



# Widener University

## Commonwealth Law School

### **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

### **ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026**

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Widener Law Commonwealth

**AFFIRMATION OF PROFESSIONALISM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as a student entering Widener University Commonwealth Law School, understand that I am embarking on a professional career and acknowledge the privileges inherent in becoming a lawyer. I willingly accept the responsibilities that accompany these privileges entrusted to me by the bench, the bar, and the public.

I will uphold the highest standards of academic integrity as expressed in the Widener University Commonwealth Law School Honor Code.

I will conduct myself with dignity and civility treating my fellow students, staff, and faculty with kindness and respect.

I will strive to develop the character expected of an ethical lawyer that will earn the respect of my clients, my colleagues, my family, and my society.

I so affirm.

# Widener University Commonwealth Law School

## STUDENT HANDBOOK

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Widener University Commonwealth Law School

**VOLUME I**  
**ACADEMIC CODE**

**Part One: Definitions**

**Section 1-101. Definitions.**

The following definitions apply to this Academic Code:

- (a) Academic Code. The Academic Code of Widener University Commonwealth Law School.
- (b) Academic Year. The academic year begins July 1 and runs through June 30. Each academic year begins with the summer term which is followed by the fall and spring semesters.
- (c) Dean. The Dean of the Widener University Commonwealth Law School.
- (d) Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for Widener University Commonwealth Law School.
- (e) Extended Division Student. Any student who is enrolled in fewer than twelve credit hours and more than seven credit hours of semester long course work. For purposes of this definition, intersession courses at the beginning or end of a semester are ignored.
- (f) Law School. Widener University Commonwealth Law School.
- (g) Office of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Affairs for Widener University Commonwealth Law School.
- (h) Regular Division Student. Any student who is enrolled in twelve or more credit hours of semester long course work. For purposes of this definition, intersession courses at the beginning or end of a semester are ignored.
- (i) Registrar. The Office of the Registrar for Widener University Commonwealth Law School.

## Part Two: Graduation Requirements

**Section 1-201. Graduation Requirements.** The academic requirements for graduation can be divided into categories: Academic Credits, Cumulative Grade Point Average, Grade Point Average in Required Classes, Completion of all Required Courses, Introduction to Legal Process, Writing Requirement, Experiential Learning Requirement, Professional Development Day, Character and Fitness, and Fundamentals of the Bar Exam.

- (a) Academic Credits. Students must earn 90 academic credits to complete their Juris Doctor degree. At least 54 credits must be earned while enrolled as a student at the Law School. No credit is granted for failed courses.
- (b) Cumulative Grade Point Average. A student must complete law school studies with a cumulative grade point average of 2.000 or higher, as computed using the rules set forth in §1-602.
- (c) Grade Point Average in Required Courses. A student must complete law school studies with a cumulative grade point average for all required courses of at least a 2.000, as computed using the rules set forth in §1-602.
- (d) Completion of All Required Courses. A student must earn a passing grade in each required course.

***Dean's Reg. §1.201-1. Course Sequencing and Prerequisites.*** See Faculty Statement on the Curriculum, starting at §3-201, for a description of required course sequences and prerequisites.

***Dean's Reg. §1.201-2. Required Courses.*** A student must receive a passing grade in the following required courses in order to graduate.

- Administrative Law
- Business Organizations
- Civil Procedure I & II
- Constitutional Law
- Contracts I & II
- Criminal Law
- Criminal Procedure
- Essential Legal Skills
- Evidence
- First Amendment (for students matriculating August 2022 or later)
- Fundamentals of the Bar Exam
- Legal Methods I, II, & III
- Professional Responsibility
- Property I & II
- Sales and Leases
- Torts I & II
- Experiential Learning Requirements

- *Menu Course Requirements*
- *Writing Requirement*

- (e) Introduction to Legal Process. Each student must successfully complete the requirements for Introduction to Legal Process.
- (f) Writing Requirement. In order to graduate, every student must satisfy the Law School writing requirement as provided in §1-501.

***Dean's Reg. §1.201-3. Date for Completion.*** Every graduating student must satisfy the writing requirement by the last day of the exam period of the semester in which the student intends to graduate.

- (g) Experiential Learning Requirement. Each student must satisfy the experiential requirement by completing at least six credits of experiential learning. See §1-502.

***Dean's Reg. §1.201-4. Date for Completion.*** Every graduating student must satisfy the experiential learning requirement by the last day of the exam period of the semester in which the student intends to graduate.

- (h) Professional Development Day. Each student must satisfy the requirements of the annual Professional Development Day program.

***Dean's Reg. §1.201-5. Fourth Year Students.*** Fourth year students who have completed the Professional Development Day requirements in each of their first three years are welcome to attend Professional Development Day in their fourth year but are not required to do so.

