card and produce such identification if asked by a University official for any reason.
- Responsibility to regularly and frequently check their Assumption University email account. It is also expected students respond to emails, texts, and/or voicemails from University Officials in a timely manner.

### **IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS**

The following selected terms are defined to facilitate a more thorough understanding of the University's Community Standards process. This list is not intended to be exhaustive of all terms referenced in this document that might require additional clarification.

**Administrative Hearing:** a hearing that consists of a meeting or meetings with a single hearing officer to adjudicate a disciplinary charge.

**Complainant:** Any person who is alleged to have been subject to another student's misconduct. If the complainant is an Assumption University student, that student will have the same rights as are provided to the respondent. In the absence of a student complainant, the University is the complainant.

**Hearing Officer:** University official authorized to resolve allegations or impose outcomes for students alleged to have violated Community Standards.

**Possession:** Physically holding or controlling the subject item or owning or controlling a room, vehicle, or other area where the item is present, knowingly, or unknowingly.

**Preponderance of the Evidence Standard:** The burden of proof standard used in determining a violation of the Student Conduct Code. A preponderance of the evidence standard means that it is more likely than not that a violation of the Student Conduct Code occurred.

**Respondent:** Any student alleged to have violated the University's Community Standards.

**Student:** All persons (other than faculty, staff, or administrators) who have accepted an invitation of admission to the University, who are enrolled in, or taking or auditing University courses, either full or part-time, in-person or remotely. Persons who are not currently enrolled for a particular term, or are between terms, but who have a continuing relationship with the University (e.g., students on a temporary leave with an intent to return) are considered students.

**University Premises/Property:** all land, buildings, facilities, and other property in the possession of or owned, leased, used, operated, or controlled by the University.

## **VIOLATIONS OF COMMUNITY STANDARDS**

The following are groups of behaviors that constitute misconduct. University departments may maintain specific policies or guidelines enforceable by their respective procedures separate from community standards action. The university reserves the right to review off-campus incidents to determine if a violation of community standards has occurred and whether resolution through the appropriate process is warranted. Students engaging, attempting to engage, or assisting in the following behaviors are subject to disciplinary action:

### **1) Alcohol**

Assumption University seeks to develop and maintain an environment that realizes the full potential of all members of its community. As such, the University upholds the highest standards of academic excellence and prioritizes the health and safety of its students. In support of these aims, all University students are required to comply with federal and state laws, as well as the following University policies, regarding the purchase, consumption, and distribution of alcohol:

- Any person under the age of 21 in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts may not lawfully possess, consume, purchase, attempt to purchase, or transport alcoholic beverages.
- Regardless of age, the abusive or dangerous use of alcohol is prohibited on and off campus, including but not limited to:
  - Intoxication that results in impaired motor skills or balance, slurred speech, disorientation, vomiting, blacking-out, passing-out, or other similar behavior.

- Disruptive, disorderly, or dangerous conduct related to the consumption of alcohol.
- Driving on or off campus while under the influence of alcohol.
- Residing on campus and the possession/consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, regardless of age, the following policies apply within University residence halls and/or on University property:
  - Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages in open containers is prohibited in common areas of residence halls, including hallways, lounges, lobbies, stairwells, and bathrooms.
  - Common source containers of alcoholic beverages, including beer kegs and alcoholic punch are prohibited in residence halls and on University property without authorization from appropriate University officials.
  - Participation in drinking games involving the consumption of alcohol, consuming shots of alcohol, and any type of binge drinking (e.g. chugging, “shot-gunning,” etc.) is prohibited in residence halls and on University property.
  - Possession or use of binge drinking paraphernalia or any instrument of alcohol abuse (e.g. funnels, beer pong tables, etc.) is prohibited in residence halls and on University property.
- For students of legal drinking age, the following policies apply within University residence halls and on University property:
  - Students of legal age may possess and consume alcoholic beverages only in designated upper-class residential areas including Aubuchon, Authier, Bissonnette, Dion, Dufault, Living/Learning Center, Moquin, Plough, Cesareo, Young, Wachusett, and West Halls..
  - Alcoholic beverages are never permitted, regardless of the age of the student, in Alumni, Desautels, Hanrahan, Nault, Salisbury, or Worcester Halls, or in the outside areas, public areas (hallways, lounges, etc.), athletic fields, or other campus buildings unless specifically designated (this includes alcohol containers used for decorative purposes). In addition, guests, and residents of Substance-Free Housing are strictly prohibited from possessing or being under the influence of alcohol and/or or other controlled substances while in the residence.
  - At all times, alcohol use must be consistent with the concept of moderate and responsible consumption. For purposes of this policy, moderate and responsible consumption is the expectation that using alcohol should always be in a manner that does not harm others and minimizes harm to the user.
  - Conversely, using alcohol to the degree that one may endanger themselves or other persons or property, or otherwise disrupt the community is not considered moderate and responsible consumption.
  - Students of legal age may transport alcohol in common areas of campus or University residence halls in closed containers and in suitable packaging, consistent with the concept of moderate and responsible consumption.
  - Students may not transport alcohol in common areas of campus or University residence halls in open containers, i.e., a source or container of alcohol that may or may not be labeled as such. Any container where the original factory seal has been broken (beer cans, wine bottles, liquor bottles, etc.) is considered to be open. Additionally, solo cups, clear water bottles, or an unsealed bottle is also considered an open container. University officials reserve the right to inspect a student’s container upon information or belief that the student is intoxicated or under the influence of drugs.
  - Students of legal age may possess and consume alcoholic beverages at approved University functions and/or when served at a campus facility/event authorized to provide alcoholic beverages.
  - All student organization sponsored events where alcohol may be served must be approved by the appropriate University official and must follow all University policies and regulations. At all times, alcohol use must be consistent with the concept of moderate and responsible consumption. Furnishing alcohol to any person under the age of 21 or enabling underage alcohol consumption is strictly prohibited for student organizations.

## 2) **Drugs**

- Possession or use of marijuana or related paraphernalia.
- Possession or use of illicit drugs, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia.
- Sale, distribution, or manufacture of any controlled drug, substance, or drug paraphernalia.
- Operating under the influence.

## 3) **Property/Facilities**

- Damage to University property or another person's property.
- Theft or possession, sale, or distribution of stolen property.
- Misuse or unauthorized use of University property, technological resources, or services, or another person's property.
- Littering, graffiti, or vandalism.
- Unauthorized entry into or use of University premises and/or personal property including but not limited to residences, facilities, bathrooms, keys, and ID cards.

## 4) **Violent or Endangering Behavior**

- Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person.
- Violent behavior including but not limited to fighting, verbal, or physical abuse, or contributing to the violence of others.
- Sexual assault, sexual exploitation, or sexual harassment.
- Relationship violence.
- Stalking of any sort (electronic, physical, by proxy, or other).
- Acts of intimidation or coercion, whether stated or implied

## 5) **Verbal Abuse and Harassment**

- Verbal abuse or willful damage, whether direct or indirect, to the reputation or psychological wellbeing of another, regardless of intent.
- Harassment of another in any manner including written correspondence, electronic mail/media, phone, or by proxy.
- Conduct that is lewd, indecent, obscene, or degrading or demeaning to others, including, but not limited to, based on gender, race, religion, cultural background, ability, or sexual orientation.

## 6) **Discriminatory Harassment and/or Bias Related Conduct**

- The verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility toward an individual on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, physical or mental disability, and sexual orientation.

## 7) **University Civility Policy**

- Conduct unbecoming of an Assumption University student.
- Disorderly or disruptive conduct.
- Failure to comply with the directions of University officials or individuals working in conjunction with the University who are acting in performance of their duties.
- Use of devices, electronic or other, to violate the privacy of another person.
- Failure to adhere to, or complete any disciplinary sanction imposed in accordance with the Conduct Code.
- Retaliation for any reason. Retaliation is defined as any adverse action related to participation in an education program taken against a person because a person has filed a report or participated in any in the filing of an incident report or complaint, investigation or hearing process related to student conduct;

## 8) **University Honor Code**

- Any form of dishonesty, including but not limited to theft, falsification of information, fraud, willful deception, falsification of identification, improper use, or disclosure of information.

**9) Hazing**

**10) Smoking and Vaporizers of any Type**

- Only tobacco use is permitted on campus.
- Smoking is not permitted inside any University building or within 100 feet of any building on campus.

**11) Weapons**

- Possessing explosives, dangerous chemicals, and/or weapons including, but not limited to, firearms, sprays designed to incapacitate, bows and arrows, sling-shots, hunting and other knives, blowguns, BB guns, pellet guns, air-soft guns, etc.

**12) Gambling**

**13) Violations of the Guest Policy**

**14) Violations of Residential Life policies**

**15) Violations of the Health, Fire, and Safety Policy**

**16) Violations of other University policies**

**17) Violations of any federal, state, or local law**

Good conduct, civility, and honor are important pillars of Assumption University. Behavior of students in and out of the classroom, on and off campus, is expected to reflect the Christian value of respect for self, others, and the community at large. Behavior counter to this expectation will be addressed by the University.

A person is always responsible for their behavior. Being under the influence of any drug does not excuse behavior. Any behavior which is disruptive, harmful to self or others, and/or which leads to the destruction of property is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.

Students are responsible for the items and behaviors occurring in their University-assigned and individually controlled spaces. Students are responsible for items located on their person, within their property (e.g., a backpack, car, etc.), and in their residence (bedroom and any shared areas such as living rooms and bathrooms) regardless of their acceptance of ownership. Students may be held accountable for any alcohol, drugs, paraphernalia, or other prohibited items found to be in their possession or prohibited activities occurring in their assigned space.

All students present at the time of the violation may be held responsible for the infraction. In addition, all residents of a room or apartment in which such violations occur may be subject to the full range of disciplinary sanctions, even if they were not present at the time of the incident. Resident students are particularly advised to give careful attention to anyone who has access to their room or apartment. Any student who feels jeopardized by the actions of their roommate(s) should seek assistance from the Residential Life staff.

## **COMMUNITY STANDARDS POLICIES AND DEFINITIONS**

### **Alcohol Policy**

- ❖ **Possession and/or consumption of alcohol under the age of 21 is prohibited**
- ❖ **Areas Restricted to Alcohol Possession** – Alcoholic beverages are never permitted in Alumni, Desautels, Hanrahan, Nault, Salisbury, or Worcester Halls, or in the outside areas, public areas (hallways, lounges, etc.), athletic fields, or other campus buildings unless specifically designated (this includes alcohol containers used for decorative purposes). In addition, guests, and residents of



Substance-Free Housing are strictly prohibited from possessing or being under the influence of alcohol and/or or other controlled substances while in the residence.

Alcoholic beverages are permitted only in designated upper-class residential areas including Aubuchon, Authier, Bissonnette, Dion, Dufault, Living/Learning Center, Moquin, Plough, Cesareo, Young, Wachusett, and West Halls and then, only by those twenty-one years (21) years of age or older.

- ❖ **Possession of Drinking Paraphernalia and/or Participation in Drinking Games** - Participation in drinking games involving the consumption of alcohol, consuming shots of alcohol, and any type of binge drinking (e.g. chugging, “shot-gunning,” etc.) is prohibited in residence halls and on University property. Possession or use of binge drinking paraphernalia or any instrument of alcohol abuse (e.g. funnels, beer pong tables, etc.) is prohibited in residence halls and on University property.
- ❖ **Common Sources and/or Manufacture of Alcohol** - Kegs of all sizes, whether empty or full, tapped, or untapped are prohibited. Such sources will be confiscated by the University on sight. Possession of a tap will be regarded as evidence of a violation of the common source policy. Spiked punch presents an additional concern since the actual contents of the punch is impossible for an individual to know. Should a keg, spiked punch, other common source, and/or homemade alcohol be found in a room or apartment, all residents of that room or apartment will be subject to disciplinary action, even if they were not present at the time of the incident.
- ❖ **Open Containers** - An open container is a source or container of alcohol that may or may not be labeled as such. Solo cups, water bottles and other similar containers containing alcohol of any type qualify. The word open is applicable to any container where the original factory seal has been broken. The University reserves the right to confront students with squeeze bottles, cups, and other such containers. Should it appear that the container in question contains alcohol, the student will be asked to dispose of the contents and the situation will be documented. To prevent interactions of this nature, students are strongly discouraged from carrying squeeze bottles, cups and other containers in areas restricted from alcohol possession, particularly outside.
- ❖ **Alcohol with Individual(s) Under 21 Present** - Students of age (21 years or older) are allowed to have alcohol in designated areas. It is the hosts’ responsibility to ensure that guests under 21 are not consuming when alcohol is present. Students found hosting minors when alcohol is consumed by minors will be documented under the gathering and alcohol policies. In general, room occupants assume a heightened degree of accountability, relative to guests or other nonoccupants, for gatherings that occur in their residence hall room at which alcohol is present.

### **Drug Policy**

- ❖ **The use, possession, sale, distribution, or manufacturing of any illegal drug (including illegal possession or use of prescription medications) is prohibited.**
- ❖ **Marijuana - Possession and/or use of marijuana in any form is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to edibles, concentrates, synthetics, etc.**

While the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has legalized the use of medical and recreational marijuana, federal law, including the Drug Free Schools Act, continues to prohibit marijuana. Thus, marijuana use is prohibited on campus or at Assumption University sponsored events. Any such use or possession is a violation of the Student Conduct Code.

Information about marijuana laws in Massachusetts can be found in MGL c94 and Acts 2012, Chapter 369, section 7D.

It is important to note that open flames of any sort are a fire safety violation that endangers the community at large. Therefore, smoking inside a University building may be considered both a fire safety and drug-related violation and may be subject to increased sanctioning.

- ❖ **Drug Paraphernalia** - Possession or use of drug-related paraphernalia is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to pipes, bongs, grinders, and syringes.

In determining if an object is drug-related paraphernalia relevant factors will be considered including, but not limited to, evidence of the object's use, the object's primarily intended use, the object's designed use, the existence of residue of controlled substances on the object, descriptive materials related to the object and the proximity of the object to behavior in violation of the drug policy.

- ❖ **Any student who sells, distributes, or manufactures illegal drugs and/or drugs prohibited by the University may be expelled from the University.**

- ❖ **Evidence of Drug Policy Violations** - The following are all considered to be evidence of drug policy violations and sufficient grounds for full disciplinary actions:

- the actual presence of a controlled substance/illegal drug (including marijuana in any form)
- the misuse of legal substances
- the presence of any drug paraphernalia
- the presence of smoke or odors

- ❖ **Misuse of legal substances** - use of general products as intoxicants or "means to get high;" and inhaling or ingesting a substance (including but not limited to bath salts, nitrous oxide, glue, paint, gasoline, solvent, etc.) is prohibited on Assumption University property and at Assumption University sponsored events.

### **The Call for Help Policy**

- 1) Students who seek medical assistance on behalf of themselves or others during an alcohol or other drug related emergency will not be held accountable through the University's conduct process for possession or use of alcohol or other drugs. Students may be held accountable for violations regarding behavior or assault. This policy also applies to student organizations and their members.
- 2) The recipient of medical attention will not be held accountable through the University's conduct process but will be required to complete an assessment with a representative from Community Standards and/or Counseling Services and follow all recommendations made, which may include participation in educational programs, counseling, and/or in or out-patient treatment plans.
- 3) The Call for Help Policy does not apply to individuals experiencing an alcohol or drug-related medical emergency found by University officials.

The University strongly encourages students to seek help by reaching out to University officials (Resident Assistants, Resident Directors, Area Coordinators, Campus Police Officers) when medical assistance may be necessary. This protocol is not intended to address possible violations of criminal laws or their consequences outside the University.

**In any emergency involving alcohol or other drugs, call Campus Police at 508-767-7777, at extension 7777, or 508-767-7225 immediately for medical assistance.**

## **SUBSTANCE USE SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

Alcohol and/or other drugs can contribute to negative outcomes in many situations that concern University students. To assist you in addressing these and other concerns, your University offers the following services:

- Educational workshops for students
- Confidential discussion and referral for those concerned about their own alcohol or other drug use or someone else's use
- Confidential discussion, education, and support for those students who have been found in violation of the University's alcohol and/or drug policy
- Information about on-site and off-site community resources
- Support services for students from alcohol or drug involved or affected families, recovering students and for non-users.

### **Health Risks – Drugs and Alcohol**

There are a variety of health risks associated with alcohol and other drug use\*. Below is a general description of some of these risks:

#### ***Tobacco or Nicotine: Cigarettes, E-Cigarettes/Vaporizers (JUUL), Smokeless Tobacco, etc.***

All types of tobacco contain nicotine, an addictive drug that acts as both a central nervous system stimulant and depressant. Smoking causes cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung diseases, and COPD.

