

## **I received a letter stating I have been scheduled for a formal hearing with the Student Community Standards Committee. What is a formal hearing?**

For serious cases of misconduct that can result in separation from the University, the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards will schedule a formal hearing. The formal hearing involves the Student Community Standards Committee who reviews and addresses the misconduct. Formal hearings are conducted over the phone and are recorded for quality assurance.

## **Who makes up the Student Community Standards Committee?**

The Student Community Standards Committee is comprised of full time faculty and senior level administrators with Ashford University.

## **How much time will the formal hearing take?**

Students should plan on any formal hearing lasting up to one hour.

## **Do I need to bring anything to the formal hearing?**

Students do not need to bring anything to the formal hearing; however, at least seven (7) business days prior to the hearing, students will receive the evidence relevant to the hearing, and should be prepared to discuss these materials accordingly. The date and time of the formal hearing will also be included in this email.

## **Can I have someone on the phone with me during the formal hearing?**

If a student is engaged in conduct procedures they may be accompanied by an advisor of their choice to any meeting or proceedings. However, the advisor may only advise the student, and not otherwise participate in the proceedings. Students who wish to have someone accompany them should contact [scs@ashford.edu](mailto:scs@ashford.edu) at least two (2) business days before the hearing.

## **What happens during the formal hearing?**

During the formal hearing, students will have an opportunity to address the Student Community Standards Committee about the misconduct. The Student Community Standards Committee may also ask the student questions for clarification.

## **What happens after the formal hearing?**

The Student Community Standards Committee will review the evidence and student statements and will determine if there was misconduct. If it is deemed that misconduct did take place, the committee will then determine appropriate sanctions. In all cases of academic dishonesty, the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards will not reconsider the issue of student responsibility as determined by the Academic Integrity Department, but will instead determine appropriate sanctioning. All decisions made by the Student Community Standards Committee are governed by majority vote.

## **What happens if I am found in violation of the Student Community Standards?**

The Student Community Standards Committee will determine appropriate sanctions based on the severity of the misconduct.

**What are the possible sanctions?**

Because formal hearings address issues of serious misconduct, more severe sanctions may apply. A sanction could include, but is not limited to: educational modules, reflective papers, formal written warning, coaching sessions, informational meetings, educational projects, a restriction, or loss, of privileges, suspension, and/or expulsion.

**When will I find out the result of the formal hearing?**

Students will receive an email from the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards within seven (7) business days of the conclusion of the formal hearing.

**What if I do not show up to the formal hearing?**

If a student does not participate in a formal hearing once it has been scheduled, the committee will make a decision based on the evidence and that student's written statement. Students who do not participate in a formal hearing waive their right to petition to appeal the outcome.

If a student does not engage with, or declines to participate in, Student Conduct processes, a hold will remain on their account preventing registration for future courses, access to transcripts, and/or receiving financial aid distributions. Students may also be removed from future courses.

**Can I appeal the outcome of a formal hearing?**

Students have the right to appeal the outcome of any formal hearing they have participated in. To appeal, students must complete the [Petition to Appeal Formal Hearing Outcome](#) form and send it to [scs@ashford.edu](mailto:scs@ashford.edu). Students must send the appeal form within seven (7) business days of receipt of their formal hearing outcome letter. In the Petition to Appeal, it is important that you substantiate one of the three (3) reasons why you are appealing the outcome.