- (i) Character and Fitness. Students have a continuing duty to update the information they provided in response to the character and fitness section of the Law School application to reflect any changes since law school matriculation. In furtherance of that duty, students who are arrested, charged, cited, accused, or prosecuted for any crime by a law enforcement agency, or are the subject of any investigation by a law enforcement agency, civil or administrative agency, professional organization, or other organization shall disclose the incident in writing to the Office of Student Affairs within 30 days of the arrest, charge, citation, accusation, prosecution, or investigation. (This obligation does not include summary or minor motor vehicle violations for which a citation or ticket was given). The initial disclosure shall include, at a minimum, a description of the incident, the time, date, location, law enforcement agency or other organization involved, court, and current status of the matter. In addition, the student shall disclose the final disposition of the incident in writing to the Office of Student Affairs within 30 days of the final disposition. Each student is required to complete an updated Character and Fitness Form prior to graduation.
- (j) Fundamentals of the Bar Exam. Each student must successfully complete the Fundamentals of the Bar Exam course. Students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.000 or higher after completion of 40 credits may opt out of this course.



### **Section 1-202. Petition to Graduate.**

- (a) Petition to Graduate. Every student must apply for graduation by filing an online petition to graduate and the accompanying forms not later than September 30 for December graduates, or October 30 for May graduates. When a petition to graduate is received, the Registrar will audit the student's academic records for compliance with the graduation requirements set forth in §1-201. If the student has satisfied these requirements, the student's name will be submitted to the Law School faculty for approval.
- (b) Staying of Petition. A student's petition to graduate is stayed automatically upon the filing of an Honor Code complaint against the student. The student will not be certified as graduating from the law school until the Honor Code complaint is adjudicated fully or settled.

### **Section 1-203. Completion of Degree Requirements.**

- (a) General Rule. All students must complete all degree requirements within 84 months of matriculation.
- (b) Matriculation. For purposes of this section, matriculation shall mean the date on which a student first begins legal studies at any law school accredited by the American Bar Association, not including a trial admissions program.

## Part Three: Academic Credits & Course Load

### Section 1-301. Definitions.

The following definitions apply to this Part:

- (a) Classroom Credit. Credit earned for receipt of a passing grade in any course that meets on a regular basis in a classroom setting during the academic year.
- (b) Non-Classroom Credit. Credit earned for satisfactory participation in an activity described in §1-303.
- (c) Clinical Credit. Credit earned for satisfactory participation in an in-house clinical program or externship program described in §1-304.
- (d) Directed Research Credit. Credit earned for satisfactory completion of a research project that satisfies the requirements set forth in §1-305.

#### ***Dean's Reg. §1.301-1. Classroom Credit.***

*Classroom credit includes credits earned for the receipt of a passing grade in any course that meets in the classroom, online, or through clinical work.*

### Section 1-302. Academic Credits.

- (a) General Rule. A student may satisfy the academic credit graduation requirement described in §1-201(a) by earning classroom credits, non-classroom credits, clinical credits, and directed research credits.
- (b) Limitations. Academic credit earned under §1-302(a) is subject to the following limitations:
  - (1) Course Load Limitation. Registration for courses for which academic credit is available is subject to course load limitations imposed by §1-307.
  - (2) Non-Classroom Credit. A student may not earn more than eight non-classroom credits. (See §1-303.)
  - (3) Clinical Credit. A student may not earn more than eight clinical credits. (See §1-304.)
  - (4) Distance Education Credit. A student may not earn more than twelve credits through distance education courses. (See §1-306.)
  - (5) Directed Research Credit. In general, a student may not earn more than two directed research credits. A student may earn one or two additional directed research credits with approval of the Office of Student Affairs provided that the student has secured the approval

of a supervising faculty member and has shown good cause for the additional directed research credits. (See §1-305.)

***Dean's Reg. §1.302-1. Registration for Required Courses.***

(a) *First Year Courses.* Each first-year Regular Division and Extended Division student is registered automatically for all courses.

(b) *Upper Level Required Courses.* All upper-class students must register for and complete the required courses as assigned by the Registrar. See the Faculty Policy Statement on Curriculum for the recommended course sequence.

***Dean's Reg. §1.302-2. Priority for Registration for Courses.***

(a) *General Rule.* Regular division students ordinarily must register for regular division courses. Extended division students ordinarily must register for extended division courses. A regular division student may register for any open section of a course offered in the regular division. An extended division student may register for any open section of a course offered in the extended division. If a course is offered in only one division of the Law School, students from either the regular or extended division may register for the course. All students are subject to rules on sequencing of courses found in the Faculty Policy Statement on the Curriculum.

(b) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section:

- (1) A regular division student who will have earned at least 55 academic credits by the beginning of the next semester shall be treated as a student entering the final year of study.
- (2) An extended division student who will have earned at least 65 academic credits by the beginning of the next semester shall be treated as a student entering the final year of study.

(c) *Courses offered in both Divisions.*

- (1) ***Regular Division Students.*** If there are one or more sections of an upper-level course scheduled in the regular division, and one or more sections of the same course scheduled in the extended division, regular division students may be registered for any open extended division section of that course during the Add/Drop period.
- (2) ***Extended Division Students.*** If there are one or more sections of an upper-level course scheduled in the extended division, and one or more sections of the same course scheduled in the regular division, extended division students may be registered for any open regular division section of that course during the Add/Drop period.