E-cigarettes have not been systematically reviewed by the FDA and much is to be determined about the lasting consequences of these products. New reports make clear however that using e-cigarettes causes health risks. They contain and emit a number of toxic substances and increase risk for coughing, wheezing, and asthma exacerbations. The primary ingredients propylene glycol and vegetable glycerin are toxic to cells. In 2016, the Surgeon General concluded that emissions could contain nicotine, ultrafine particles, benzene (car exhaust), heavy metals, and flavorings that are linked to serious lung disease.

#### ***Depressants***

Alcohol – (Beer, wine, liquor) – Addiction, accidents because of impaired ability and judgment, overdose potential when mixed with other depressants or by itself, heart, liver and brain damage, birth defects if used during pregnancy. Death can occur because of accidents, overdose, or the effects of long-term abuse.

Opioids – (Heroin, junk, dope, black tar, china white, Demerol, Dilaudid, Morphine, Codeine) – Addiction, lethargy, weight loss, infection, or disease from use of unsterile needles (Hepatitis, HIV), accidental overdose, contamination of supply with other drugs like fentanyl.

Barbiturates – (sedatives, tranquilizers) – Possible overdose, especially in combination with alcohol, muscle rigidity, addiction, withdrawal, and overdose require medical treatment, increased level of anxiety after drug wears off. Death can result from overdose.

Inhalants – (Gas, aerosols, glue, nitrites, Rush) – Unconsciousness, suffocation, nausea and vomiting, damage to brain and central nervous system, sudden death.

### ***Stimulants***

Cocaine – (Coke, rock, crack, base) – Addiction, heart attack, seizures, lung damage, severe depression, paranoia, restlessness, and irritability. Infection from shared use of smoking paraphernalia. Death from heart failure can occur even for first time users. Supply can be contaminated with fentanyl (opioid) which can lead to an overdose.

Amphetamines – (Speed, uppers, Adderall, crank, bam, black beauties, crystal, dexies) – Fatigue leading to exhaustion, addiction, paranoia, depression, confusion, possible hallucinations, weight loss high blood pressure, cardiomyopathy.

### ***Hallucinogens***

LSD – (psilocybin, mushrooms, peyote) – Unpredictable behavior, emotional instability, altered perception of time and place, vomiting, nausea, flashbacks, violent behavior (PCP), “bad trips,” psychotic reaction. Continuous hallucinations and/or delusional thinking even when not using the substance.

Marijuana- (Pot, dope, grass, weed, herb, hash, joint) – Panic reaction, impaired short term memory, addiction, lung disease, interference with body’s immune response to various infections and diseases, distorts perception, hampers judgment, diminishes motor skills, birth defects if used while pregnant, loss of ambition and diminished ability to carry out long-term goals.

Ecstasy- (MDMA, XTC) – Anxiety, depression, dehydration, heart failure, liver damage, memory problems, hallucinations, vomiting, convulsions.

Predatory Drugs – (Rohypnol, GHB, ketamine) – Inability to remember events, “drunken-like” state of confusion, convulsions, seizures, depression, long-term memory problems, death.

\*All of the above, if used during pregnancy, can cause serious birth defects. Alcohol use during pregnancy causes fetal alcohol spectrum disorders which cause physical, behavioral, and learning problems.

## **LEGAL SANCTIONS COVERING ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE**

Local, state, and federal laws make illegal use of drugs and alcohol serious crimes. Conviction can lead to imprisonment, fines, and assigned community service. Courts do not lift prison sentences for convicted persons to attend University or continue their jobs. A felony conviction for such an offense can prevent you from entering many fields of employment or professions.

Cities and towns in Massachusetts, specifically Worcester, prohibit public consumption of alcohol and impose fines for violation. The Metropolitan District Commission also prohibits public consumption of alcohol in its parks.

Massachusetts’s laws prohibit sale or delivery of alcoholic beverages to persons under 21 with a fine of up to \$2000 and 6 months imprisonment or both. Misrepresenting one’s age or falsifying an identification to obtain alcoholic beverages is punishable by a fine of \$300. The legal alcohol limit for driving for a person of age in Massachusetts is .08. For those under 21 it is .02. A conviction for either can include fines, prison sentences, mandatory alcohol rehabilitation, and revocation of license. For people under 21, there is an automatic 210 day loss of license.

Massachusetts has criminal penalties for use of controlled substances, or drugs with penalties varying with the type of drug. In general, narcotic, addictive, and drugs with a high potential for abuse have heavier penalties.

Possession of drugs is illegal without valid authorization. While penalties for possession are generally not as great as for manufacture and distribution of drugs, possession of a relatively large quantity may be considered distribution. Under both state and federal laws penalties for possession, manufacture and distribution are much greater for second and subsequent convictions. Violation of the controlled substance laws are arrestable, and many laws dictate mandatory prison terms and full minimum terms must be served.

Massachusetts makes it illegal to be in a place where heroin is kept and to be “in company” of a person known to possess heroin. Anyone in the presence of heroin at a private party or dormitory suite risks a serious drug conviction. Sale and possession of “drug paraphernalia” is also illegal in Massachusetts.

Persons convicted of drug possession under state or federal law are ineligible for federal student grants and loans for up to one year after the first conviction and five years after the second. The penalty for distributing drugs is loss of benefits for five years after the first, 10 years after the second, permanently after the third conviction.

Under federal law, distribution of drugs to persons under 21 is punishable by twice the normal penalty with a mandatory one year in prison; a third conviction is punishable by mandatory life imprisonment. These penalties apply to distribution of drugs in or within 1,000 feet of a University or school. Federal law sets greatly heightened prison sentences for manufacture and distribution of drugs if death or serious injury results from use of the substance.

Statutes M.G.L. 94C and U.S. Title 21 are available at the office of the Worcester Consortium for Higher Education, 37 Fruit Street, Worcester, MA 01609 508-754-6829.

**The University Honor Code** - It is incumbent upon all students to conduct themselves honorably in all their affairs. Any form of dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism, collusion, cheating, theft, falsification of information, fraud, willful deception, falsification of identification, improper use or disclosure of information will not be tolerated. In disciplinary matters (formal and informal), students are expected to be honest and fully disclosing of the whole truth. Any attempt to deceive, withhold information, or obstruct the investigation or hearing process will be regarded as a violation of the Honor Code.

**The University Civility Policy** - The University recognizes the essential contribution of a diverse community of students, faculty, and staff. Accordingly, Assumption University commits itself to maintaining a welcoming environment for all people and to complying with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination in employment and its educational programs based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, age, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information or family medical history, military status, or other legally protected status.

Assumption University rejects and condemns all forms of harassment, wrongful discrimination, and disrespect. It is expected that students will conduct their affairs with the utmost civility toward other students, University employees, and members of the extended Assumption University community (i.e., neighbors, visitors, etc.). Any student who treats another unfairly, unkindly, disrespectfully, or abusively will be subject to adjudication under the University Civility Policy.

**Violence** - The University abhors all manner of violent behavior; the University may pursue disciplinary action against students who engage in violence in any form from verbal or physical abuse, harassment, and

rape/acquaintance rape to physically abusive relationships, damage to property, and fighting, even in mutually instigated cases. Students are advised to expect severe penalties for disciplinary infractions that involve violent behavior.

**Sexual Misconduct Policy** - Assumption University is committed to maintaining a safe and respectful learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community free from gender-based discrimination and violence, including, but not limited to, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, Relationship Violence, and Stalking (collectively referred to as “Sexual Misconduct”).

Sexual Misconduct is antithetical to the mission and values of the University and will not be tolerated. The University prohibits all forms of Sexual Misconduct and will take prompt action to eliminate such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects. A Student, Employee or Third Party determined by the University to have violated this policy will be subject to sanctions, up to and including the termination of their relationship with the University and/or the privilege of being on University premises withdrawn.

Please refer to the [Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) for comprehensive information regarding definitions, process, etc. Refer to the [Title IX website](#) for comprehensive information regarding reporting, support, etc.

**Hazing Policy** - Hazing of any sort is forbidden at Assumption University. Students found in violation of the Hazing policy face serious sanctions including but not limited to suspension/expulsion from residence or suspension/expulsion from the University.

## **MASSACHUSETTS ANTI-HAZING LAW, M.G.L. CHAPTER 269 SECTIONS 17-19**

**Section 17.** Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term “hazing” as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is like to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

**Section 18.** Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

**Section 19.** Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post-secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team, or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team, or student

organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution's compliance with this section's requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations.

Each such group, team, or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team, or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team, or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team, or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full-time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the board of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams, or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of higher education and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report.

**Quiet Hours** - It is essential to maintain residential units that are conducive to study, relaxation, and sleep. Quiet Hours must be observed:

- Between 12:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., Sunday night through Friday morning.
- Between 2:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., Friday night through Sunday morning.
- At all times during final examinations and study days, twenty-four (24) hours a day.

**Consideration Hours** - Consideration Hours are always in effect. When students are notified that their behavior is disruptive to others, they are expected to alter their conduct to accommodate the request. Students who do not change their behavior when asked to do so are in violation of Consideration Hours and may face disciplinary action.

**Visitation & Guest Policies:**

It is paramount that all students feel safe, supported, and comfortable in their individual room, apartment, and residence hall. While the University allows visitation of internal and external guests within the residence halls, at no time should visitors or guests impinge on the rights of any resident within that dwelling including but not limited to unobstructed access to the room and/or apartment and personal privacy. For this reason, any visitor or guest must be approved by all residents within a room/apartment.

Student hosts must recognize the potential challenging and uncomfortable situation they may place their roommate(s) in when asking permission for someone to visit for any length of time and approach these situations with care. Residential Life staff is available to assist students in navigating and/or addressing any concerns related to visitation/guests prior to, during, or after a situation has occurred.

**Visitation Policy** – On nights before class days, study days, or exam days, visitation hours will end at 1:00 a.m. and recommence at 9:00 a.m. On all other nights, visitation will end at 2:00 a.m. and recommence at 9:00 a.m.

When entering the residence hall, students must be prepared to show any University official their valid student I.D. and inform them of the room they live in or whom they are coming to visit.

Off-campus guests must present their guest pass from Department of Public Safety/Campus Police and be received by their host at the main entrance to the residence hall to gain entry.

**Guest Policy** - Guests may be internal or external depending on their enrollment status with the University.

❖ **Internal Guest** – Any resident or commuter student who is not an assigned resident of the room, apartment, or building must:

- Present valid identification when requested to do so by any University official.
- Use bathrooms designated for use by persons of their own sex.
- Single use, non-gendered bathrooms are located on each floor of the LLC, the first floor lobby of Salisbury Hall, and the first floor lobby of Worcester Hall.

❖ **External Guest\*** – Any person who is not enrolled as an Assumption University student must:

- Be registered through the on-line guest pass system when arriving (or remaining) on campus after 6:00p.m.
- Be always accompanied by their host.
- Present valid guest pass and identification (driver's license, state issued identification, school identification, etc.) when requested to do so by any University official.
- Adhere to the policies and regulations of the University, as well as, local, Commonwealth, and Federal law, during their visit.

*\*Students may be held responsible for the conduct and actions of their guests, registered or unregistered. This may include any financial responsibilities for any expenses incurred by a guest's actions/ behavior.*

❖ **Guests with vehicles must:**

- Provide their vehicle information on the guest form.
- Place a copy of the guest placard on the dashboard while their vehicle is parked or operating on campus.
- Park in overflow lots and/or other designated areas if labeled as such. Guest vehicles are not allowed in residential parking lots and may be ticketed and/or towed at owner's expense.

❖ **Overnight guests (Internal and/or External):**

For this policy, an internal guest is a member of the Assumption University community who is not an assigned resident of the room, suite, or townhouse. An external guest is any person who is not a currently enrolled student at Assumption University.

1. Overnight guests may be entertained with the expressed permission of all roommates.
  - a. Roommates reserve the right to veto this privilege at any time.



2. Members of the opposite sex are not permitted to spend the night in a student's room and/or apartment.
3. Residents may have overnight guests in their assigned rooms/apartments for a maximum of two nights during a seven-day period from the beginning of the last visit without specific permission from the Office of Residential Life.
4. Students hosting overnight guests of the opposite sex are responsible for arranging appropriate accommodations on a same sex floor or apartment.
5. External overnight guests must have indicated their intent on their guest registration form.

❖ **Maximum Number of External Guests Allowed per Room** - The maximum number of external guests that can be registered per room is the occupancy of the room. For example, a double room may have two external guests. A six-person apartment may have a total of six external guests.

❖ **Unaccompanied Guests** - Unaccompanied guests will be considered trespassers. Campus Police officers may arrest such individuals at their discretion. Persons who are found to be unaccompanied by an Assumption student may be banned from campus at the discretion of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Students, their designee, or the Department of Public Safety/Campus Police.

**Gathering Policy** - The maximum occupancy for gatherings in Alumni, Desautels, Hanrahan, Nault, Salisbury, West, Worcester, and Young is double the occupancy of the room plus two (times 2, plus 2). For example, a residence hall room that houses 4 students may have a gathering with up to 10 people present (including the resident(s)).

The maximum occupancy for gatherings in townhouses and apartments (Aubuchon, Authier, Bissonnette, Dion, Dufault, Living/Learning Center, Moquin, Plough, South, and Wachusett) on weekend evenings (not those preceding class days, study days, or examination days) is calculated by taking the occupancy of the room, multiplying it by 5 and then adding 5 (times 5, plus 5). For example, an apartment that has occupancy of 6 students may host a gathering with up to 35 people. For all other nights, the maximum occupancy for a gathering is double the occupancy of the room/apartment plus two.

When alcohol is being consumed at a gathering, (regardless of the number of people in attendance) no individuals under the age of 21 may consume alcohol. Students may not charge for admission. Alcohol may never be sold or in any direct or indirect manner conveyed for charge.

Hosts of such gatherings may be held responsible for any violation(s) of University policy on the part of those in attendance. Further, hosts must be aware of the personal liability they assume under Massachusetts law. Finally, all members of a room/apartment, present or not, may be documented and addressed through the conduct process in response to any possible violation of policy related to the gathering.

**Gambling** - Recognizing the seriously detrimental effect that gambling has on a community, as well as on the individual, the University fully supports the prohibition of gaming as defined under Massachusetts General Laws. Students involved in any form of gambling may be subject to disciplinary action and/or any appropriate local, Commonwealth, or federal actions. Students who are experiencing serious difficulties with gambling are urged to call Counseling Services (508-767-7329, GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS (617-899-7943), or GamAnon (617-227-2700).

**Identification Policy** - All students are required to always carry a valid Assumption I.D. card with them and present this card at once when requested by any University official. All students must maintain a University ID throughout their tenure at Assumption University. If a student's card is stolen, lost, or

damaged, it should be reported to Campus Police immediately. A new ID will be issued for a \$25.00 fee. The utilization or possession of false identification will result in disciplinary action and possibly criminal prosecution. Similarly, students who fail to identify themselves properly to a University official will be subject to disciplinary action. All students withdrawn from the University for any reason must return their I.D. card to Campus Police prior to their final departure from campus.

**Smoking/Vaping Policy** - Assumption University supports a smoke-free and a vape-free environment. The possession and/or use of vaporizers and vaping paraphernalia is prohibited on campus. This includes but is not limited to e-cigarettes, JUULs, “dab pens,” mods, etc.

Smoking tobacco is prohibited in or within 100 feet of all campus buildings. By state law, use of tobacco products may not occur where there is possibility that the smoke may enter a building through doors, windows, or any means. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension from the University.

**Demonstrations Policy** - Demonstrations must be registered at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the event with the Office of Student Affairs. To register a demonstration, students will need to fill out a [Demonstration Application Form](#).

The University will then decide whether to approve the application. Those participating in the demonstration must be current members of the Assumption University campus community. All demonstrations must be peaceful and orderly, and conducted so as not to disrupt University operations. University Administration will always consider safety as the top priority in approving or handling on-going demonstrations. There is zero tolerance for violent behavior or speech that incites violence or hatred. Demonstrations or other forms of expression such as, but not limited to, rallies, protests, marches, picketing and sit-ins must not compromise the rights of other members of the Assumption University community or interfere with the operation of the University. Free speech is a cherished foundation of academia. However, forms of expression may not demean or degrade individuals based on religion, national heritage, cultural background, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, ability, or handicap, or any such grounds.

Violations of the Demonstration Policy may result in student conduct proceedings. Those who organize the demonstration must not only comply with this policy and the Student Handbook, but must also comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

To ensure the safety of those in the Assumption Community and to ensure the ongoing operation of the University, the University reserves the right to determine the time, place, and manner of the proposed demonstration.

