

WAC 132T-100-220 Appeal process. The student may appeal a disciplinary action by filing a written notice of appeal with the conduct review officer (CRO) within 10 business days of service of the student conduct officer's decision. Failure to timely file a notice of appeal constitutes a waiver of the right to appeal, and the student conduct officer's decision shall be deemed final.

(1) The request for appeal must include a brief statement explaining the grounds for the appeal or why the student is seeking review. Disagreement with the finding and/or with the sanction(s) does not, by itself, represent grounds for appeal. Decisions may be appealed for one or more of the following:

(a) To determine whether there was a procedural error that substantially affected the outcome of the finding or sanctioning. Deviation from designated procedures is not a basis for sustaining an appeal unless significant prejudice results.

(b) To determine whether the sanction(s) imposed was appropriate and not excessively lenient or excessively severe for the violation of the student code of conduct for which the student was found responsible.

(c) To consider new information, sufficient to alter a decision, or other relevant facts not brought during fact finding, because such information and/or facts were not known, and the student bringing the appeal had no duty to discover or could not have reasonably discovered facts giving rise to the issues during investigation or fact-finding. The notice of appeal must include a brief statement explaining why the respondent is seeking review.

(2) The parties to an appeal shall be the respondent and the conduct review officer.

(3) A student who timely appeals a disciplinary action has a right to a prompt, fair, and impartial hearing as provided for in these procedures.

(4) On appeal, the college bears the burden of establishing the evidentiary facts underlying the imposition of a disciplinary sanction by a preponderance of the evidence.

(5) Imposition of disciplinary action for violation of the student code of conduct shall be stayed pending appeal unless the respondent has been summarily suspended.

(6) The student conduct board shall hear appeals from:

(a) The imposition of disciplinary suspension in excess of 10 business days;

(b) Dismissal;

(c) Withholding or revocation of a degree or certificate; or

(d) Loss of recognition of a student organization.

(7) Student conduct appeals from the imposition of the following disciplinary sanctions shall be reviewed through a brief adjudicative proceeding:

(a) Suspensions of 10 business days or less;

(b) Disciplinary probation;

(c) Written reprimands; and

(d) Any conditions or terms imposed in conjunction with one of the foregoing disciplinary actions.

(8) Except as provided elsewhere in these rules, disciplinary warnings and dismissals of disciplinary actions are final actions and are not subject to appeal.

(9) Disciplinary decisions of the student conduct officer (SCO) may be appealed for review by the conduct review officer (CRO) using the brief adjudicative process. Disciplinary decisions of the CRO may

be appealed for review by the college president using the brief adjudicative process.

(10) Appeals of disciplinary decisions of the SCO pursuant to sexual misconduct that is outside of the Title IX definition will be referred to the student conduct board (SCB) for a full adjudicative process in accordance with WAC 132T-100-240. The sanctions considered for appeal are:

- (a) Suspension for more than 10 business days;
- (b) Expulsion;
- (c) Withholding or revocation of a degree or certificate; or
- (d) Loss of recognition of a student organization.

(11) Disciplinary decisions by the SCB may be appealed for review by the college president using the brief adjudicative process.

(12) The college president's decision(s) is final.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 34.05.250 and 28B.50.140. WSR 22-18-029, § 132T-100-220, filed 8/29/22, effective 9/29/22.]