(3) ***Upper-Level Course Defined.*** For purposes of this subsection, an upper-level course is any course as designated in the Faculty Policy Statement on the Curriculum other than the courses taken in the first or second semester by regular division students.

(d) ***Prerequisite Courses.*** No student may enroll in any course or clinical program without first successfully completing the prerequisite courses, if any, identified by the Academic Code or Faculty Policy Statement on the Curriculum as prerequisite courses for the course in question. Completion of the first-year RD or ED curriculum is generally a prerequisite to enrolling in an upper-level course.

**Dean's Reg. §1.302-3. Limited Course Enrollment.**

(a) ***Limited Course Enrollment.*** An instructor may limit enrollment in an elective course, a seminar, or a special course by receiving permission from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs before registration for the semester in which the course is offered. If registration for a course has begun, the instructor may not limit the class size. An instructor may not waive a limitation on enrollment after it has been established pursuant to this section.

(b) ***Associate Dean for Academic Affairs' Permission Required.*** No instructor may limit enrollment without the prior written permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Students should consult with the Registrar's Office for the current list of courses that have limited enrollment.

**Dean's Reg. §1.302-4. Registration Deadline.** A student who wishes to earn credit must deliver a properly completed Credit Form to the Registrar's Office by the end of Add/Drop for the semester in which the credit will be earned.

**Section 1-303. Non-Classroom Credit.**

- (a) ***Eligible Students.*** Any student whose cumulative grade point average is less than 2.500 may not register for non-classroom credit. Nothing in this section shall prevent student organizations from requiring a grade point average of 2.500 or higher for membership or participation in its programs.
- (b) ***Grading of Non-Classroom Credit.*** Non-classroom credit is graded on a pass-fail basis only.
- (c) ***Non-Classroom Credit Activities.*** Eligible students may earn a maximum of eight non-classroom credits for satisfactory participation in the following activities:
  - (1) A student may earn one credit for participation in an approved interscholastic competition. A student may earn an additional one credit for participating in a second interscholastic competition. A student may not earn more than two credits total for participation in interscholastic competitions.

- (2) A student may earn one credit per academic year for work as a staff member on the Widener Commonwealth Law Review. A student may not earn more than two credits total for work as a staff member.
  - (3) A student who serves in an editorial position on the Widener Commonwealth Law Review may earn two credits for the academic year the student serves as an editor. A student may not earn both staff credit and board credit in the same academic year.
  - (4) A student may not earn credit solely for membership in or serving as an officer of the Moot Court or Trial Advocacy Honor Societies. Credit may only be earned for participating in an approved interscholastic competition.
  - (5) These limitations will be effective for all students matriculating in August 2019 or later.
- (d) Timing of Credit. Students must register for and take any non-classroom credit in the same semester that the student is obligated to do the work for that credit. Should a student become eligible for a non-classroom credit after the completion of the drop/add period for the semester in which the work for that credit must be done, the student must register for that credit in the next academic semester or forego taking credit for the work.

***Dean's Reg. §1.303-2. Moot Court and Interscholastic Competitions.***

- (a) Coaches. *Coaches for all moot court and interscholastic competitions representing Widener Law Commonwealth must be approved by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.*
- (b) Competitions. *A team may not represent Widener Law Commonwealth in any moot court or interscholastic competition without the approval of the appropriate faculty advisor and the appropriate student board of directors.*
- (c) Participation as an "Attorney." *A student may only earn credit in an interscholastic competition if the student participates in the competition in an Attorney role. Students participating as witnesses or other ancillary roles are not eligible to earn credit.*
- (d) Interscholastic. *An "Interscholastic Competition" means a competition against one or more other law schools but does not include a competition against Delaware Law School of Widener University.*

***Dean's Reg. §1.303-3. Review Comment Requirement.***

- (a) Seminar Paper. *A student who wishes to use a seminar paper to satisfy the Review's comment requirement must submit a non-classroom credit form, signed by the Review's faculty advisor, to the registrar's office indicating the student is requesting one credit for Law Review Staff (Course 763-P).*

(b) Directed Research Paper. A student who wishes to use a directed research paper to satisfy the Review's comment requirement must submit:

(1) a non-classroom credit form, signed by the Review's faculty advisor, to the registrar's office indicating the student is requesting one credit for Law Review Staff (Course 763-P), and

(2) a second non-classroom credit form, signed by the faculty member supervising the directed research paper, to the registrar's office indicating the student is requesting credit for Directed Research (Course H798 or Course H799). It is the student's responsibility to find a faculty member willing to supervise the directed research paper.

(c) Timing of Class and Credits. Students must take the Seminar or Directed Research in the same semester that the student is obligated to write a comment for the Review.

#### **Section 1-304. Clinical Credit.**

(a) General Rule. A student may receive clinical credit for satisfactory participation in any clinical program or programs sponsored by the Law School.

(b) Limitation. The eight-credit limitation on clinical credits imposed by §1-302(b)(3) of the Academic Code is further limited as follows:

(1) In-House Clinical Program. A student may not receive more than six academic credits per semester for participating in an in-house clinical program. Credit may be earned in one or more semesters.

(2) Clinical Extern Program. A student may not receive more than four credits per semester for participating in a clinical extern program.