## **THE COMMUNITY STANDARDS PROCESS**

When University policy is not observed, the University reserves the right to take disciplinary action through the Community Standards process. The Division of Student Affairs and Office of Community Standards oversee and administer this process.

The Community Standards process is initiated when an alleged incident of misconduct is reported. The Assistant Dean of Students or their designee will review any reports submitted to determine appropriate follow-up which may include but is not limited to:

- Hearing notice
- Notice/decision letter

- Letter requiring their presence and participation in a meeting to obtain additional information regarding the incident. (investigatory meeting)
- Letter requiring their presence and participation in a meeting to discuss the incident, lessons learned, and future actions (educational meeting)
- Letter assessing an interim measure(s) to remain in place until final resolution of the case.

The University may impose interim measures. These measures are implemented prior to a hearing and remain in effect until a decision is rendered in the conduct process and the alleged student has been formally notified of a change in their status. Interim sanctions may include but are not limited to; a “no contact” order, ban from a particular residence and/or area of campus, suspension from residence, and/or suspension from the University.

A hearing (Administrative or Board) may take place to determine a student’s role in an alleged violation of the Conduct Code. Hearings and/or other forms of conduct proceedings may occur remotely using Zoom or other remote platforms. Should this be the case, it is expected all participating parties will appear on camera to improve communication and promote a more genuine connection. The determination as to whether a hearing will take place in person or remotely will be made by the hearing officer and/or Board.

- Administrative hearings take place between a hearing officer(s) and the student(s) alleged to have potentially violated policy. In cases involving multiple students, the hearing officer(s) decides whether to meet with students individually or in groups.
- Board Hearings may be convened at the discretion of the Dean of Students, Assistant Dean of Students, or their designee. Boards consist of members of the University community and are advised by the Dean of Students, Assistant Dean of Students, or their designee, who may also serve as a board member.

Students found in violation of University policy will be subject to disciplinary sanctions. In general, notification of hearing decisions will be communicated in writing to the charged student(s) via email, directing them to a secure website to review their respective outcome letter. When appropriate, parties such as parents, coaches, and/or complainants may also be informed of the outcome of the hearing.

The Athletic Department may assign additional sanctions in cases involving student athletes. These sanctions are outlined in detail in the [Student-Athlete Handbook](#). Student athletes should consult with their coaches or the Athletic Director for details.

**Notifications for Violations of the Alcohol and/or Drug Policy** - Generally, the University notifies students’ parents/guardians when an alcohol and/or drug violation occurs. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) allows the University to do so when students are under 21 years of age or are considered financial dependents. FERPA prohibits notifying a student’s parents/guardians if these criteria do not apply.

### **ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- Students are presumed not in violation of the Conduct Code until determined otherwise. However, the University may impose interim measures, to remain in place until final resolution of the case, depending on the nature and/or severity of the incident or in situations that may impact the safety of the University community.
- Students have up to three (3) business days from the date of their hearing notice to schedule their hearing if it has not already been scheduled for them. The University may conduct a hearing in the

absence of students charged if the students charged do not attend the hearing or fail to schedule a hearing within the required timeframe.

- Students have the right to a hearing in which they may present information and bring witnesses. However, the names and relevance of each witness a student plans to bring must be submitted to the hearing officer no less than three business days prior to the hearing for approval. Witnesses should be able to provide direct information related to the alleged violations being reviewed. The university reserves the right to supplement the registered witness list or elect not to hear from witnesses if the adjudicator deems their participation unnecessary to make an informed determination.
- Students may request an individual hearing but must do so in writing at least 24 hours prior to their scheduled hearing. Student wishing to pursue this option should email [communitystandards@assumption.edu](mailto:communitystandards@assumption.edu). The hearing officer (or chair of the hearing board as it may be) will consider the request and communicate the decision to the student prior to the hearing.
- Students who do not attend their hearing forfeit the right to appeal.
- Students may be held responsible for Conduct Code violations that are revealed during a hearing.
- Students have the right to receive written notification regarding findings related to them reached in any hearing.
- The conduct process uses preponderance of evidence to determine students' responsibility. Hearing officers and boards will examine whether it is more likely than not that a violation occurred and decide accordingly.
- Hearings will be closed to the public unless the Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Students or designee determines otherwise.
- Students may bring another member of the University community into a conduct hearing as an advisor. Advisors may not participate directly in the hearing but may lend personal support to students.
  - In Title IX proceedings, an advisor of their choice may accompany students. This advisor may be any person, including an attorney, who is not otherwise a party or witness to the reported conduct.
- Students may not be represented at a hearing by legal counsel.
- Any recordings of the hearing are the sole property of Assumption University.
- In the absence of a formally specified procedure or policy, the directives of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Students or designee will have the full force of procedure/policy.
- The University reserves the right to assign responsibility for violations on one or more individuals or groups (room, pod, floor, townhouse, residence hall, or residential area) in situations where:
  - It is difficult to accurately determine degrees of responsibility.
  - Responsible parties cannot be identified.
  - A student, while not actively involved in the incident, possesses knowledge of violation(s).

*\*Students should encourage roommates and/or other community members to abide by the policies of the University. Students are encouraged to contact Residential Life and/or Counseling Services for assistance in working with roommates and/or other community members regarding strategies for addressing the behavior of others that may impact them negatively.*

## OUTCOMES

Outcomes will be designed to deter students from similar future behavior, promote accountability, address the misconduct's effect on the impacted parties and the community. Outcomes are commensurate with the severity of the violation, at the sole discretion of the University.

As a result of engaging in the Community Standards process, students will be able to:

- Recognize how their actions impacted the Assumption University community
- Articulate connections between their values and decision making
- Identify resources, strategies and skills that will promote holistic development and avoid future violations
- Evaluate positive and negative courses of action critically and proficiently
- Demonstrate an understanding of the community standards process and what outcomes would be advanced if they were to engage in future violations

While the Community Standards process is educational in nature, certain behaviors or patterns of behavior may be so harmful to the University community that it may require serious sanctions, such as removal from University housing, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

### **Status-based Outcomes**

To evaluate each incident with the appropriate context, outcomes will be determined on a case-by-case basis in light of all the circumstances. All outcomes are issued at the discretion of the Assistant Dean of Student Development or designee. Determining factors might include:

- Nature and severity of the violation
- Multiple policy violations in a single incident
- Individual conduct history
- Individual mitigating or aggravating circumstances
- Timeframe over which the violations occurred
- Harm incurred by the impacted party or parties
- Demeanor or behavior demonstrated throughout the incident and Community Standards process

Subsequent violations of the Student Code of Conduct while on an active status will result at a minimum in the next higher level of status-based outcomes being levied. These statuses are as follows:

- **Educational Resolution:** an educational conversation meant to inform students of the University's expectations related to the violation
- **Disciplinary Warning:** serves as an official warning to the student that subsequent violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in higher-level sanctions
- **Disciplinary Probation:** a status for a determined period which indicates that similar or more severe violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in suspension, or dismissal from the University
- **Weekend Suspension:** Suspension from campus residence and/or from the entire campus grounds for one or more weekends
- **Conditional Housing:** a status for a determined period which indicates that similar or more severe violations may result in removal from Housing or more severe sanctions
- **Removal from Housing:** a limitation on or loss of a student's ability to live in University housing. Revocation of housing privileges may include loss of University housing temporarily or permanently, restriction from certain buildings or areas of housing, and other housing-related restrictions
- **Suspension from the University:** Students are not permitted to be enrolled in the University or on University grounds for a specific period. Violating this sanction may result in arrest for trespassing and/or more severe sanctions

- **Expulsion:** Students are permanently barred from enrollment and banned from entering campus grounds. To be found on campus property may result in one's arrest from trespassing

**Active Outcomes (paired with status-based outcomes)**

Community Restitution

Letter of Apology

Restorative Conference

Reflective Assignment

Civility and Decision-Making Workshop

Substance Use Referral

Fire Safety Review

University Partner Referral

**Additional Outcomes (paired with status-based sanctions when appropriate)**

**Area Ban:** Students are not allowed to visit certain buildings or areas on campus.

**Change of Residency:** Students are assigned to a different residential room or area.

**Loss of Privileges:** Specific privileges are revoked from students (e.g., visitation to a certain part of campus, guest privileges, Senior Week, etc.).

**No Contact Order:** Formal order that a student must avoid any contact with specified individual(s) by telephone, mail, e-mail, text, social networking sites, proxy, or other media. Order may include restrictions from buildings and/or areas on campus.

**Delayed Conferral of Degree:** The issuance of a student's degree or diploma is delayed for a specific period.

**Restitution:** Students must pay designated amount for cost of repairs, replacements, and reimbursements.

**OUTCOME GUIDELINES**

Outcome guidelines are intended to alert students and other members of the University community to the seriousness of the violations below and what one might typically expect because of being found responsible for a particular violation. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of violations and outcomes may be assessed for any violation of University Policy. Determination of appropriate outcomes remains at the discretion of the Office of Community Standards.

**Alcohol-Related Violations**

Category	First Violation	Second Violation	Third Violation	Fourth Violation
Consumption or possession of alcohol under prohibited circumstances	Disciplinary Warning and active outcome	Disciplinary Probation and active outcome	Weekend Suspensions and/or privilege removal	Removal from Housing / Suspension
Assessment or transport for alcohol intoxication	Disciplinary Warning and substance assessment	Disciplinary Probation, substance assessment, and active outcome	Removal from Housing/ Suspension	Suspension or expulsion
Empty containers	Educational Resolution	Disciplinary Warning and active outcome	Disciplinary Probation and active outcome	Weekend Suspensions
Drinking games and /or paraphernalia	Educational Resolution	Disciplinary Warning and active outcome	Disciplinary Probation and active outcome	Weekend Suspensions
Driving under the influence of alcohol	Suspension or Expulsion	Expulsion		

### Drug-Related Violations

Category	First Violation	Second Violation	Third Violation
Possession or use of marijuana and/or paraphernalia	Disciplinary Warning and active sanction	Disciplinary Probation, substance assessment and active outcome	Removal from Housing/Suspension
Possession or use of other illicit drugs	Disciplinary Probation, substance assessment and active sanction	Weekend Suspension	Suspension or Expulsion
Sale, manufacture, or distribution of drugs	Suspension or Expulsion	Expulsion	

### Civility-Related Violations

Category	First Violation	Second Violation	Third Violation
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Bias Related Violation	Disciplinary Probation/ Weekend Suspension and active outcome	Suspension or Expulsion	Expulsion
Guest Policy Violation	Educational Resolution	Disciplinary Warning and active sanction	Disciplinary Probation and loss of guest/gathering privileges
Quiet Hours Violation	Educational Resolution	Disciplinary Warning and active sanction	Disciplinary Probation and loss of guest/gathering privileges
Disrespect or non- compliance with staff directives	Educational Resolution or Disciplinary Warning and active outcome	Disciplinary Probation and active outcome	Weekend Suspension or Area Ban
Presence of opposite sex in bathroom	Educational Resolution	Disciplinary Warning	Disciplinary Probation
Uncivil or Disorderly Conduct	Disciplinary Probation and active outcome	Weekend Suspensions and active outcome	Removal from Housing
Theft	Disciplinary Warning or Probation, Service and/or Restitution, active outcome	Weekend Suspensions and active outcome	Suspension or Expulsion
Vandalism or Property Damage	Disciplinary Warning or Educational Resolution and Restitution	Removal of Privileges and/or Weekend Suspensions	Removal from Housing or Suspension

### Fire Safety Violations

Category	First Violation	Second Violation	Third Violation
Gathering Policy Violation	Educational Resolution	Disciplinary Warning	Disciplinary Probation or Removal from Housing
Possessing an unlit candle or incense	Educational Resolution and Fire Safety Review	Disciplinary Warning or Disciplinary Probation	Removal from Housing



Possession of Vaporizers	Educational Resolution	Disciplinary Warning	Disciplinary Probation
Tampering with fire safety equipment	Disciplinary Warning and Fire Safety Review	Disciplinary Probation and active outcome	Removal from Housing
Smoking indoors or open flame	Disciplinary Probation and Fire Safety Review	Removal from Housing	Suspension or expulsion

**Violence-Related Violations**

Category	First Violation	Second Violation
Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person	Disciplinary Probation or Suspension and active outcome	Suspension or Expulsion
Possession of a weapon	Disciplinary Probation or Suspension and active outcome; Expulsion.	Suspension or Expulsion
Physical violence: pushing, punching, fighting etc.	Disciplinary Probation or Suspension and active outcome; Expulsion.	Suspension or Expulsion

**Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Outcomes**

Complete information is available on the University’s Title IX webpage:

<https://www.assumption.edu/people-and-departments/organization-listing/office-title-ix>

Sexual Misconduct is antithetical to the mission and values of the University and will not be tolerated. The University prohibits all forms of Sexual Misconduct and will take prompt action to eliminate such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects. Assumption University is committed to maintaining a safe and respectful learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community free from gender-based discrimination and violence, including, but not limited to: Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, Relationship Violence, and Stalking.

In keeping with the University’s commitment, outcomes may be enacted that are proportionate to the misconduct given the facts and circumstances of each report, the impact of the conduct on the impacted party and larger community, and accountability of the responding party. A complete list of potential outcomes is available on page 22 of our student handbook.

**ALTERNATIVE RESOLUTION**

Assumption University is committed to providing the space for learning and personal growth as well and meaningful individual and collective accountability for preventing and addressing harm. The University community standards process may not be used for the adjudication of cases involving the relationships or interactions between two parties that may not involve violations of our community standards. As such,

certain disputes or incidents may be best resolved in a manner that assists in the repair and mitigation of harm outside of the community standards process. The University may respond through the initiation of an inclusive and collaborative decision-making process between two parties. The Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students or designee has the discretion to identify which cases would be best addressed in this manner.

### **PREVIOUSLY ADJUDICATED CASES**

Students that attended Assumption University prior to the 2023-2024 Academic Year may have been found responsible for a Community Standards violation or violations. As outlined in sanctioning policies at the time, these students may have “points” associated with these violations. Students found responsible for violations will maintain these violations on their record and are subject to the reporting guidelines detailed in our Record Retention Policy. Previous violations will be considered when sanctioning students in accordance with the 2023-2024 Student Handbook. For example, a student may have incurred 6 points for a marijuana-related incident. If this student is found responsible for a second marijuana-related incident, they can typically expect to receive the sanction outlined under the “second violation” category. Students with status-based sanctions can typically expect to maintain that status as detailed in their initial outcome. Students are expected to complete any outstanding outcomes related to violations that occurred prior to the 2023-2024 policy updates.

### **RECORD RETENTION POLICY**

When a student is found responsible for violations of the Student Code of Conduct, a record will be established and maintained within the Office of Community Standards. Disciplinary records are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and are not released to parents, employers, or graduate schools without the written consent of the student. Student records, with some exceptions, will be maintained for seven years after the date of incident. Exceptions include but are not limited to: cases where a student has been suspended or expelled from University housing, suspended, or expelled from the University, and/or qualify under Title IX. The Office of Community Standards may also maintain records for any pending or unresolved conduct matters. The Office of Community Standards may provide the following information to the requesting party: date of violation(s), specific policy that was breached, status-based outcomes (if the outcome was probation-level or higher).

### **APPEAL PROCESS**

Students who participate in their hearing may appeal the outcome of their case. Appeals are considered by the Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students, their designee, or an Appeal Board. Appeal Boards consist of members of the University community and are advised by the Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students or designee.

Students have five (5) business days from the date of their decision letter to submit a formal letter of appeal to the Office of Student Affairs unless the safety of the University requires greater expediency. Appeal letters should state the grounds for appeal and provide a rationale to support the stated grounds.

The following are the only grounds upon which appeals may be sought:

- A material procedural error that impacted the outcome,
- Previously unavailable relevant evidence that would affect the outcome; and/or
- The sanction being disproportionate to the violation.

The appeal officer or board will:

- Uphold the decision and sanction of the hearing officer or board.
- Reverse the decision of the hearing officer or board and remove all sanctions.
- Modify the decision of the hearing officer or board and/or modify the sanctions given.

The appeal officer or board may choose to meet with the student submitting the appeal to discuss the matter in person. The appeals process is intended to foster checks and balances in the conduct process rather than rehear the case. The decision of the appeal officer or board is final.

## **ADDITIONAL STUDENT CONDUCT PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES**

**Off-Campus Violations** - The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action against Assumption University students who are involved in any off-campus incidents of criminal activity or otherwise non-criminal behavior that the University deems inappropriate, particularly when such incidents have implications for campus safety and/or an effect on the reputation or operation of the University.

**Criminal Charges** - When the University is aware that criminal charges have been brought against an Assumption University student by local, Commonwealth, or federal authorities, the University reserves the right to suspend/expel that student from the University, and/or from residence, and/or take any other action which is deemed appropriate, pending the outcome of the conduct process.

