

# Policy on Disruptive Student Conduct in the Classroom or Other Learning Environment

## Policy Rationale

As stated in the Creighton University Mission Statement, “Creighton exists for students and learning.” As such, appropriate behavior and decorum are required in classrooms and other learning environments to create and maintain an environment conducive to learning for all students.

Disruptive behavior compromises the educational experience of the course for students and/or prevents the instructor from accomplishing the goals of the course. The policy below aims to both preserve academic freedom for instructors in managing their classrooms and support students in making choices that reflect the personal and communal commitments articulated by the Jesuit values central to the mission of Creighton University.

Expectations for classroom behaviors may already be regulated by a course “participation grade,” which may apply to certain standards for conduct in a class, such as raising one’s hand or participating in group work. This policy does not add, replace, or mandate a participation grade, but rather sees disruptive behavior as best handled through channels outlined by the Office of Community Standards and Well-Being and not an instructor’s grade.

This policy applies to all students enrolled in Creighton College of Arts and Sciences classes.

## Policy

According to the [Creighton University Student Handbook](#), students are required to uphold the following standards of conduct (the specifics of each as outlined in the handbook):

1. Act with professional, academic, and personal integrity.
2. Respect and promote the dignity of all persons.
3. Respect the policies and procedures of the Creighton University community and the rights of its members both on and off campus, as well as the just laws of the civic community and the rights of its members.
4. Support the personal, professional, academic, and vocational development of the members of the Creighton University Community.

*Disruptive behavior* is behavior in a classroom or other learning environment (including off-campus locations), which disrupts the educational process by violating one or more of the above standards of conduct. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, any verbal or non-verbal communication, language, or behaviors which the instructor determines has interfered with the educational process. This behavior also includes verbal or physical threats, as well as

threatening, intimidating, or other inappropriate behavior or language toward the instructor or other students outside of class. The instructor of the class is the arbiter of if and when these behaviors are occurring.

## Syllabus Requirement

Instructors should include the following two items in their syllabus:

1. A link to the [Creighton University Student Handbook](#), with the reminder that students are subject to the policies and procedures outlined in the handbook.
2. A specific description of the penalties for violating the policies of student conduct in the course, which could include referral to the Office of Community Standards and Well-Being and/or removal from class, which may result in a reduced grade or failing the course, and/or forced withdrawal from the course.

## Suggested Syllabus Language

According to the [Creighton University Student Handbook](#), all Creighton students are to uphold the following standards of conduct:

1. Act with professional, academic, and personal integrity.
2. Respect and promote the dignity of all persons.
3. Respect the policies and procedures of the Creighton University community and the rights of its members both on and off campus, as well as the just laws of the civic community and the rights of its members.
4. Support the personal, professional, academic, and vocational development of the members of the Creighton University Community.

Upon the first violation of this standard of conduct, you will be notified in writing (via university email) or via a face-to-face meeting with the instructor. If the behavior continues, you will be asked to leave class and referred to the Office of Community Standards and Well-Being. You will not be permitted to return to class without instructor permission.

For any conduct perceived to pose an immediate threat to the well-being of others in the classroom, Public Safety (402-280-2911) shall be contacted immediately for assistance, at the instructor's discretion.

Approved by Faculty Senate May 4, 2021