(c) Eligibility – In-House Clinical Program. A student may enroll in an in-house clinical program only after successful completion of the course in Professional Responsibility and the other prerequisite courses listed in the Faculty Policy Statement on the Curriculum for the clinical program in question. Successful completion means the student has earned a grade of at least 2.0 in that course. Alternatively, a student may meet the Professional Responsibility prerequisite by achieving a passing score on the MPRE, or by permission of the Director of the Clinic.

(d) Eligibility – Clinical or Judicial Extern Program. A student may enroll in a clinical or judicial extern program only if the student is simultaneously enrolled in Professional Responsibility or has successfully completed Professional Responsibility prior to enrolling in a clinical or judicial extern program. If the student is simultaneously enrolled in Professional Responsibility, the student must successfully complete Professional Responsibility in that same semester to receive academic credit for the clinical or judicial extern program. In addition, the student must successfully complete the other prerequisite courses listed in the Faculty Policy Statement on the Curriculum.

If Evidence is a prerequisite, the Externship Director, after consulting with the supervising field attorney, may waive the Evidence prerequisite requirement if the Externship Director determines that the student does not need Evidence to be successful in the externship because the externship does not involve litigation or substantial client contact.

Successful completion of a course means the student has earned a grade of at least 2.000 in that course. A student whose cumulative grade point average is less than 2.300 may not enroll in a clinical extern program. A student whose cumulative grade point average is less than 2.500 may not enroll in a judicial extern program.

***Dean's Reg. §1.304-1. Certification for Student Practice.*** *The law school will certify a student enrolled in an in-house clinical program under Pennsylvania's student practice rules only if the student is of good character, is in good academic standing, and has successfully completed (C or better) the required courses in Professional Responsibility and Evidence. In all other cases, the law school will certify a student under a state's student practice rules only if the student is of good character, has a cumulative grade point average of 2.300 or higher, and has successfully completed (C or better) the required courses in Professional Responsibility and Evidence. The law school may revoke the certification of any student who fails to maintain these eligibility requirements.*

***Dean's Reg. §1.304-2. Eligible Clinical Externship Sites.*** *Clinical externship sites must be approved by the Externship Director in advance of the placement..*

#### **Section 1-305. Directed Research.**

- (a) General Rule. Directed research credits may be earned only by the submission of suitable written work (paper, memorandum, or brief) by the student to the supervising faculty member.
- (b) Standards Applicable to Directed Research Projects. Directed research credits shall be awarded by the supervising faculty member in relation to the amount of work performed by the student. One directed research credit shall be granted for approximately five hours of work performed by the student each week during the semester. The student and supervising faculty member must agree in advance on the number of credits to be earned for any semester.
- (c) Limitation on Credits Earned Each Semester. A student may earn no more than two directed research credits. See §1-302(b)(5).
- (d) Eligibility. A student whose cumulative grade point average is less than 2.300 may not register for directed research.
- (e) Supervising Faculty Member. Only a full-time faculty member may serve as a supervising faculty member under this section.
- (f) Prerequisite. No student may enroll for directed research credit unless that student has satisfactorily completed a seminar. This requirement may only be waived by approval of the Office

of Student Affairs for good cause shown or under §1-303(c)(1)(v).

- (g) Restriction on Recycling. No student may earn directed research credit for a paper which substantially relies on research or writing previously or concurrently performed by the student for any other purpose, including but not limited to work submitted in satisfaction of the requirements of the *Widener Commonwealth Law Review*, Moot Court Honor Society, or an interscholastic competition.

***Dean's Reg. §1.305-1. Maximum Directed Research Credits.*** As a general rule, students may not earn more than two credits towards their degree through a directed research project. In unique instances, after a student has already completed two directed research credits, the student may seek approval from the Dean of Students to complete two additional directed research credits. Even when approved for additional directed research credits, a student is still limited to taking no more than two directed research credits in any semester.

#### **Section 1-306. Distance Education Credit.**

- (a) Limitation. A student may not earn more than four credit hours in one semester or more than 12 credit hours overall of distance education credit. A student may not earn distance education credits until the student has completed a minimum of 28 credit hours.
- (b) Definition. Distance education courses include any course characterized by the separation, in time or place, between instructor and student.

***Dean's Reg. §1.306-1. Distance Education Waiver.*** Any classes that are moved to distance education because of unforeseen circumstances, i.e., the Covid-19 pandemic, shall not be counted for the purpose of determining whether a student has exceeded the limitations of this section. Classes that would have been distance learning because of unforeseen circumstances shall still be counted as distance learning.

#### **Section 1-307. Course Load.**

- (a) Regular Division Student. The normal academic course load for a Regular Division Student (as defined in § 1-101) is 12 to 16 credit hours per semester. Student status is fixed as of the first day of the third week of classes.
- (b) Extended Division Student. The normal academic course load for an Extended Division Student (as defined in §1-101) is 8 to 11 credit hours per semester. Student status is fixed as of the first day of the third week of classes.
- (c) Part Time (Flexible) Schedule Student. Students may register for less than 8 credits only after completion of the first year, and only with the permission of the Office of Student Affairs. Permission to register for part time status will be granted only in extraordinary circumstances.