**Double Jeopardy** - The University may adjudicate matters that are being dealt with in a court of law; this does not constitute double jeopardy. University officials may, at their discretion, consider the actions taken by civil authorities.

**Search and Seizure** - One of the basic student rights is the right to privacy. The right to be secured and protected against unreasonable searches and seizures is part of this right to privacy.

**Cursory Search** - When University authorities have reason to suspect that a violation of University policy is occurring or has occurred, they reserve the right to investigate the situation and confiscate evidence of such violations. In addition, they may make a cursory search of the student's room, motor vehicle, and person, including refrigerators, closets, wardrobes, desks, and large bags or boxes. Material evidence such as alcoholic beverages and containers, drug paraphernalia, suspicious odors, disruptive behavior, or behavior which is suspect, will generally be considered the basis for such a search.

**Routine Entry and Inspection of Premises** - University authorities reserve the right to enter all campus premises on a regular basis to examine them or to make such repairs, additions, or alterations, as they deem necessary. In addition, the University reserves the right to enter the premises to take those precautions that might be found necessary to protect the health and safety of the occupants, other persons therein, or others in the residence hall/building. The University may take disciplinary action against any violators of University policy, even if the violation is observed as part of a routine operation.

**Search** - When University authorities have reasonable suspicion that serious violations of federal, State, local laws, or University policy are occurring or have occurred, they may, with the approval from either the President of the University, the Vice President for Student Affairs or their designee, or a lawfully issued search warrant, thoroughly search a student's person, room, common living space, motor vehicle, and belongings. Evidence obtained will be confiscated and used in criminal and/or University disciplinary procedures.

**Federal, State, and Local Authority** - It should be noted that federal, State, and local officials may exercise their legitimate authority in conducting search and seizure procedures without the consent of the University.

**Bystander Information** - Students, faculty or staff who witness or have knowledge of verbal or physical harassment, conflicts that may escalate into assault or battery potential volatile situations or are concerned about the immediate health or well-being of another should contact Campus Police at 508-767-7225. If the situation requires immediate intervention, contact the Campus Police emergency number at extension 7777.

All members of the Assumption University community are strongly encouraged to download the [RAVE Guardian app](#), as this is an additional resource to report any possible issue/concern and is a direct link to Public Safety/Campus Police.

Students, faculty or staff who have information about students in need of assistance should contact the Vice President of Student Affairs or Dean of Students at 508-767-7325 or submit a [CARE Team reporting form](#).

Designated campus authorities will keep the bystander's name confidential when possible. Since a suspected person's rights are a fundamental and legitimate concern, campus authorities will act in a way that takes bystander reports seriously, while respecting a suspected person's free speech, presumption of innocence, search-and-seizure, and privacy rights. All persons' behaviors are bound by the Conduct Code and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

## **RESIDENTIAL LIFE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The Office of Residential Life, located in Salisbury Hall, is responsible for administering the residence hall system which houses more than 1,300 students in fifteen residence halls and townhouse complexes. The staff, comprised of the Director of Residential Life, Assistant Director of Residential Life, Area Coordinators (ACs), Resident Directors (RDs), Head Resident Assistants and Resident Assistants (HRAs and RAs), work together to ensure that on-campus living will be both enjoyable and educational. In addition, the Office provides a variety of administrative, referral, and programming functions. Examples include room assignments and changes, maintaining community living standards, liaison with campus maintenance and security offices, discipline and counseling referrals, and residence hall programming based on community service, cultural diversity, educational, social/recreational, and spiritual issues.

Our goal is to create a community-oriented environment that maximizes a student's potential for academic and co-curricular development. We look to our students to provide the enthusiasm and commitment to help us achieve a positive learning atmosphere within our University community.

The residential areas of Assumption University offer a unique experience in community living that extends the learning process of the University beyond the classroom. Each of our residential areas varies in size, programs, and facilities. Students and staff work cooperatively to establish and maintain a living environment that fosters spiritual, educational, personal, and social growth for our residential population. Students are invited to become active participants in the community building effort. At Assumption, we believe that with community comes responsibility. This responsibility includes a respect for the dignity of the people and property of the University. .

## **INFORMATION AND POLICIES**

**Residency Privileges** - Living on-campus is regarded as a privilege, not a right. As a result, resident students are expected to adhere strictly to the procedures, regulations, and general rules of good conduct and

citizenship. Resident students are required to be self-regulating, taking full responsibility for their conduct and the conduct of their guests. As residency is, in fact, a privilege, the Vice President of Student Affairs or Dean of Students or designee reserves the right to revoke such privilege for any behavior which it regards to be inappropriate, disruptive, or not in keeping with the values and traditions of Assumption University. In addition, the University, acting through the Vice President of Student Affairs or Dean of Students or designee, may suspend or expel a student from residence:

- Immediately, pending a formal or informal disciplinary hearing;
- Immediately, pending a psychological or substance-use assessment;
- Immediately, apart from or without benefit of a disciplinary hearing;
- At any time, under any conditions, for any reason, permanently or for any stated period of time.

Students who are suspended from residence may not be permitted to enter or be present within 100 feet of any residence hall or townhouse without written permission from the Director of Residential Life or designee. The University views the revocation of housing privileges to be most regrettable and is aware of the many implications of loss of residency, particularly with regard to family finances, transportation, and distance from home. As a result, students are strongly urged to adhere closely to all University policies.

## **ENTRANCE AND EXIT PROCEDURES**

All resident students at the University enter a landlord - lessee agreement with the University. Each student is required to fill out and sign a Housing Contract during room selection or over the summer months prior to move in. Guidelines and policies outlined in this document are used to ensure that both the University and resident students are aware of their responsibilities. Students are strongly encouraged to read this document carefully and ask questions if anything indicated is not understood.

**Entrance Inventory** - Immediately upon occupancy, residents should carefully check the Room Condition Report via their [My Hound Housing page](#) for accuracy and indicate which of the listed items are present in their room and the recorded condition of each of these items. Students should also record the absence and/or presence and condition of additional items present but not listed, (i.e.: an extra desk chair, a damaged window shade, etc.). Students should be detailed and specific in describing damage, (i.e.: stains, burns, holes, scratches, tape marks, etc.).

When students become aware of any change in the condition of their room during their residence (i.e.: malfunction of a light, an item damaged by a visitor, etc.), they should report it immediately to their Head Resident Assistant/Resident Assistant. It is the student's responsibility to submit a work order for repair of items in their room.

**Room Change Procedure** - Students are advised that each residential area has a different cost. Prior to making any room change, it is the student's responsibility to contact the Finance Office to learn the difference in cost.

The Office of Residential Life recognizes that not all people are compatible and, at times after working on a conflict resolution, a room change may be the only solution. Students contemplating a room change should begin by discussing the situation with their roommate(s) and seeking the assistance of their Head Resident Assistant, Resident Assistant, Resident Director, or Area Coordinator. The specifics of the room change policy are as follows:

Every resident student signs a contract to occupy a room in a specific building or townhouse. That student is financially responsible for their assigned space for the duration of the contract.

- A room change is an amendment to this contract. A change of room requires the written approval of the RD or AC. All room changes must be initiated with the RD \or AC of the student's assigned living area.
- Housing Freeze: during the first week of each semester, no student-initiated room changes are allowed.
- After the first week of the semester, residents may change their rooms providing space is available. To initiate such a change these students must contact their Head Resident Assistant, Resident Assistant, Resident Director, or Area Coordinator who will assist them in navigating the room change procedure.
- Unauthorized room changes will result in disciplinary action.

### **Procedure for Students Withdrawing from University Housing, Study Abroad or Internship Participants**

- Students should contact the Office of Residential Life and inform them of their decision to withdraw from housing.
- Students should contact their Head Resident Assistant/Resident Assistant and complete an exit inventory.
- *Students must sign their exit inventory, or they will forfeit the right to contest (appeal) their damage assessment statement.* Students should return their room key to the Office of Residential Life prior to leaving. Failure to do so will result in a charge for a lock change. Keys cannot be accepted via mail.
- Students studying abroad during the SPRING semester who wish to participate in Housing Selection will receive information on how to participate while they are away from campus.
- Students studying abroad during the FALL semester who wish to secure on-campus housing for the spring semester should contact Residential Life by November 1 of the semester abroad and provide the office with their housing preferences. Students may choose to consult with friends who may have openings on campus and settle on a preferred housing situation for the spring semester. Students should then send an e-mail to the Office of Residential Life ([reslife@assumption.edu](mailto:reslife@assumption.edu)) requesting that particular space or listing their preferences. Placement into a students' preferred space is subject to availability. All correspondence with students will be through their Assumption email account, unless students request otherwise.
- Students should contact Student Accounts for appropriate refunds to their accounts.
- Students who withdraw from University housing and are not study abroad and/or internship participants are NOT eligible for participation in Housing Selection for the next academic year. (The only exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis for students who are approved for a Withdrawal with Intent to Return (WWIR) or commuter students).
- University housing is intended to accommodate eligible students for the four years (8 semesters) required to complete an undergraduate degree. Housing is available to students completing a graduate degree in a fifth year at the University after approval by the Director of Residential Life or designee. There are a small number of spaces available as Graduate Student Housing on campus.

### **Exit Procedures**

- When moving out of a residence hall room, apartment or townhouse, residents must contact their Head Resident Assistant/Resident Assistant to make a check-out appointment. If this is not possible, another Head Resident Assistant/Resident Assistant or Residential Life staff member may do the check-out. Failure to meet with a Residence Life staff member for the check-out appointment constitutes forfeiture of all rights to contest (appeal) damage assessments.

- The Head Resident Assistant/Resident Assistant will NOT conduct a check-out inventory until all belongings are removed from the room (i.e.: rugs off floor, posters off walls, etc.).
- Residents will be charged a fee by Buildings and Grounds per resident for any extra clean up or trash disposal and/or removal of personal belongings required after they have vacated the room.
- The check-out should include a review of all items on the Room Condition Report reviewed upon occupancy and a record of any changes on that report. (Important Note: students who do not sign their Room Condition Report are not eligible to appeal damage charges).
- The check-out should also include the return of all keys to Residential Life (if a room change is being made, the appropriate change of keys is done at the Office of Residential Life, NOT from the person leaving to the person moving in).
- Residents have the option to do an EXPRESS CHECK-OUT when vacating their housing assignment. By doing so, the student agrees to remove all personal belongings including trash from the room. Students also agree to leave the room/suite/apartment in clean and good condition. Charges for repairs, cleaning, and personal items removal (including trash) will be assessed to the student's account. Express Check-Out forms can be obtained by contacting the Office of Residential Life. Key drop-boxes exist in each residential area for students to deposit their Express Check-Out envelope and key.
- All charges assigned to a resident reflect the judgment of Residential Life and/or Building and Grounds and are subject to final evaluation by the Director of Residential Life or their designee.

### **RESPONSIBILITY FOR ROOM/APARTMENT**

Each resident student may be held responsible for violations of University policy that occur in their room/apartment/townhouse, even they are not present in the room/apartment/townhouse at the time of the violation and/or documentation. As a result, students are advised to keep doors and windows always locked and closely monitor individuals who are permitted to be in their rooms. It is each resident's responsibility to pick up a key when they move to campus and carry it with them throughout the academic year.

Many of the following policies and procedures are elaborations of general Student Affairs policy and are of primary concern to students who live in the campus residence halls. However, commuter and resident students alike are expected to abide by these policies and may face disciplinary sanctions for any infraction. Additional regulations, found in the [Housing Contract](#), also have the force of University policy.

**Room/Apartment/Townhouse Furniture** – Each residence hall room is outfitted with furniture for students to use while living in the residence halls. Students are responsible for all University issued furniture in their residence. All furniture must remain inside and intact the residence hall, townhouse, or apartment.

**Personal Furniture** - Students are welcome to bring pieces of personal furniture into their room or townhouse. The following guidelines must be understood regarding the privilege of having furniture on campus:

- No piece of furniture is to be placed in a location that would impede the evacuation of a residence hall room or townhouse.
- Furniture that is too tattered or considered a fire hazard by the Resident Director, Area Coordinator, or Campus Police must be removed.

- Personal furniture should be used to supplement, not replace the University furniture provided. If students' personal furniture does not fit in their room/apartment/townhouse safely, it must be removed.
- Students are not allowed to remove University furniture from the premises for any purpose.
- Any personal piece of furniture remaining in the residence hall room or townhouse immediately following the end of the year closing, graduation, or a student's withdrawal from University residence will be disposed of by Building and Grounds and charged accordingly.
- All furniture must remain inside the residence hall or townhouse. Any piece found outside will be immediately removed. The only exception is "patio-style" furniture, which may remain outside in accordance with safety considerations listed above.

**Lounges and Lounge Furniture** - Each residence hall has lounge areas designated for 24-hour utilization. These lounges are not for sleeping. Students who use lounges for activities other than those for which they are intended may be asked to vacate the lounges and/or face disciplinary action.

Furniture in the lounges and study rooms are used by all students. Alteration or removal of the furniture by students for personal use will result in disciplinary action and/or fines.

**Trash Removal** - Residents are expected to empty their own trash barrels. In apartment/townhouse areas, students must empty their trash in the dumpsters located in their area. In all other residences, trash is to be brought to the designated trash room. Trash or waste baskets are to be kept in student's rooms/apartments and should never be left in lounges, bathrooms, hallways, stairwells, walkways, entryways, exits or roadways.

*Due to health concerns, any residential room/suite/townhouse/apartment engaged in the practice of leaving trash in any area besides those designated, may face disciplinary action (including loss of residence) and automatically be charged \$27.50 for each bag of trash or large item removed.*

**Damage** - Malicious damage to University property or a student's personal property will result in disciplinary action through the Office of Community Standards. Continual responsibility for malicious damage may result in loss of privileges on campus and/or suspension from residence.

The University expects all students to give the highest degree of care to all facilities. Should damage occur, the student is expected to identify themselves and assume responsibility for repair costs and/or any disciplinary action, if applicable. The cost of damages, for which no responsible party can be found, will be divided among the residents of a certain room, townhouse, pod, floor, or building as determined by the Office of Residential Life.

**Common Area Damages** - Common areas are defined as:

- Residence halls: Floors, bathrooms, lounge areas, stairwells, lobby areas.
- Townhouses and apartments: Living rooms, bathrooms, kitchens, kitchen areas immediately outside townhouses/apartments.

Students sharing a common area due to their room assignments are jointly responsible for this common area. In circumstances such as extensive or repeated damages or improper disposal of trash where no individuals are found to be responsible, the cost of repairs/cleaning will be evenly charged to all members in the building, area, floor, pod, or townhouse.

Students are encouraged to help maintain their living environment and discourage others from being involved in irresponsible or disrespectful behavior to University property.



Students who witness others involved in damaging University property are expected to report such incidents to their Head Resident Assistant/Resident Assistant, Resident Director, Area Coordinator, or Campus Police.

**Damage Assessment Statement** - All damage charges, which are determined to be assessable to the residents, will be summarized twice each year. This summary of “proposed” charges will be e-mailed to students via their student e-mail address. Students will be given time to contest any personal damage prior to the proposed and/or adjusted amount being charged (*Important Note: common areas damages may NOT be contested/appealed*). Bills must be paid to the Finance Office upon receipt of an actual damage bill.

**Period to Contest Damages** - A year-end inspection will be conducted once all students have vacated. The charges that result from this inspection will be sent to the student’s permanent address. Following an appeal period, the Finance Office will generate the appropriate bill for students. (**Important Note: students who do not complete an exit inventory are not eligible to appeal damage charges**).

**Damage Billing** - Upon withdrawal from University residence, the University will refund the \$350.00 room damage that was assessed upon occupancy of University housing, unless it is needed to cover damage costs assessed to the student.

*IMPORTANT NOTE* - Any student who is found to be responsible for committing damage to any residential living area, found to be disposing of trash in public areas or out of residence hall windows, or causing **\$100.00 or more personal room damage**, may be subject to immediate removal from University residence.

**Reporting Maintenance Requests** - Maintenance repairs in students’ rooms (i.e.: malfunction of a light, broken window, etc.) should be reported to Buildings and Grounds ([maint@assumption.edu](mailto:maint@assumption.edu) or 508-767-7391) to ensure quick repairs and potentially save students money.

Repairs determined by the Office of Residential Life and/or Building and Grounds to be abnormal wear and tear will be considered an assessable charge to the student(s) who live within the room or townhouse. Billing for assessable damages will be done at the completion of the end of each academic semester and summarized on a student’s Damage Assessment Statement. Certain serious damage may be assessed immediately and subject to immediate removal from the University.