Permission must be obtained each semester a student wishes to be on a part time schedule. No overloads will be permitted.

**Dean's Reg. §1.307-1. General Rule.** Regular Division Students may enroll in up to 16 credits without the approval of the Office of Student Affairs. Extended Division Students may enroll in up to 11 credits without the approval of the Office of Student Affairs. Ordinarily a Regular Division Student must enroll in a minimum of 12 credits and an Extended Division Student must enroll in a minimum of 8 credits. Course load limitations for the summer term are established by §1-312.

Students in need of a credit overload must submit a Dean's Action Request to the Office of Student Affairs. Only a 1-credit overload may be approved per term.

**Dean's Reg. §1.307-2. Underload in Last Semester.** A student may file a request to underload pursuant to §1-307 only for the semester in which the student plans to graduate. The request to underload will be granted only if satisfactory completion of the proposed course schedule will yield the academic credits needed to ensure graduation in that semester.

**Dean's Reg. §1-307-3. Change of Division.** A student who wishes to transfer from one division to another must file a request for transfer with the Office of Student Affairs.

**Dean's Reg. §1-307.4. Second Request for Transfer.** A student who has transferred from one division of the Law School to the other may transfer between divisions again only with the consent of the Office of Student Affairs. A transfer will be permitted only upon a showing of undue hardship resulting from circumstances beyond the student's control.

**Dean's Reg. §1-307-5. Timing of Requests to Change Divisions.** Except for cases of hardship, all requests to change divisions must be made prior to the beginning of the semester.

#### **Section 1-308. Withdrawal from Courses.**

- (a) First Year Required Course. The Office of Student Affairs may grant a written request filed by a student to withdraw from a first year required course only in cases of exceptional hardship to a student caused by circumstances beyond the student's control.
- (b) Other Courses. A student may withdraw from any other course at any time during the first four weeks of the semester (or the first two weeks of the summer term) with the written permission of the Registrar. After the first four weeks of the semester (or the first two weeks of the summer term), a student may withdraw from any other course only with the written approval of the Office of Student Affairs. Permission to withdraw from a course will be granted only in cases of exceptional hardship to a student caused by circumstances beyond the student's control.
- (c) Report of "W" for Dropped Course. The Registrar shall record a "W" for any course that a student is permitted to withdraw from after the end of the Add/Drop period.

- (d) Forfeiture of Tuition for Withdrawal From Class After Add/Drop By Per Credit Charge Students. Tuition paid or payable with respect to any class from which a student withdraws after Add/Drop shall be forfeited in full. A student who adds a course as a replacement for the course from which the student withdraws shall be responsible for payment of additional tuition for the course added.

***Dean's Reg. §1-308.1. Hardship Exception.*** *The Office of Student Affairs will ordinarily deny permission to add or to drop a required course after the end of Add/Drop. Permission to drop a required course will be granted only in cases of exceptional hardship to a student caused by circumstances beyond the student's control, such as illness requiring a reduced course load. The Office of Student Affairs must approve both the request to drop a class and the particular class to be dropped. First year students will not be permitted to withdraw from Legal Methods. Requests to drop Civil Procedure will also be strictly scrutinized. First year students are expected to remain in the section in which they begin. Thus, requests to change to a different section of the same class will ordinarily be denied.*

*Permission to add a course generally will be granted in a "work out" situation in which a student is unable to graduate in that semester without the required course credit.*

***Dean's Reg. §1.308-2. Leave of Absence.***

(a) Withdrawal Presumed. *A student who fails to apply for leave of absence under this section and who fails to attend regularly scheduled classes for a period of more than the number of absences permitted, is presumed to have withdrawn from the Law School. A student who has withdrawn from the Law School is ineligible to return to the Law School.*

(b) Leave of Absence. *A student who must drop all classes for good cause, such as death or illness of a family member, job change, active duty assignment in the armed forces, or other good cause, may apply for leave of absence for personal reasons for a period of up to one year. A leave of absence is subject to the limitations for medical leave.*

(c) Ineligible to Take Course While on Leave. *A student may not register for any course work while on leave of absence, but may make up any deferred final examinations and complete any incomplete seminar papers, course papers, or directed research papers outstanding on the date the leave of absence was granted.*

(d) Length of Leave. *Leave of absence will normally be granted for a period of one academic semester. However, a first-year student who takes a leave of absence after completion of the first semester, must take a leave of absence for one year unless otherwise approved by the Office of Student Affairs. If a student on leave of absence wishes to extend the leave of absence for an additional semester, the student must submit a written request for extension together with evidence to support the need for the extension.*

(e) Effect on Period Within Which Degree Must Be Obtained. *A leave of absence does not toll the 84-month requirement for completion of legal studies set out in §1-203.*

**Dean's Reg. §1.308-3. Medical Leave of Absence.**

(a) General Rule. Any student may apply for medical leave of absence from the Law School for good cause. "Good cause" includes treatment by a residential treatment center, a physician, a psychologist, or a drug counselor for substance abuse. An application should be submitted on a Dean's Action Request form, together with a letter from a physician, psychologist, or drug counselor, stating that medical leave of absence is in the best interest of the student's physical or psychological well-being.