**Keys/Lock Change** - Should students become locked out of their room, they can, after trying to find their roommate(s), call Campus Police at (508)-767-7225 to open the door. The University will assess a \$55.00 fee for lockouts.

In the event a student should lose a key, s/he must report it to the Office of Residential Life (508)-767-7505, Campus Police (508) 767-7225, or Building and Grounds (508)-767-7391. A work request for a lock change will be processed and a charge will be assessed. The locksmith will change the lock and leave a notice on the door informing the residents of that room to report to the Residential Life Office to pick up their new keys; each occupant must present their Student ID to be issued a key. A \$55.00 lock change fee will be assessed to the student that was responsible for losing their issued key at the conclusion of the semester.

**Locking of Residence Halls** - For the safety and security of students, the outside entrances of residence halls are locked at all times. Use of an alarmed door for non-emergency situations will be subject to disciplinary action. Students who are not residents of a building and wish to enter a residence hall should contact the residents they are visiting and are expected enter through the main doors of the respective residence hall.

**Theft** - Assumption University and the Office of Residential Life do NOT accept responsibility for loss, theft, or damage to personal property. *It is strongly recommended that each student obtain insurance coverage for all items of personal property.* Residents are advised against keeping large sums of money and other valuables in their rooms. The best protection against property loss from a student's room is a locked door.

Motor vehicles and bicycles must be registered with Campus Police and should be locked. Students should report any property loss immediately to their Head Resident Assistant/Resident Assistant and to Campus Police.

**Storage of Personal Belongings** – Residents are prohibited from storing any personal items in common areas of the residence halls (i.e., stairwells, hallways, lounges, etc.). All personal items must be stored in residence hall rooms, apartments, or townhouses. Any personal items found unattended in common areas will be collected and immediately disposed.

**Windows** - Windows may not be used as an entrance or egress from a building; similarly, windows may not be used to pass materials in and out of residences. Screens should always remain in place. Security screen tags must remain intact unless used during an emergency exit of the building. Any problems with screens should be reported at once to the Office of Residential Life or Buildings and Grounds so repairs may be made. Use of windows to elude University officials and/or convey alcohol and other contraband may result in more substantial disciplinary action. At no time may stereos be played from open windows; such an infringement may be met with disciplinary action.

## **ROOM USE AND OCCUPANCY**

The primary purpose of on-campus housing is to provide a living environment that is conducive to learning. The use of an individual's residence hall room should never interfere with this purpose or the privacy and other rights of fellow students. Also, students may not make alterations, additions, or improvements to the inside or outside of said premises without the written permission of the Director of Residential Life or designee. The student agrees to keep premises in a clean and sanitary condition and free from trash, flammable materials, other objectionable matter, and other items, which are prohibited by University policy.

**Room Change Policy** - The Office of Residential Life recognizes that not all people are compatible and, at times, after working on a conflict, resolution room change may be necessary, providing space is available. Students contemplating a room change should begin by discussing the situation with their roommate(s) and seeking the assistance of their Head Resident Assistant, Resident Assistant, Resident Director, or Area Coordinator. The specifics of the room change policy are as follows:

- Every resident student signs a contract to occupy a room in a specific building or townhouse. That student is financially responsible for their assigned space for the duration of the contract. Students are advised that each residential area has a different cost. Prior to making any room change it is the student's responsibility to contact the Finance Office to learn the difference in cost.
- A room change is an amendment to this contract. A change of room requires the written approval of the Resident Director or Area Coordinator.
- Housing Freeze: During the first week of each semester, no student-initiated room changes are allowed.
- After the first week of the semester, residents may change their rooms providing space is available.
- The University reserves the right to change room assignments at its discretion.
- Unauthorized room changes will result in disciplinary action.

**Filling Vacancies** - The following procedure should be followed in the event of a vacancy: (these procedures may be bypassed in the event of an emergency as deemed by the Office of Residential Life).

- The roommates of the person vacating a room assignment will be contacted via email to notify them of the vacancy and give them an opportunity to find an appropriate replacement from the students already housed on campus.
- The Office of Residential Life may offer the vacant space to the person next in line on the housing waiting list. This person has two working days to accept or decline the space.
- If the occupants of a room with a vacancy attempt in any way to block the filling of a vacant bed/room or dissuade a prospective roommate from moving in, they may be subject to disciplinary action. This action could include removal from campus residence. In addition, any room vacancy not filled due to actions and/or behaviors on the part of the current resident(s) may result in the cost of the vacant bed being pro-rated and charged to the current residents of the room.

**Final Examination Period** - It is essential that the highest degree of consideration be afforded to students who are completing their final examinations. Violations of Quiet Hours or Consideration Hours during study and exam periods may result in a disciplinary fine of \$50 and an immediate loss of residency for the duration of the final examination period. A student is expected to leave the campus within twenty-four hours of their last final examination. Should a student require an extension (to complete other course work or arrange for transportation), they must request permission from the building's Resident Director or Area Coordinator. No extension can be granted beyond the day of the last final exam.

**Vacating Residential Areas when the University is Closed** - During periods in which the University is closed, the Residential Areas are also closed. These dates are subject to change as noted in appendix XIV, Extraordinary Circumstances. It is expected that students will leave campus at the time designated by the Residential Life Office and not return until the Residential Areas are officially re-opened. Any student found in violation of these guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action.

Students who believe they have a valid reason to remain in campus housing during an interim period must apply for Break Housing through [My Hound Housing](#). Information on Break Housing will be available to residents prior to each break. A late fee will be assessed for students who do not apply for Break Housing by the deadline and/or they may be denied housing. **Academic requirements, distance, and varsity athletics are the only valid reasons for submitting a request.** Working off campus is not a valid reason for on-campus accommodations. Break Housing is not included in the Housing Contract. The University reserves the right to deny Break Housing to any student for any reason. In some cases, students will not be allowed to remain in their regular room assignments. For safety and cooking purposes, students may be required to move into temporary interim assignments. Students may be charged for each night they utilize Break Housing.

## SPECIALTY HOUSING

**Substance-Free Housing**- Students who choose to live in substance free housing agree that they and their guests will not be in possession or under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs. Students further agree that neither they nor their guests will be intoxicated and/or disruptive to the community. It is expected that the residents will be self-regulating in this regard, although Residential Life staff may enforce these policies as well.

**Summer and Break Housing** - During vacation periods the University is officially closed. Under special circumstances, housing is made available to certain students during the summer months and some breaks. Such housing is considered to be a special privilege and in no manner guaranteed by the [Housing Contract](#).

The student requesting permission must follow the application procedure, which will be made available to all residents in the weeks leading up to summer or break. Students will be required to relocate to the residence hall designated for summer housing with kitchen facilities.

Summer and Break Housing is a special privilege. Any violations of policy, however minor, may result in immediate suspension from residence. Students are not permitted to host guests during vacations (Thanksgiving, Winter Break, Spring Break, Easter Break, etc.), without written permission from the Office of Residential Life. Guest privileges during Summer Session will be granted on an individual basis at the discretion of Campus Police and the Office of Residential Life.

*Important Note: The offices of Student Health Services and Counseling Services are closed during these periods; students needing medical attention should consult with local hospitals, urgent care facilities or health care providers at their own expense. Additionally, dining facilities are closed during break periods.*

## HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS

**Housing Accommodation Requests** - Students requiring accommodations for housing should contact the Office of Residential Life ([reslife@assumption.edu](mailto:reslife@assumption.edu) or (508) 767-7505) to request information regarding the application process and deadlines. This process occurs annually and students requiring accommodations must re-apply each year. Please Appendix VIII and the [Student Accessibility Services website](#) for additional information regarding accommodation requests.

## HEALTH, FIRE, AND SAFETY POLICIES

**Health, Fire, and Safety Inspection/Right of Entry** - The Residential Life staff will conduct periodic Health, Fire, and Safety Inspections of all students' rooms. The professional and paraprofessional staff members of Residential Life have the right to enter the premises at a reasonable hour in the day or evening to conduct inspection and identify/follow-up on violations, repairs, etc. as deemed necessary. Notification of inspection time and date need not be posted. Students can expect to be notified of any violation(s) via email.

The University reserves the right to inspect any room when the University deems such necessary. In addition, the professional staff members of Residential Life and other University officials have the right to enter the premises at any time for any reasonable cause. The primary purpose of entering is to take those precautions which University officials find necessary to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the occupants and/or of other persons therein and to enforce University policy.

Members of the Building and Grounds staff routinely enter rooms in the performance of their duties. Such entry is not considered an inspection, however, blatant violations, especially those that could affect student safety, will be reported to the Office of Residential Life.

**Fire and Safety Regulations** - Use of fire alarms or firefighting equipment for any purpose, except that for which intended, is prohibited according to State law. Impairment of this system could cause loss of life and a great deal of damage to personal belongings and to University property. Students who participate in such activity will be subject to disciplinary action. For the safety of all residents, evacuation drills are held at least once per semester. It is important for residents to familiarize themselves with the procedures to avoid panic in case of emergency. Participation in drills is mandatory. Violation of any aspect of these regulations will result in disciplinary action.

**Fire Emergency/Fire Drill Procedures** - In case of an alarm, students should touch their doors to feel if it is hot, and look under their doors for any smoke seeping in. If it is safe to evacuate, students must leave immediately by way of the nearest exit. Students should not use elevators during a fire alarm. Residents should assemble outside in the designated area evacuation site, located at least 50 feet away from the building, not in the fire lanes, since these must be kept clear for fire equipment. Residents should not re-enter the building until Campus Police allows them to do so.

To the extent that personal safety permits, Residential Life staff assists students with evacuation; however, it is the sole responsibility of the student to evacuate whenever an alarm sounds. Students should NOT wait for a Residential Life staff member to tell them to evacuate. Any student who does not leave a building when an alarm sounds will be subject to disciplinary action.

**False Alarms** - A false alarm is extremely dangerous. Repeated false alarms could cause students to treat an actual fire lightly. Anyone found to have intentionally set off a false alarm will be evicted from Assumption housing and may also be subject to suspension or expulsion from the University and prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.

**Fire Safety Equipment** - Due to the risk posed to the safety of the community by tampering with fire safety systems and equipment, the University will impose serious sanctions that may include suspension/expulsion from residence and/or the University on students for the following behaviors, regardless of whether it was “accidental” or not:

- Disabling, removing, or tampering with exit signs or emergency lighting.
- Disabling, misuse, removing or tampering with fire alarm systems and/or other building safety equipment.
- Tampering or discharge of fire extinguishers.
- Tampering with, covering, or damaging smoke detectors, sprinklers, or standpipes.
- Causing or contributing to a fire or flood.

**For students’ safety and the safety of others in the community, the following are PROHIBITED from all residence halls.** Please note, this is not an exhaustive list. Additional items may be identified and addressed, as necessary. Prohibited items found by Residential Life and/or Campus Police may be confiscated and not returned.

- Smoking is not permitted inside of or within 100 feet of any building on campus.
- Vaporizers and vaping paraphernalia of any type (JUULs, mods, “dab pens,” etc.) are prohibited on campus.
- Candles, devices that are designed to indirectly melt wax, potpourri burners, and incense (whether burning or not) are prohibited.
- Combustible/Flammable items including, but not limited to:
  - Kerosene lamps, tiki torches, and similar items, even as a decoration
  - Combustible trash receptacles.
  - Paint cans without lids.
  - Butane and/or items that contain or utilize butane (i.e., torch lighters)
  - Fireworks (i.e., firecrackers, caps, roman candles, sparklers, etc.).
  - Propane tank of any style or size.
  - Liquid/gas fueled camp stoves.
- Hookahs.
- Items suspended from ceilings, sprinkler heads and or pipes (flags, nets, tapestries, lights, etc.).

- Any object that blocks the exit from a room or apartment.
- Temporary partitions or dividers.
- Furniture that is stacked, such as desks.
- Cinder blocks.
- Unauthorized locks on any door.
- Obstruction of sprinkler heads or fire and safety equipment.
- Dismounting or removing a fire extinguisher. Extinguishers must remain fully charged and mounted in designated areas. Apartments and townhouses must have a fire extinguisher in view.
- Unauthorized electrical appliances such as hot plates, hot pots, rice cookers, coffee makers (unless equipped with an automatic shut-off switch), “George Foreman” type grills, air fryers, space heaters, toaster ovens, sun lamps, fog machines, smoke machines, oversized refrigerators (over 1.5 cubic feet), oversized microwaves (over 500 watts), and halogen lamps. We also recommend that irons be equipped with an automatic shut off switch for safety reasons. Students in apartments should consult Residential Life for a list of approved appliances.
- Appliance cords with broken insulation or broken plug ends. Electrical octopi (multiple extension cords). Power strips must be used when connecting more than two items to a single wall outlet (which contains room for two plugs).
- Outside antennas or aerials.
- Rooms kept in unsanitary condition, uncovered food containers, excessive beverage containers, exposed food, or disposal of trash other than in an appropriate trash receptacle.
- Removal of screens, windows, and/or security screen tabs.
- Neon lighted, city and/or street signs.

Note: Bed Leg Lifters purchased from a retail store may be used for beds that are not bunked, however, great care must be taken, and this is done at the risk of the student.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND POLICIES**

**Air Conditioners** – Air conditioners (including portable air conditioners) are not allowed without approval of the Housing Accommodations Committee. Students approved for air-conditioned rooms by the Housing Accommodations Committee will be placed in halls with central air conditioning or in a room with a University issued window unit.

**Bicycles** - Students should not leave bikes in hallways or stairways because they represent a safety hazard. It is against the law to obstruct fire exits in any way. Bike storage is permitted within the student’s room if it does not restrict the exit or disturb roommates.

\*Students who reside in the Living/Learning Center, Plough, or South Hall, may request access to a bike storage room through their Resident Director or Area Coordinator.

**Dart Boards** - Due to the damage that can occur to people and property, dartboards are prohibited.

**Hall Sports** - Due to the damage that can occur to people and property, hall sports are prohibited.

**Painting and Furnishings** - Residents are prohibited from painting, altering, or adding to the permanent furnishings of their residence. This includes graffiti, wall murals and other forms of defacement. It is strongly recommended that students do not hang LED light strips in their residence hall room due to the damage that the adhesive can cause to the walls or furniture. Violations will result in billing occupants of the room. Costs incurred by the University to repair such damage will be added to a resident’s damage bill. Additional disciplinary action may result.

**Pets** - For health and maintenance reasons, pets are not permitted in the residence halls or apartments. The only exception to this rule are fish in aquariums. Assistance animals may be approved through the Housing Accommodations process.

**Pools/Slip and Slides/Inflatables** – Students are not permitted to set up recreational pools, slip and slides, inflatables, or other outdoor equipment in any residential area.

**Outdoor Flags/Banners** – Students are not permitted to hang flags, banners etc. outside of windows or on the exterior of buildings.

### **Policy for Outdoor Cooking Grills**

The following regulations pertain to the individual use of outdoor cooking grills on campus:

- Only grills that are run with propane tanks are allowed on campus.
- **No grills that utilize lighter fluid and/or charcoal may be used at any time.**
- Grills in the areas of Alumni, Desautels, Hanrahan, Living/Learning Center, Nault, Plough, Salisbury, South, Wachusett, West, Worcester, and Young Halls must be located at least twenty-five (25) feet from the building and/or wooded areas. Grills are to be placed on hard (paved) surfaces.
- Grills around Aubuchon, Bissonnette, Dion, and Moquin Halls are to be used only on the hard (concrete) surfaces to the front or rear of these apartments.
- Grills around Authier, Dufault and Moquin Halls are to be operated only on the paved surfaces in front of the ground level apartments. *At no time should a grill be used in the stairwells (towers, balcony, or decks) of these apartments.*
- Propane tanks of any size may NOT be stored inside any room/apartment/ townhouse or in any stairwell.
- Propane tanks are to be removed from campus at the end of the academic year. Students of that particular apartment or area of campus (depending on the circumstances) can expect to be charged for any tank(s) remaining.
- Grills must be attended to at all times while in use.

## **OTHER UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

**Presence of Religious Groups on Campus** - As a Catholic and Assumptionist University, Assumption University understands spiritual growth and faith formation as integral aspects of its mission to educate the whole person. In its [Principles of Student Engagement](#), the University articulates longing for God as one of the primary ways in which students can achieve their full personal and academic potential. This is reflected in the University's Mission Statement which affirms that "our curricular and co-curricular programs provide students with an education that shapes their souls, forms them intellectually, and prepares them for rewarding careers."

The Office of Campus Ministry serves this mission by coordinating and overseeing all religious activity on the Assumption campus. The Campus Ministry staff offers a wide variety of programs and services to meet the spiritual needs of all students, including those from other religious traditions and those who are not affiliated with a religious tradition. The services of Campus Ministry include assisting students to connect with a worshipping community from their particular religious tradition in the Worcester area.

Religious groups which are not part of Campus Ministry must seek the approval of the University administration through Campus Ministry before coming to the Assumption campus to host an event, solicit, recruit, and/or meet with a student or group of students. Assumption students, staff, and faculty who are affiliated with a religious group which is not officially part of Campus Ministry must seek this same approval of the University administration through Campus Ministry before hosting an event, soliciting, recruiting, and/or meeting with other members of the Assumption community on campus on

behalf of the religious group. In considering such requests, the first consideration will always be the welfare of our students and other members of the Assumption community, as well as the Catholic and Assumptionist mission of the University. Groups that use coercive techniques or promote intolerance of other religious traditions will not be allowed on campus. Since Campus Ministry is responsible for coordinating and overseeing all religious activity on campus, another consideration will be how the group seeking approval would meet a need that is not being met, or cannot be met, by Campus Ministry. Requests for approval should be addressed to:

Director of Campus Ministry  
Assumption University  
500 Salisbury Street  
Worcester MA 01609  
[campusministry@assumption.edu](mailto:campusministry@assumption.edu)

Religious groups or individuals who circumvent this approval process will be asked to leave the campus.  
*(adopted by the Cabinet October 2015, revised to reflect new Mission Statement June 2021)*

**Racial and Ethnic Bias** - Assumption University is a Catholic institution sponsored by the Augustinians of the Assumption and rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition. In the Confessions, St. Augustine reminds us of the Biblical teaching that all people are created in the image and likeness of God, the foundation for the Catholic tradition's respect for the inherent dignity of all human beings.

Consequently, discriminatory behaviors against any individual or group on campus that are antithetical to our commitment to developing a community in which the inherent human dignity of every member of the University is preserved and celebrated is inconsistent with our mission. Accordingly, the University has in place a process for responding to incidents of racial and ethnic or discriminatory harassment.

#### Options for Addressing Incidents of Racial and Ethnic or Discriminatory Harassment

First, the University is committed to addressing a student's concerns, and as an educational institution aims to promote dialogue and understanding of different perspectives that do not rise to the level of racial and ethnic or discriminatory harassment. However, if an undergraduate or graduate student believes that s/he is the victim of racial and ethnic or discriminatory harassment, s/he is encouraged to contact a staff member for guidance and support. The University recognizes that each situation is unique, and therefore, there are several ways a student can find resolution:

- 1. General/Confidential Guidance:** Campus Ministry and Counseling Services can provide undergraduate and graduate students with confidential advice and guidance on pursuing claims of racial and ethnic or discriminatory harassment. In most situations, Campus Ministry and Counseling staff are considered confidential resources.
- 2. One-on-One Discussion:** Some situations or incidents may be best resolved in a conversation between the parties involved. The University also recognizes, however, that these conversations can be difficult and wants to support undergraduate and graduate students in pursuing this option. Students who would like advice and guidance on how to have such a conversation, should contact the Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students (508) 767-7325.



3. **Mediation:** Some situations or incidents may be best resolved with third-party involvement through a mediated conversation between the parties involved. Students who seek mediation should contact the Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students (508) 767-7325.

4. **Electronic Reporting Submission:** Students report an incident of bias or discriminatory harassment through the [Bias Incident Reporting Form](#). Your report will be reviewed by the Vice President for Student Affairs or Dean of Students and forwarded to the appropriate area on campus for follow-up.

5. **Informing a University Office:** Some situations or incidents may be best resolved with assistance from a University office. The following offices can assist in resolving incidents.

a. If the incident involves a staff or administrative member, contact the Associate Vice President of Human Resources at (508) 767-7599.

b. If the incident involves a member of the faculty, contact the Provost and Academic Vice President at (508)767-7312.

c. If the incident involves another undergraduate or graduate student, Dean of Students at (508) 767-7325.

An independent inquiry will be made into any allegations. All allegations of discriminatory harassment will be taken seriously and addressed according to University policies.

**Fundraising** - All fundraising activities, including sales, raffles, and direct solicitation of donations, must be approved by the Office of Student Activities. This includes solicitations on the campus and elsewhere (e.g., parents, local businesses, etc.) since they may affect the development efforts of the University. All funds raised must **directly benefit** the club or organization. Some examples of what funds can be used for are: travel expenses, uniforms, items for resale, and entry fees. Funds cannot be raised for outside agencies or national organizations without approval from the Director of Student Activities (or designee). Please see the *Clubs and Organizations Handbook* for additional information.

**Posting of Notices** - Students and non-students (e.g., local businesses) wishing to post notices and posters on University property must obtain authorization from the Office of Student Activities. All non-students wishing to post on campus need to be sponsored by a department on campus. All other postings will not be approved. Materials that are posted are to be placed on bulletin boards, digital signage screens or other designated areas. Only blue painters' tape should be used or staples for bulletin boards. Postings may not be placed on windows, glass doors or any Campus Road/Parking signage. Large tapestries/sheets may not be allowed due to space constraints. Postings may not be placed on any painted walls, furniture, or foodservice areas in Charlie's Snack Bar. Postings that do not bear the Office of Student Activities approval stamp may be removed. Additional posting rules may be applied in specific Residence Halls or other campus buildings. Please see the hall's Resident Director or the Student Activities Office for additional assistance.

**Assumption University Name and Logo** - The University's name, logo, facsimile thereof, and/or representation that suggests or implies an affiliation with the University, may not be used without the written approval of the Office of Integrated Marketing. Any such use must be appropriate and tasteful. No individual may enter into a contractual agreement on behalf of the University, except the Treasurer of the University or their designee.

**Political Activity and Nonprofit Organizations** - As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution of higher learning, Assumption University must comply with a number of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations, including those in regard to "political campaign intervention."

According to the IRS: “Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. The prohibition applies to all campaigns including campaigns at the federal, state, and local level.”

In compliance with federal law, the University, its name, logos, and campus property, may not be used to support or oppose any candidate for public office or political party. Nor can the University, its name, or logos, give the appearance of an endorsement of, or opposition to, an individual candidate or political party.

Please know that these regulations apply only to the institution. While the University must remain nonpartisan regarding elections, the administration encourages students, faculty, and staff to register to vote; learn more about the candidates and their positions; engage in the political process; and vote for the candidates you feel will best lead your town, state, and the nation.

Should you discover the University’s name or logo used to promote a particular candidate or political party, please email [acpa@assumption.edu](mailto:acpa@assumption.edu) this information to (along with pictures, if possible).

For more information on this IRS regulation, please click on the following three links:

[Election Year Activities and the Prohibition on Political Campaign Intervention for Section 501\(c\)\(3\) Organizations \(IRS\)](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions About the Ban on Political Campaign Intervention by 501\(c\)\(3\) Organizations \(IRS\)](#)

[Political Campaign-Related Activities of and at Colleges and Universities \(American Council on Education\)](#)

**Assumption University-Affiliated Social Media Channels** - The University fully supports and encourages the sharing of news and information about the institution on social media. However, prior to creating an Assumption-affiliated social media channel, students, faculty, and staff must first consult the Marketing Department.

**Campus Mail Services** - The Campus Mail distribution is for official University business only. Students and off-campus individuals wishing to mass-distribute printed matter may not use the postal service unless each item is individually addressed and given proper postage. In rare instances, the Office of Student Affairs may allow individuals to send materials to the Office of Residential Life and/or the Office of Student Activities for distribution to lounges, bulletin boards, and the Campus Center information booth.

**Clubs, Organizations, and Other Groups** - For information regarding membership in or sponsorship of clubs, organizations, and other groups, individuals are directed to the Director of Student Activities. The University reserves the right to withhold recognition, funding, endorsement, or other support of any group that conflicts with the mission of Assumption University as a Roman Catholic liberal arts institution.

**Co-curricular Activities** - The University reserves the right to deny membership or participation in any club, organization, leadership position (including but not limited to Student Government Association, Class Officer positions, Residential Life staff positions, etc.), or athletic team membership (including intramural and varsity sports) to any student who is placed on Academic Probation or for any reason is not regarded as a “student in good standing.” Many groups (including Athletics and Residential Life) set even higher

standards for participation; students are advised, therefore, to consult with their respective coaches, advisors, and administrators.

**Legal Liability of the University** - The University is not legally liable for damages or loss of personal property or failure or interruption of services due to weather or other acts of God.

The University does not assume responsibility for a student's lost, stolen, or damaged property. This policy covers not only a student's personal possessions, but also those items in the student's charge (e.g., keys to the student's residence hall room, residence hall furniture.)

*Students are strongly encouraged to provide their own personal and property loss insurance.*

**Motor Vehicle Registration** - All motor vehicles operating on campus (including motorcycles, mopeds and Segways) must be registered with Campus Police. A parking permit must be purchased within (10) ten days of the beginning of Fall/Spring semester. Parking permits are non-transferable. Vehicles brought to campus after this period must be registered within (2) days of the vehicle arriving on campus. Please refer to the Parking and Traffic Regulations published by Campus Police for further information. A copy of the Annotated Traffic Regulations may be obtained at Campus Police. It is the responsibility of all students to be familiar with motor vehicle regulations. Residential first-year students are not allowed to have motor vehicles on campus. Comprehensive information regarding vehicle registration, parking, policies, and resources can be found on the [Campus Police/Public Safety portal page](#).

**Parking** - Parking areas on campus are designated as student, employee, visitor, and reserved handicapped during certain hours to provide for special needs of some users and to distribute parking equitably throughout campus. Parking permits are required for all student vehicles. The permit allows students to park in specified areas on campus but bestows no special parking privileges with respect to parking in the immediate vicinity of residences, dining halls, classrooms, etc. Parking in designated areas is on a "first-come - first-serve" basis. Unless otherwise specified, all walkways and roadways are fire lanes. Parking in a fire lane or at a fire chain will result in a fine of \$25.00 and may necessitate towing at the owner's expense. Unauthorized parking in a designated handicapped area is a \$50.00 fine and may result in towing. The University reserves the right to revoke the privilege of operating a motor vehicle on the campus from any student who fails to abide by these and/or other parking regulations. Parking tickets can be appealed at Campus Police within 7 days of the violation. Appeals received after this time will not be accepted. Students and employees who receive (10) ten tickets in one academic year may lose their privilege to have and operate a vehicle on campus for at least one full semester. Comprehensive information regarding vehicle registration, parking, policies, and resources can be found on the [Campus Police/Public Safety portal page](#).

**Notification of Off-Campus Residence** - Students who reside off-campus and/or move out of on-campus residence are required to register their local mailing address with the Office of the Registrar.

**Personal Safety** - Similar to life on any urban campus, Assumption University experiences its share of crimes and disturbances. Students should not be lulled into a false sense of security and should observe all safety tips, including the following:

- Always walk in well-lit areas. If the lights are broken or not operating, report them to Campus Police at 508-767-7225.
- When walking at night, remember the buddy system and walk with a friend or group, or call Campus Police at 508-767-7225 and request an escort.
- Keep your room locked at all times.
- Keep drapes/shades drawn in the evening and at other appropriate times.

- Be aware of the emergency telephone numbers on campus and keep them readily accessible. We suggest programming the Campus Police phone number in your cell phone: 508-767-7225. For emergency situations on campus, Campus Police can be reached 508-767-7777 or at extension 7777.
- There are **EMERGENCY BLUE LIGHT PHONES** located throughout campus in parking lots and entrances to all traditional dorms.
- The **RAVE GUARDIAN** is a free smartphone app (that can be downloaded from your phone's app store) that gives you immediate access to the Campus Police Dispatcher.
- **Never prop exterior doors:** Un-prop any doors that are open and do not allow others to prop them. These efforts keep intruders out and secure the building for everyone else. Also please use keys to open them rather than trying to force the lock.

**Sales and Solicitation** - The Office of Student Affairs must approve, in writing, the on-campus sale or distribution of printed matter or any service or product. All vendors (including food delivery) must be issued a vending permit and closely follow all stipulations outlined in that agreement. Students are urged to report all unauthorized solicitations or suspicious individuals to Campus Police.

**Snow Removal Information** – To facilitate snow removal, students will be asked to move their vehicles to designated areas so parking lots may be cleared. Adequate notice will be posted on the Campus Police website and communicated via student email, voicemail, and the RAVE Guardian application. Students who fail to remove their vehicles as directed may have them towed at their expense. It is the student's responsibility to monitor campus communications.

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Authoritative information can be found in the University's Academic Catalog and Advising Guide, the official source of all academic policies. Also see the *Student Academic Honesty Policy*, available in hard copy at the office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, La Maison Hall 202, and in all academic department offices. Questions on academic matters should be directed to your faculty advisor, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies Office, or the Provost's Office.

## **STUDENT ATHLETE INFORMATION**

As an Assumption University Student-Athlete, your primary responsibility is to better yourself academically and acquire a degree. Student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves with pride, honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship at all times, on and off the playing field. Assumption University has a highly visible NCAA Division II Intercollegiate Athletics program, whereby student-athletes represent the Department of Athletics, as well as the University itself.

Standards of ethical conduct are established and enforced by the NCAA, Assumption University, and the Department of Athletics. When you participate in Intercollegiate Athletics, you are representing Assumption University, your Coach, and all the people who support us. Your personal conduct should reflect favorably upon yourself, your team, and the University. For more information, please reference the [\*Student-Athlete Handbook\*](#).

## **APPENDIX I**

## **INSTITUTIONAL POLICY ON DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT**

### **Harassment**

The educational process at the University is based on mutual trust, freedom of inquiry, freedom of expression, and the absence of intimidation and exploitation. Such an atmosphere of respect and regard for individual dignity among members of the academic community is essential if the University is to function as a center of academic freedom and intellectual advancement. In addition, the University has a compelling interest in assuring the provision of an environment in which learning, and work may thrive. Such an environment requires free and unfettered discussion of the widest possible nature, one which encourages expression of all points of view.

The University recognizes that the academic setting is distinct from the workplace in that wide latitude is required for professional judgment in determining the appropriate content and presentation of academic material. Assertions regarding any of the characteristics listed above, however, shall be related to the exchange of ideas, ideologies, or philosophies. Any such assertions in the teaching context that are persistent, pervasive, and not germane to the subject matter may constitute sexual or another form of harassment and will not be tolerated.

### **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment of students occurring at the University or in other settings that are University sponsored is unlawful and will not be tolerated. Further, retaliation against an individual who has reported sexual harassment or who has cooperated with an investigation of a sexual harassment complaint is similarly unlawful and will not be tolerated.

### **Definition of Sexual Harassment**

In Massachusetts, the legal definition for sexual harassment is:

*Sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:*

- (a) submission to or rejection of such advances, requests or conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of enrollment in the University or as a basis for academic decisions; or*
- (b) when such advances, requests or conduct have the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's educational performance by creating an intimidating, hostile, humiliating or sexually offensive academic environment because of the person's sex or other protected class.*

It is the policy of Assumption University that all our students should be able to enjoy an environment free of discrimination and harassment. This policy refers to, but is not limited to, harassment in the following areas (referred to as protected classes): race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, age, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, genetic information or family medical history, military status, or other legally protected status is prohibited.

Harassment includes display or circulation of written or electronic materials or pictures degrading to either gender or to racial, ethnic, or other protected class; and verbal abuse or insults directed at or made in the presence of members of a protected class. While it is not possible to list all of the circumstances that may constitute sexual harassment, the following are some examples of conduct that, if unwelcome, may constitute sexual harassment depending upon the totality of the circumstances, including the severity of the conduct and its pervasiveness:

- 1) *Unwelcome sexual advances – whether or not they involve physical touching;*
- 2) *Sexual epithets, jokes, written or oral references to sexual conduct; gossip regarding one’s sex life; comments on an individual’s body; comments about an individual’s sexual activity, deficiencies, or prowess;*
- 3) *Displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, cartoons;*
- 4) *Unwelcome leering, whistling, brushing against the body, sexual gestures, suggestive or insulting comments;*
- 5) *Inquiries into one’s sexual experiences;*
- 6) *Discussion of one’s sexual activities.*
- 7) *Conduct that creates an intimidating, humiliating or sexually offensive academic/work environment*

### **Complaint Procedure**

Individuals who believe they have been subjected to harassment should make it clear to the offender that such behavior is offensive to them and unwelcome, and should immediately bring the matter to the attention of the Offices below:

Individuals who believe they have been subjected to harassment from either a co-worker or a supervisor should make it clear to the offender that such behavior is offensive to them and unwelcome, and should immediately bring the matter to the attention of the appropriate office(s) below:

- 1) *Director of Human Resources (508) 767-7599 in the case of a staff or administrative member charged with harassment;*
- 2) *The Office of the Provost (508)767-7312 in the case of a member of the faculty charged with harassment; or*
- 3) *Dean of Students (508) 767-7325 in the case of a student charged with harassment.*

An independent inquiry will be made into any allegations. All allegations of harassment will be immediately investigated. It is important for employees who feel that they have been harassed to report incidents to management. Anyone found to have engaged in harassment shall be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge.