(b) Length of Leave. Medical leave of absence will normally be granted for a period of one academic semester. If a student on medical leave of absence wishes to extend the leave of absence for an additional semester, the student must submit a written request for extension, together with a physician's, psychologist's, or drug counselor's letter stating that an extension would be in the best interest of the student.

(c) Effect on Period Within Which Degree Must Be Obtained. Medical leave of absence does not toll the 84-month requirement for completion of legal studies set out in §1-203.

(d) Not Available to Students Charged With Crimes. A student who has been charged with a crime involving the possession of a controlled or uncontrolled substance with intent to distribute or sell, or a student charged with trafficking will not be allowed to take medical leave of absence due to substance abuse, unless charges are dismissed.

**Dean's Reg. §1.308-4. Withdrawal from Law School.** To withdraw from the Law School, a student must submit a Dean's Action Request form indicating the last date of class attendance. A student who has withdrawn from the Law School is ineligible to return to the Law School unless admitted again through the normal admissions process.

**Section 1-309. Auditing Courses.**

- (a) Registration. Prior to the end of the Add/Drop period, a student may register to audit an elective course with permission from the instructor if the Registrar certifies that space is available. If auditing the course would result in an overload, permission must be obtained from the Office of Student Affairs.
- (b) Other Rules. A grade of "AU" (Audit) will be awarded to each student who audits a course. An auditing student who fails to comply with the attendance requirements set forth in §1-701 of the Academic Code will be withdrawn from the course. A student shall not receive academic credit for auditing a course.

**Section 1-310. Other Academic Programs.**

- (a) General Rule. A student shall not enroll in another academic program or a dual degree program

without the consent of the Office of Student Affairs.

(b) Dual Degree Program.

*Juris Doctor/Masters in Business Administration Program.* Widener University's School of Business Administration and Widener Law Commonwealth have collaborated to provide students the opportunity to earn both a Juris Doctor and a Masters in Business Administration on an accelerated basis. Each school has agreed to accept up to nine credit hours from the other school's program. The School of Business Administration will accept nine credits from Widener Law Commonwealth toward the completion of the MBA degree. Widener Law Commonwealth will accept up to nine credits from the School of Business toward the completion of the JD degree. A student must meet each school's separate admissions requirements. School of Business Administration credits to be applied to the JD degree must be earned after the student has enrolled at Widener Law Commonwealth; no credit is given toward the JD degree for courses taken before enrollment at Widener Law Commonwealth. Interested students are encouraged to see the Dean of Students as early as possible for more details about the program.

- (c) Other Programs. A student may not visit another law school or enroll in any other academic program without first obtaining written approval from the Office of Student Affairs. For rules dealing with visitation at other law schools, see §1-801 et seq.

***Dean's Reg. §1.310-1. JD/MBA Courses.*** *Students are encouraged to meet with the Dean of Students to confirm that the student is taking School of Business Administration classes that will be accepted by the law school. In the discretion of the Dean of Students, [accepted courses will include School of Business Administration courses at the 600 level or higher](#), or other courses as approved by the Office of Student Affairs. Consistent with §1-303, JD/MBA students may not take more than fourteen non-classroom credits (including clinical/experiential credits). To earn the JD, students complete a minimum of 64 credits of direct faculty instruction in law school courses.*

## **Section 1-311. Outside Employment.**

- (a) General Rule. Regular Division students are urged not to engage in outside employment during their first year of law school. Regular Division students may not exceed twenty hours of outside employment per week during the academic year, and are advised not to exceed fifteen hours of outside employment per week.
- (b) Violation of Restriction on Outside Employment. Any Regular Division student whose outside employment exceeds twenty hours per week during a semester shall transfer to the extended division for that semester. The course load of such student shall be reduced in order to comply with the requirements of §1-307. This reduction in course load shall be treated as an approved withdrawal from courses under §1-308.

- (c) Compliance. Each Regular Division student shall complete and deliver to the Registrar or its designee a written or electronic statement as directed in support of the student's compliance with the requirements of §1-311(a) during their first semester. The student shall have a continuing duty to update this statement should their employment status change.

#### **Section 1-312. Summer School.**

The Law School conducts a seven-week summer term. The normal academic course load for any student enrolled during the summer term is 3 to 6 credit hours. A student is not permitted to register for more than 6 credit hours, except when registering for ITAP, without obtaining written permission from the Office of Student Affairs, which may approve a one-credit overload. The decision is not appealable.

##### ***Dean's Reg. §1.312-1. Courses Conducted Between Semesters.***

- (a) General Rule. *Credit earned for participation in the May session of ITAP will be treated as earned by the student for the summer term.*
- (b) Maximum Course Load Exception. *Credits earned for ITAP and credits earned for courses between summer term and fall semester or between fall and spring semesters will not be considered for purposes of determining the number of credits in which a student is enrolled.*

#### **Section 1-313. Variation from Rules for Hardship.**

- (a) Petition for Variance. A student may petition the Office of Student Affairs in writing for a variance from the rules set forth in the Academic Code on grounds of substantial hardship or exceptional merit.
- (b) Decision by Office of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Affairs shall review all petitions filed pursuant to §1-313(a) and, after considering relevant evidence offered by the student in support of the petition, shall either grant or deny the request for relief. The Law School shall have absolute discretion to grant or deny the petition. Any variance granted shall be consistent with the terms of American Bar Association Standards.

## **Part Four: Credit Hour**

### **Section 1-401. Definition.**

A credit hour attributable to any course that was passed with a grade of “D” or better, or a “Pass” in a course graded on a pass/fail basis, shall be treated as completed for purposes of this Academic Code.

### **Section 1-402. Credit Hour Policy.**

- (a) A “credit hour” is an amount of work that reasonably approximates:
  - (i) Not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work per week for fifteen weeks, or the equivalent amount of work for a different amount of time; or
  - (ii) At least an equivalent amount of work as required in subparagraph a. of this definition for other academic activities, including field placement, clinical, co-curricular, and other academic work leading to course credit.
- (b) Definitions:
  - (i) Hour
    - (A) For the purpose of classroom instruction, an hour means 55 minutes.
    - (B) For the purpose of out-of-class work, an hour means 60 minutes.
  - (ii) Out-of-class work means preparing for class, completing written out-of-class assignments and assessments, and preparing for examinations.
- (c) Weeks:
  - (i) The fifteen-week period includes a week for final examinations.

## Part Five: Additional Requirements

### Section 1-501. Writing Requirement.

- (a) General Rule. To graduate, a student must complete an individually-authored writing project. The project must meet the requirements of subsections (b) or (c). Subsection (d) applies to sections (b) and (c).
- (b) Written Work Performed for Academic Credit. A student may meet the writing requirement by satisfactorily completing an upper level seminar, course, or clinical program taught by a full-time faculty member and completing a writing project. Various forms of writing are acceptable, including a traditional academic paper, appellate brief, legislative proposal, business plan, client memorandum, and court opinion. The writing project may be one product of from 12 to 20 typewritten double-spaced pages (approximately 3,000 to 5,000 words) or two or more products equaling that length. The faculty member supervising the project may specify the form the project will take and must certify the project as meeting the writing requirement. In helping a student to complete this requirement, faculty members should insure the student's engagement in the project by closely supervising the work. This supervision might include meeting with students one-on-one to discuss the projects, requiring outlines and a draft, and providing individual feedback on drafts. The term "course" includes directed research performed under the supervision of a full-time faculty member. (To enroll in Directed Research, a student must comply with the requirements of §1-305.)
- (c) Written Work Performed for Other Publications or in a Writing Contest. A student may meet the writing requirement by submitting written work published in a scholarly periodical, journal or treatise, or singled out for honor in a nationally recognized writing competition. Work submitted under this subsection must be certified through the Office of Student Affairs as demonstrating substantial achievement in legal writing.
- (d) Restriction on Recycling. A student may not submit work in satisfaction of the writing requirement that substantially relies on research or writing previously or concurrently performed by the student for any other purpose, unless the student first fully discloses the prior use of the work (or its intended future use, as the case may be) and obtains the consent of the person responsible for certifying that it demonstrates substantial achievement in legal writing.

***Dean's Reg. §1.501-1. Writing Requirement.*** *The faculty member providing the direction for the writing project, or the Office of Student Affairs providing approval under §1-501(c), must certify the student's compliance with the writing requirement on forms supplied by the Registrar.*

***Dean's Reg. §1.501-2. Courses.*** *Students typically satisfy the writing requirement by taking a seminar course that is taught by a full-time faculty member. Courses that satisfy the writing requirement will be designated as such on the course schedule. Legal Methods courses do not satisfy the writing requirement.*

**Section 1-502. Experiential Learning Requirement.**

In order to graduate, a student must receive substantial instruction in professional skills by successfully completing at least six credits of experiential learning. At least two credits must be satisfied by enrollment in a clinic, externship, or practicum. A student may petition the Office of Student Affairs in writing for a waiver from the requirement that two credits of experiential learning be satisfied by enrollment in a clinic, externship, or practicum if the student can demonstrate (1) the enrollment would impose an extraordinary hardship on the student and (2) comparable legal experience to a clinic, externship, or practicum at his or her place of employment.

The experiential learning requirement is in addition to three semesters of legal methods and must be from a list approved by the faculty. Courses that satisfy this requirement will be posted by the Registrar's Office in connection with registration. This requirement applies to students entering the Law School in August 2015 or later.



## Part Six: Examination and Grading

### Section 1-601. Grading System.

- (a) Grades Issued After August 20, 1989. The Law School grade structure for all registered course work after the summer term 1989, is as follows:

A+	=	4.000	C+	=	2.300	F	=	0.000
A	=	4.000	C	=	2.000	W	=	Withdrawal
A-	=	3.700	C-	=	1.700	AU	=	Audit Only
B+	=	3.300	D+	=	1.300	I	=	Incomplete
B	=	3.000	D	=	1.000	P	=	Pass
B-	=	2.700				IW	=	Involuntary Withdrawal (no longer used)
						Z	=	No grade received from faculty member

An instructor may award only one A+ in each course or seminar. The student awarded the highest grade in a course may receive a CALI Certificate of Achievement for that course.