### **Harassment Investigation**

When the University receives notice (verbal or written) of conduct which appears to be harassment, it will promptly investigate the allegation in a fair and expeditious manner. The investigation will be conducted in accordance with the University’s customary procedures and in such a way as to maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable under the circumstances and permissible by law.

### **Investigation Process**

Allegations of harassment or discrimination are to be made to the Director of Human Resources, the Provost, or the Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students within 180 calendar days of the allegedly harassing or discriminatory event. The allegation should include the following information:

- name, address, and telephone number of the complainant;
- the nature of the complaint;
- date(s) and location(s) of the alleged occurrences(s);
- evidence on which the complaint is based; and
- the redress sought by the complainant.

The Director of Human Resources will promptly investigate the complaint in a fair and expeditious manner. The Director of Human Resources may act as investigator or may arrange for another individual to act as investigator in the matter. The investigation will include a private interview with the person filing

the complaint and with witnesses. The person alleged to have committed unlawful harassment will be interviewed. When the investigation has been completed, we will, to the extent appropriate, inform the person filing the complaint and the person alleged to have committed the conduct, of the results of that investigation. If it is determined that inappropriate conduct has occurred, Assumption University will act promptly to eliminate the offending conduct, and where it is appropriate we will also impose disciplinary action.

### **Appropriate Response/Disciplinary Action**

If it is determined, after an investigation, that an employee has been engaged in inappropriate conduct, appropriate action will be taken immediately, using the University's established procedures, to fulfill its obligations under the law to promote a workplace that is free of harassment. Such action may range from counseling to termination of employment and may include such other forms of disciplinary action as appropriate under the University's procedures.

### **Anti-Retaliation Statement**

Retaliation of any kind against anyone filing an allegation of harassment or discrimination is prohibited. Initiating an allegation of harassment or discrimination will not affect a complainant's employment, compensation, or work assignments or, in the case of students, grades, class selection, or any other matter pertaining to student status.

*Distinguishing between harassing or discriminatory conduct and conduct that is purely personal or social without a harassing or discriminatory work or educational effect requires a determination based on all of the facts pertaining to the situation. False accusations of harassment or discrimination can seriously injure innocent people. Initiating a false harassment or discrimination complaint or initiating a harassment or discrimination complaint in bad faith may result in disciplinary action. A finding for the accused does not constitute a finding the complaint was in bad faith.*

### **Hostile Work Environment**

If the University has notice – either direct or indirect – of possible discrimination or harassment of a member of its community because of its status as a protected class (race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, age, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, genetic information or family medical history, military status, or other legally protected status) it will take immediate and appropriate steps to investigate or otherwise determine what occurred and take steps reasonably calculated to end any harassment and/or discrimination, eliminate a hostile environment if one has been created, and prevent harassment and/or discrimination from occurring again.

### **State and Federal Remedies**

In addition to the above, if you believe you have been subjected to harassment, you may file a formal complaint with either or both of the following government agencies:

United States Equal Opportunity Commission

One Congress Street  
10th Floor, Room 1001  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-565-3200

Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination      OR      Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination

## **APPENDIX II**

### **NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. They are:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access.
  - Students should submit to the Registrar, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The University official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the University official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights.
  - Students may ask the University to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.
  - If the University decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the University will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
  - One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to University officials with legitimate educational interests. A University official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the University has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Higher Education; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another University official in performing his or her tasks. A University official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the University discloses education records without a student's consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the University to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office:



U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-5902

The items listed in the following paragraph may be released at the discretion of the University. Under the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (As Amended), students have the right to withhold the disclosure of any or all of the items. Written notification to withhold any or all items must be directed to the Registrar's Office by the publicized deadline.

Items: The student's name, address, telephone listing, campus e-mail address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight, and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees, honors, and awards received, current photo, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

A request to withhold any or all of the above data in no way restricts internal use of the material by the University.

Only parents of dependent students have access rights to the records of students. In compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (As Amended), the University reserves the right to disclose information about dependent students to their parents without student's written consent. Information will not be released until the University is assured that the parent is entitled to such information.

Students have the right to review their disciplinary records, which are maintained by the Office of Student Affairs. Students may challenge the content of those records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. In order to review records, students should make an appointment with the Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students. In order to maintain the confidentiality of other students, the Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students will review the file with the student in summary form. Duplicate copies of the file will not be issued to the student.

### **APPENDIX III** **WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

The Dean of Students (or designee) may ask or require a student to withdraw if they:

- Poses a threat to the lives/safety of self or others or refuses to cooperate with efforts deemed necessary by the Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students or their designee to determine if the student is in such danger. (Assumption University reserves the right to contact any student's parents/legal guardians when the administration deems it necessary to protect the student from physical or psychological danger);
- Is unable to carry on their responsibilities as a student;
- Has interfered with the rights of other members of the University community or has repeatedly harassed any member of the University community.
- Behaves in ways that substantially interfere with the primary educational mission of the University.

The Office of Student Affairs will, within three days of involuntary withdrawal, hold a hearing and subsequent investigation into the student's ability to continue at Assumption University and supply a written statement as to the reasons for its concerns. Parents, or other appropriate persons (i.e., faculty, roommates, etc.), may be contacted either by the student or the Office of Student Affairs for information and may participate in an informal meeting.

The hearing determines whether the student may continue classes or withdraw until requirements outlined by the Vice President for Student Affairs (or designee) are met.

## **APPENDIX IV**

### **COMPUTER & NETWORK USE POLICIES**

#### **POLICY REGARDING COMPUTER SOFTWARE**

Assumption University licenses the use of its computer software from a variety of outside companies. Assumption does not own this software or its related documentation and, unless authorized by the software developer, does not have the right to reproduce it.

Assumption personnel (administrators, faculty, staff, and students) may use the software only in accordance with the license agreement. (Information on the agreement may be obtained from the Information Technology.) Unless authorized by the software developer, it is illegal to make copies of any kind of software (programs, word processors, spreadsheets, etc.) that bear the copyright symbol and/or a copyright number.

According to the U.S. Copyright Law 17 U.S.C. Section 504, illegal reproduction of software can be subject to civil damages of \$100,000 or more and criminal penalties including fines and imprisonment.

Anyone caught making, acquiring, or using unauthorized copies of computer software will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action resulting from a violation of this policy will range from one year suspension from the University (as well as restitution for damages committed) to expulsion from the University.

### **ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

#### **Purpose**

Information Technology (IT) at Assumption University supports the educational, institutional, and administrative activities of the University. The use of these resources is restricted to members of the Assumption University community. As a user of these resources, you have access to University resources, to sensitive data, and to internal and external networks. Consequently, it is important for you to behave in a responsible, ethical, and legal manner.

In general, acceptable use means respecting the rights of all computer users, the integrity of the campus facilities and all pertinent license and contractual agreements. If an individual is found to be in violation of the Acceptable Use Policy, the University may take disciplinary action, including the restriction and possible loss of network privileges. A serious violation could result in more serious consequences, up to and including suspension or expulsion from Assumption University. Individuals are also subject to federal, state, and local laws governing interactions that may occur on the Internet. These policies and laws are subject to change as state and federal laws develop and change.

This document establishes specific requirements for the use of all computer and network resources at Assumption University.

#### **Scope**

This policy is directed at all users of computer and network resources owned or managed by Assumption University. Individuals covered by the policy include (but are not limited to) Assumption faculty and

visiting faculty, staff, students, alumni, or guests of the administration, external individuals, and organizations accessing network services via Assumption's computing facilities.

Computing resources include all University owned, licensed, or managed hardware and software, and use of the University network via a physical or wireless connection, regardless of the ownership of the computer or device connected to the network.

These policies apply to technology administered in individual departments, the resources administered by IT, personally owned computers/tablets/(smart)phones, any other devices connected by wired or wireless to the campus network, and to off-campus remote computers that connect to the University's network services through VPN.

### **Rights and Responsibilities**

As a member of Assumption University, the University provides you with the use of computing and work-related resources, including access to the Library, computer systems, servers, software, and databases, to the campus telephone and voice mail systems, and to the Internet. You have a reasonable expectation of unobstructed use of these tools, of certain degrees of privacy and of protection from abuse and intrusion by others sharing these resources.

In turn, you are responsible for knowing the regulations and policies of the University that apply to appropriate use of the University's technologies and resources. You are responsible for exercising good judgment in the use of Assumption University's technological and information resources.

### **Acceptable Use**

- You may use only the computers, computer accounts, and computer files for which you have authorization.
- You may not use another individual's account or attempt to capture or guess other users' passwords.
- You are individually responsible for appropriate use of all resources assigned to you, including the computer, software, and hardware. Therefore, you are accountable to the University for all use of such resources. As an authorized Assumption University user of resources, you may not enable unauthorized users to access the network by using an Assumption computer or a personal computer that is connected to the Assumption network.
- The University is bound by its contractual and license agreements respecting certain third party resources; you are expected to comply with all such agreements when using such resources.
- You should make a reasonable effort to protect your passwords and to secure resources against unauthorized use or access. You must configure hardware and software in a way that prevents unauthorized users from accessing Assumption's network and computing resources.
- You must not attempt to access restricted portions of the network, an operating system, security software or other administrative applications without appropriate authorization by the system owner or administrator.
- You must not use Assumption University computing and/or network resources in conjunction with the execution of programs, software, processes, or automated transaction-based commands that are intended to disrupt (or that could reasonably be expected to disrupt) other computer or network users, or damage or degrade performance, software, or hardware components of a system.

- On Assumption University's network and/or computing systems, do not use tools that are normally used to assess security or to attack computer systems or networks (e.g., password 'crackers,' vulnerability scanners, network sniffers, etc.)

### **Assumption University Computing is a Shared Resource**

IT expects to maintain an acceptable level of performance and must assure that unintended, excessive, or inappropriate use of the resources by one individual or a few does not negatively impact performance for others. The campus network, computer servers, mail and other central computing resources are shared widely and are limited, requiring that resources be utilized with consideration for others who also use them.

Assumption University may choose to set limits on an individual's use of a resource through quotas, time limits, and other mechanisms to ensure that these resources can be used by anyone who needs them. Monitoring is in place to determine the proper use of University resources.

### **Adherence to Federal, State, and Local Laws**

As a user of Assumption University computing and network resources you must:

- Abide by all federal, state, and local laws.
- Abide by all applicable copyright laws and licenses. Assumption University has entered into legal agreements or contracts for many of our software and network resources which require each individual using them to comply with those agreements.
- Observe the copyright law as it applies to music, videos, games, images, texts, and other media in both personal use and in creation of electronic information. The ease with which electronic materials can be copied, modified, and sent over the Internet makes electronic materials extremely vulnerable to unauthorized access, invasion of privacy and copyright infringement.
- Do not download, copy, or distribute copyrighted works. Doing so may provide the basis for disciplinary action, civil litigation, and criminal prosecution.

### **Inappropriate Activities**

Use Assumption University computing facilities and services for those activities that are consistent with the educational, research and mission of the University. Any use of University computing resources for political or personal economic gain, or in a way that would jeopardize the school's tax-exempt status, is prohibited.

### **Privacy and Personal Rights**

All users of Assumption University computer and network resources are expected to respect the privacy and personal rights of others.

Be professional and respectful when using computing systems to communicate with others; the use of computing resources to libel, slander, or harass any other person is not allowed and could lead to University discipline as well as legal action by those who are the recipient of these actions.

While Assumption University does not generally limit the content of information transmitted on the campus network, monitoring of University computing systems is ongoing. The University reserves the right to access and review such information under certain conditions. These include: investigating performance deviations and system problems (with reasonable cause), determining if an individual is in

violation of this policy, or, as may be necessary, ensuring that Assumption University is not subject to claims of institutional misconduct.

Access to files on University-owned equipment or information by security officials, IT or other pertinent University offices will only be approved by specific personnel when there is a valid reason to access those files. Authority to access user files can only come from the Chief Information Officer of IT in consultation with the Provost and the General Counsel. External law enforcement agencies and Public Safety may request access to files through valid subpoenas and other legally binding requests. All such requests must be approved by the General Counsel. Information obtained in this manner can be admissible in legal proceedings or in an Assumption University hearing.

### **Privacy in Email**

While every effort is made to ensure the privacy of Assumption University email users, this may not always be possible. Assumption University reserves and retains the right to access and inspect stored information without the consent of the user.

### **User Compliance**

When you use Assumption University computing services, and accept any University issued computer accounts, you agree to comply with this and all other computing related policies. You have the responsibility to keep up-to-date on changes in the computing environment, as published via Assumption University electronic and print publication mechanisms, and to adapt to those changes, as necessary.

## **ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY NETWORK USE POLICY**

### **Purpose**

This policy is designed to protect the Assumption University network and the ability of the campus to use it. The purpose of this policy is to define the standards for connecting all devices including computers, servers, tablets, phones, or other devices to the University's network. The standards are designed to minimize the potential exposure to Assumption University from damages (financial, loss of work, and loss of data) that could result from computers and servers inappropriately configured or maintained and to ensure that all devices on the network are properly connected and not adversely affecting network performance.

Assumption University must provide a secure network for educational, research, instructional and administrative functions, and services. Damages from improperly connected or configured devices could interrupt or degrade service enough that the loss of sensitive and confidential data, interruption of network services and damage to critical Assumption University internal systems could occur. Schools that have experienced severe compromises have also experienced damage to their public image. Therefore, individuals who connect computers, servers and other devices to the campus network must follow specific standards and take specific actions.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all members of the Assumption University community or visitors who have any device connected to the Assumption University network, including, but not limited to, desktop computers, laptops, servers, wireless computers, mobile devices, smartphones, specialized equipment, cameras, environmental control systems, and telephone system components. The policy also applies to anyone who has systems outside the campus network that access the Assumption University network. The policy

applies to University-owned computers as well as personally-owned or leased computers that connect to the campus network.

### **Responsibility for Security**

Every computer or other device connected to the network has an associated owner (e.g., a student or staff member who has a personal computer). For the purposes of this policy, owners and caretakers are both referred to as owners.

Owners are responsible for ensuring that their machines meet the relevant security standards and for managing the security of the equipment and the services that run on it.

### **Security Standards**

These security standards apply to all devices that connect to the Assumption University network through standard University network ports, through wireless services, and through home and off campus connections.

Owners must ensure that all computers and other devices capable of running anti-virus-malware software have Assumption University-licensed anti-virus software (or other appropriate virus protection products) installed and running. Owners should update definition files regularly.

Computer owners should install the most recent security patches on the system as soon as practical or as directed by the IT Department. Where machines cannot be patched, other actions may need to be taken to secure the machine appropriately.

Computer owners of devices that contain PII (personally identifiable information) should apply extra protection as mandated by local, state, and federal statutes.

### **Network-Based Service Provider**

IT is responsible for providing reliable network services for the entire campus. Individuals or departments may not run any service which disrupts or interferes with IT services. These services include, but are not limited to, email, DNS, DHCP, and Domain Registration.

### **Protection of the Network**

IT uses multiple methods to protect the Assumption University network:

- Monitor all traffic inbound-outbound on the network
- Scan hosts on the network for suspicious activities
- Block harmful traffic

All network traffic passing in or out of Assumption's network is monitored by an intrusion prevention system for signs of compromises. By connecting a computer or device to the network, you are acknowledging that the network traffic to and from your computer is monitored and may be scanned.

IT continually scans the Assumption University network, looking for vulnerabilities. At times, more extensive testing may be necessary to detect and confirm the existence of vulnerabilities. By connecting to the network, you agree to have your computer or device scanned for possible vulnerabilities.

IT reserves the right to take necessary steps to contain security exposures to the University and to block or remediate improper network traffic. IT will take action to contain devices that exhibit the behaviors indicated below and allow normal traffic and core University functions to resume.

- Imposing an exceptional load on a campus service
- Exhibiting a pattern of network traffic that disrupts core services
- Exhibiting a pattern of malicious network traffic associated with scanning or attacking others
- Exhibiting behavior consistent with the owner's device being compromised

IT reserves the right to restrict certain types of traffic coming into and across the Assumption network. IT may restrict traffic that is known to cause damage to the network or hosts on it, such as P2P, Bit Torrent, NETBIOS, Bonjour and Rendezvous. IT also blocks other types of traffic that consume too much network capacity, such as all file-sharing traffic.

By connecting to the network, you acknowledge that a computer or device that exhibits any of the behaviors listed above is in violation of this policy and will be removed from the network until it meets compliancy standards.

## **APPENDIX V**

### **POLICY REGARDING CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS**

The University as an entity maintains several types of contractual agreements with students that are not subject to University disciplinary procedures because they are not disciplinary in nature but place the University in a role such as a proprietor. In these roles, the University may terminate students who fail to pay tuition or other expenses or may evict residents from their residence for major action that is inconsistent with the University's policies including non-payment of money owed the University. The President of the University delegates these powers to the appropriate administrative officer.

NOTE: Other regulations are contained in the University Catalog and other publications of the University. Regulations are subject to change at any time and will be communicated via written notice whenever possible or other means as appropriate.

## **APPENDIX VI**

### **STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES**

Assumption University is committed to providing equity, access, and inclusion for all students with disabilities within all aspects of the campus community. The Office of Student Accessibility Services can answer questions regarding support services and accommodations for prospective and current students and works with students to determine appropriate accommodations. For more information, and to apply for academic, housing and dining accommodations, please refer to the [Student Accessibility Services website](#).

The office of Student Accessibility Services works with faculty and staff across campus. A student may be referred to one or more of the following offices:

#### **Academic Support Center (ASC)**

The Academic Support Center provides tutoring services for all undergraduate students at Assumption. Students with different abilities may find tutoring helpful. For more information, please refer to the [Academic Support Center website](#).

### **Counseling Services**

Counseling Services has mental health professionals available to provide counseling and support to students by appointment. The Counseling staff also makes referrals to local resources depending on the situation. For more information, please refer to the [Wellness Center website](#).

### **Health Services**

Health Services provides medical care for a variety of issues. Students should call ahead or make an appointment online. The Health Services staff also makes referrals to local resources depending on the situation. For more information, please refer to the [Wellness Center website](#).

## **APPENDIX VII** **JURY SERVICE**

According to the Office of the Jury Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, “Every U.S. Citizen 17 years of age or older who is a Massachusetts resident or an inhabitant for more than 50% of the time is eligible to serve as a juror. If you are a resident of another state but a student at a Massachusetts University, you are an inhabitant for more than 50% of the year and, therefore, eligible to serve as a juror in Massachusetts”

It is not unusual for students residing in Worcester County to be summoned to serve as trial jurors. Jury service, on a short-term basis, can provide students with a good opportunity to fulfill one of their important responsibilities as members of the community. Assumption University supports students in their fulfillment of this civic duty.

Students should carefully read all materials they receive with their summons to service, which contain helpful information about confirming, postponing, rescheduling, or relocating service, and address many of the most frequently asked questions. Jury duty is an important legal obligation, and those who fail to respond are subject to criminal prosecution.

Students who must miss class in order to fulfill their jury service requirement should notify each of their instructors of the summons and make arrangements to complete any missed work. Students should also notify the Dean of Undergraduate Studies office and provide a copy of their summons notice or the certificate of service when making these arrangements.

If you have questions about jury duty, including confirming, postponing, rescheduling, or limiting your service, please consult the Student’s Guide to Jury Duty brochure, available in the Office of Student Affairs or contact the Office of the Jury Commissioner (1-800-THE-JURY/1-800-843-5879). Further information can be found on the [Office of Jury Commissioner’s website](#).

## **APPENDIX VIII** **MISSING STUDENT NOTIFICATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

Assumption University takes student safety very seriously. To this end, the following policy and procedure has been developed in order to assist in locating Assumption student(s) living in University-owned, on-campus housing, who based on the facts and circumstances known to the University are determined to be missing. This policy is in compliance with Section 488 of the Higher Education Act of 2008.

Most missing person reports in the University environment result from a student changing their routine without informing their roommates and/or friends of the change. Anyone who believes a student to be missing should report their concern to Campus Police as soon as possible. Every report made to Campus



Police will be followed up with an immediate investigation. Once a student has been missing for 24 hours or if a situation indicates suspicious circumstances in the student disappearance the incident will be reported to appropriate local and/or state police

Depending on the circumstances presented to University officials, parents of a missing student will be notified. The suspected missing student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified if the student is under 18 years of age. In the event that parental notification is necessary, the Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students (or their designee) will place the call.

At the beginning of each academic year, residential students will be asked to provide, on a voluntary basis, emergency contact information in the event they are reported missing while enrolled at Assumption University. This emergency information will be maintained by the Office of Student Affairs and updated annually. Students are strongly encouraged to notify the Office of Student Affairs when there is any change in their emergency contact information

## **APPENDIX IX**

### **HEOA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT AND POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF UNAUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS**

Assumption University Information Technology in compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008, has in place plans to effectively control and eliminate unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials. The campus provides alternatives to illegal downloading or peer-to-peer distribution of intellectual property.

#### **A) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO COMBAT UNAUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL AT ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY.**

Assumption University has in place programs to combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material by users of the campus network without impacting educational freedom, intellectual curiosity along with the need to conduct the "business" of the University. These programs include the following:

- 1) **Technology Solutions.** Assumption University uses the following technology-based deterrents to combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material by users of the campus network:
  - a) Bandwidth Shaping – Blocks all known P2P programs and ports.
  - b) IPS – Blocks all known P2P ports and programs.
  - c) Firewall rules block known websites and P2P ports.
  - d) Residence halls each have a separate vlan (virtual local area network) and cannot share with each other over the wired network.
  - e) Accept and respond to DMCA notices.
- 2) **Educating the University.** Assumption University distributes appropriate email/postal delivery of documents to inform students, staff, and faculty about the appropriate uses of copyrighted materials. These educational efforts include information that informs students that unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material may subject a student to civil and criminal liabilities.
- 3) **Institutional Policies and Procedures.** The University has in place an appropriate Acceptable Use Policy as well hardware/software requirements to ensure all campus users can successfully connect and utilize the Assumption University network.

4) **Program Review.** Assumption University IT&MS Network Operations annually assesses the effectiveness of its program to combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material. Relevant assessment criteria include items such as bandwidth used for peer-to-peer applications and the number of legitimate infringement notices received from rights holders. This review shall be conducted by the Chief Information Officer with assistance from Network Operations staff.

## **B) LEGAL ALTERNATIVES FOR DOWNLOADING.**

Assumption University through IT & MS makes available information about legal alternatives for accessing and downloading copyrighted material. As part of the annual review, the University shall reassess the availability of legal alternatives for downloading or otherwise acquiring copyrighted material. The results of the review will be made available annually to all Assumption students.

## **C) RELATED POLICIES AND STATEMENTS**

### **Legal Alternatives for Online Music and Movies**

The Internet offers a variety of legal entertainment alternatives, whether downloads or streaming, free or fee-based, DRM or DRM-free. Here is a sampling of your options:

- **Amazon** - Offering digital purchases of individual songs as DRM-free MP3s
- **eMusic** - Similar to iTunes but with subscription-based pricing; music offered as DRM-free MP3; works on both Mac and Windows
- **Grooveshark** - A music community that rewards users for sharing their own music, with a goal to compensate everyone from users to rights' holders.
- **iTunes** - Music, movies and more; service requires client download; basic content contains DRM, though iTunes Plus material is free of burn limits and DRM
- **Hulu** - A free online video service offering TV shows, movies, and clips
- **Last.fm** - Offers Live streaming music much like Pandora
- **Live365** - Internet radio
- **Netflix** - Movie subscription service
- **Pandora** - Subscription service Internet radio with free trial
- **Rhapsody** - Subscription service for online listening and downloads; free trial
- **SHOUTcast Radio** - Free audio homesteading solution
- **Spotify** - Internet radio much like Pandora

Other recommendations:

- Several popular television programs are streamed at no cost, such as at **Hulu**, or at their network's websites (**ABC** / **CBS** / **CWTV** / **FOX** / **NBC** ).
- In addition, both the **MPAA** and **RIAA** offer their own lists of legal entertainment alternatives.
- Questions or comments may be emailed to: **helpdesk@assumption.edu**

### **RIAA Anti-Piracy Enforcement Efforts**

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) through third party companies' surveys computers connected to the Internet in search of violations of copyright law. A big focus is monitoring

University's and universities, due in part to the high speed Internet connections readily available at these institutions.

The RIAA's actions include sending **notices** to universities alleging network user violations of copyright laws. In these notices, the RIAA informs the schools of forthcoming copyright infringement lawsuits against network users (identified through Internet Protocol addresses), who they allege have been participating in illegal downloading or file sharing of copyrighted material. Additionally, in these notices, the RIAA indicates that prior to commencing litigation, it will send to the school a prelitigation settlement letter with a request that the letter be sent to the alleged violator.

If Assumption University is requested to forward any **pre-litigation settlement letters** to alleged violators who can be identified using cited IP addresses, it will do so. However, in so forwarding any such letter, Assumption University does not vouch for the accuracy of what is contained in the letter; does not take a position on what the recipient should do in response to the letter; and will not offer legal advice to the recipient of such letters.

If a legal action is commenced by a recording industry party against alleged violators who are users of Assumption University's network, the university will identify these individuals if required by legal process (for example, a subpoena is served on the University seeking the identity of alleged violators).

If the RIAA subpoenas the university, we are legally required to identify a user associated with an IP address **if we can do so**. If a subpoena is served on the university, the university will provide notice of the subpoena to a user identified by the IP address cited in the subpoena. When and if an offending user is identified, User Services suspends network access and meets with the student to ensure the sharing is stopped and the user complies with the University's Acceptable Use Policy.

Sharing music (as well as movies, games, software, or television shows) illegally and violating copyright law is a clear violation of Assumption University's Acceptable Use Policy.

## **COPYRIGHT POLICY**

### **What is Copyright?**

Copyright is legal protection to authors and creators of their work to control the use of their work. It applies to literary, musical, film, multi-media, graphic, analog, digital and/or any "created" work. Copyright is automatically created once the work is completed and copied/recorded.

### **Who can claim Copyright?**

The author can claim copyright once the work is completed and recorded. Only the author can claim copyright. Authors of a joint work are co-owners of the copyright. Copyright owners have the right (exclusive) to reproduce the work, distribute the work (sell, rent, donate), create new works from the original and publicly perform/show the work.

### **Who Owns the Copyright?**

The creator or author does. However, if the work is created while in the employ or contract of their company of employment, the work becomes "work made for hire" and the employer owns the copyright. Sometimes a joint ownership can be negotiated in these instances.

### **What is the DMCA?**

The present Copyright Act was crafted in 1978. In general, it was crafted to cover written works. With the deployment and proliferation of the Internet and electronic media the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) was created and signed in 1998 to cover the digital transmission of copyrighted works.

### **How Does the DMCA Impact Assumption University?**

The DMCA provides non-profit University's and universities some protection if individual members violate copyright law by illegally sharing or downloading protected works. To maintain this protection, Assumption University must remove or block access to material which infringes on any current copyright law. Individuals caught infringing are liable for fines from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and up to 10 years in prison depending on intent. In addition, Assumption University, in compliance with the HEOA must annually disclose; a) its campus copyright law b) effectively deter unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials using technology based deterrents c) offer alternatives to illegal downloading.

### **Why is Copyright Suddenly So Important?**

Technology makes it easy to download and transmit copyrighted materials over the Assumption network. While Assumption University promotes Academic Freedom, it must support and follow all state and federal laws. Assumption University does not condone copyright infringement and proactively monitors and blocks illegal file sharing and P2P use.

## **APPENDIX X**

### **NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

St. John Paul II wrote: "Man's creation by God 'in his own image' confers upon every human person an eminent dignity; it also postulates the fundamental equality of all human beings." Assumption University recognizes the essential contribution of a diverse community of students, staff, and faculty. Accordingly, Assumption University commits itself to maintaining a welcoming environment for all people and to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination in employment and its educational programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, age, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information or family medical history, military or veteran status, immigration status, or other legally protected status. We intend this list to be inclusive, not exclusive.

Assumption University rejects and condemns all forms of harassment, discrimination, and disrespect. It has developed procedures to respond to incidents of harassment whatever the basis or circumstance. Assumption University has designated its Associate Vice President for Human Resources/CHRO to coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities to prevent discrimination in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title VI, Section 504 and the ADA. Any applicant for admission or employment, and all students, staff and faculty members are welcome to raise any questions regarding this notice with the Office of Human Resources:

Assumption University  
Office for Human Resources  
Associate Vice President for Human Resources and CHRO  
500 Salisbury Street  
Alumni Hall - 109  
Worcester, MA 01609  
Phone: 508-767-7599

Any person who believes that an act of unlawful discrimination has occurred at Assumption University may raise this issue with the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education.

## **APPENDIX XI**

## **EXTRORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES POLICY**

In the unfortunate event of extraordinary circumstances, the University reserves the right to adjust/amend any policy within this handbook. Any adjustment(s) to policy will be communicated to the applicable population(s) and will supersede items contrary within this handbook.

Examples of situations where this may be applicable include but are not limited to; natural disaster, war, national, local or campus emergency, pandemic, epidemic, endemic, or outbreak, etc.

Examples of policies that may be applicable include but are not limited to; requirement to vacate campus, access to campus, campus buildings and/or residence halls, requirement to follow through with amended policies and protocols, prohibition of guests/visitors to campus, prohibition of visitation and/or gatherings within the residence halls, etc.

## **DONEC FORMETUR CHRISTUS IN VOBIS** **“UNTIL CHRIST BE FORMED IN YOU”**

The shield on the Assumption University seal is divided into four sections by the Cross, symbol of Christ, denoting the University as a Christian institution. The crowned “M” is the symbol of the Blessed Virgin Mary in her Assumption. In the lower right panel is the fleur-de-lys, representing the French origins of the University. In the center is placed the book of scriptures inscribed *ART, Adventiat Regnum Tuum*, “Thy Kingdom Come,” the motto of the Augustinians of the Assumption. The University motto, *Donec Formetur Christus In Vobis*, “Until Christ Be Formed In You” (Galatians 4:19), was given by the Assumptionist founder, Fr. Emmanuel d’Alzon, as he considered the establishment of a Catholic university.

For additional policies, students and personnel should refer to other University publications, particularly to the *Undergraduate Catalog*. Policies stated herein are subject to change with notification of such change made through normal channels of communication.

## WHERE TO GET HELP, INFORMATION, AND INVOLVED!

### ON-CAMPUS

#### Academic Resources:

- Undergraduate Studies: 508-767-7486
- Academic Support Center: 508-767-7071
- Student Accessibility Services: 508-767-7500
- Registrar: 508-767-7355

AU Allies: 508-767-7403

Buildings & Grounds/Maintenance Concerns: 508-767-7391

Campus Activities Board (CAB):508-767-7058

Campus Ministry: 508-767-7419

Campus Police (Emergency): 508-767-7777

Campus Police (Non-Emergency): 508-767-7225

Career Development & Internship Center: 508-767-7248

Counseling Services: 508-767-7329

Cross-Cultural Center/ALANA: 508-767-7100

Dining Services: 508-767-7231

Financial Aid: 508-767-7158

International Student Resources:508-767-7310

#### Pregnancy Counseling:

- Counseling Services: 508-767-7329
- Campus Ministry: 508-767-7419

Reach Out Center: 508-767-7101

Residential Life: 508-767-7505

#### Sexual Violence/Harassment:

- Title IX Coordinator: 508-767-7172
- Campus Advocate (Confidential): 508-767-7641

Student Affairs: 508-767-7325

Student Education and Leadership: 508-767-7403

Student Government Association: 508-767-7396

Student Health Services: 508-767-7329

Student Success: 508-767-7401

### OFF-CAMPUS

#### Alcohol Concerns:

- Alcoholics Anonymous (Worcester): 508-752-9000
- AdCare Hospital (24 hour help and referral line): 1-800-252-6465

Ambulance: 911

#### Child Abuse:

- Mass.Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children: 1-800-442-3035
- Parental Stress Line: 1-800-632-8188

Fire: 911

#### Gambling Help:

- Gamblers Anonymous (Eastern Massachusetts): 617-899-7943
- Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling: 1-800-426-1234

Healing from Abortion (for women and men):

- Project Rachel: 508-791-HOPE
- Clearway Clinic: 508-438-0144

Mental Health Resources:

- Student Assistance Program (SAP): 1-800-386-7055
- Emergency Mental Health Services, UMass Memorial: 508-856-3562
- First Call (information/referral): 508-755-1233

Poison: Massachusetts Poison Information Center: 1-800-682-9211

Police: 911

Pregnancy Resources:

- Clearway Clinic: 508-438-0144
- Problem Pregnancy of Worcester: 508-856-0700
- Pernet Family Health Center: 508-755-1228

Relationship Violence: Daybreak (Worcester): 508-755-9030

Sexual Violence: Pathways for Change (Rape Crisis Center) 24/7: 1-800-870-5905 and 508-852-7600



# Assumption University