- (b) Pass/Fail Courses. In certain courses, a grade of "P" (Pass) is assigned if the student satisfactorily completes the course. A "P" does not have a grade point or other equivalent. A grade of "F" (Fail) in a pass/fail course is treated as the letter grade of "F." Students may not elect to enroll in a course on a pass/fail basis.
- (c) "Z" Grade. A "Z" is an administrative grade that indicates that the Registrar's Office is not in receipt of a grade from the instructor for that course.

### Section 1-602. Grade Point Average.

- (a) Computation of Grade Point Average. The grade point average of a student is determined by multiplying the numeric equivalent of each letter grade received in each course by the number of credit hours assigned to each course. The product is divided by the number of "to calculate credits" to arrive at the student's grade point average for the semester.
- (b) Attempted Credits. For purposes of this section, "attempted credits" means the total number of credit hours for which a student is enrolled for a semester.

***Dean's Reg. §1.602-1. Dean's Honor List.*** Each semester, the students in each division (other than those on disciplinary probation) who achieve a semester grade point average placing them in the top 20% of all students in their year and division will be placed on the Dean's Honors List for that

semester. An Honors List notation will appear on the transcript of each student placed on the Dean's Honors List.

**Dean's Reg. §1.602-2. Class Rank.** Each semester, the students in each division of the Law School whose grades place them in the top 25% of their class shall be ranked numerically by class. Each semester, the Law School will also publish the grade point average cutoffs for the top 50% for each class by division in five percent increments. Rankings are also issued for the top third and middle third of each class by division. Students will be ranked based on the number of completed credits at the beginning of each fall semester. A final class ranking is done for all graduates and represents a merger of the Regular Division and Extended Division students. Class valedictorian is determined after the fall semester of a student's graduating year.

### **Section 1-603. Grade for Classroom Performance.**

An instructor may give a grade of plus or minus for each student's classroom performance during any courses other than first-year courses. Such grade is issued in addition to an examination grade or grade derived from papers, projects, or other graded course work. A plus or minus grade issued under this section shall change the student's grade for the course by one third of a grade or one step (e.g., from C+ to B- or from B to B+). An instructor wishing to grade classroom performance under this section must announce the criteria applicable to the classroom performance grade within the first two weeks of class. At the conclusion of the course, the instructor will receive a grade adjustment sheet for all students in the course. If the instructor has complied with the requirements of this section, a "plus" or "minus" may be issued for any student. No student may be minused to an "F". A student may not be plussed to a "D" from an "F" or to an "A+" from an "A".

### **Section 1-604. Grade Changes.**

- (a) General Rule. Any grade for a course, seminar, or special course submitted by an instructor is final when received by the Registrar and may not be changed by the instructor.
- (b) Exception. A grade given by an instructor in a course, seminar, or special course may be changed by the instructor if the original grade was recorded as an "Incomplete." The instructor may submit the final letter grade to the Registrar for inclusion on the student's transcript.
- (c) Student Application for Change of Grade. A student may apply for a change of grade on the grounds that the grade was awarded contrary to the provisions of this Academic Code, or was the proximate result of discrimination based on a protected class in violation of the University's Equal Opportunity, Discrimination and Harassment Policy. The burden of proof is on the student to prove the allegations.
- (d) Faculty Application for Change of Grade. An instructor may apply to the Dean or Associate Dean for a change of grade upon a showing of good cause. For purposes of this subsection, "good cause" is limited to a clerical error in recording a grade or other similar situation.

### **Section 1-605. Honors Graduates.**

- (a) Summa Cum Laude. Any student with a final cumulative grade point average of 3.750 or higher shall graduate summa cum laude.
- (b) Magna Cum Laude. Any student with a final cumulative grade point average of 3.500 to 3.749 shall graduate magna cum laude.
- (c) Cum Laude. Any student with a final cumulative grade point average of 3.150 to 3.499 shall graduate cum laude.

### **Section 1-606. Repetition of Courses.**

- (a) General Rule. A student who earns academic credit for successful completion of a course may not register for that course again.
- (b) Repetition of Required Course. If a student does not earn a passing grade in a required course, the student must repeat the course until it is successfully completed. If a student fails a course which is a prerequisite for an advanced course, the student must successfully complete the prerequisite course before taking the advanced course.
- (c) Effect on Student Transcript. A failing grade received by a student shall remain on the student's transcript notwithstanding the subsequent successful completion of the course by the student.

### **Section 1-607. Examination Process.**

- (a) Necessity of Evaluation. The scholastic achievement of students shall be evaluated from the inception of their studies. As part of this evaluation, a written examination of suitable length and complexity shall be required in every course for which credit is given.

***Dean's Reg. §1.607-1. Arrival Time for Exam.*** Students are advised to report to their exam location 20 minutes prior to the scheduled time of the start of the exam. Students will not be provided extra time to accommodate late arrivals.

***Dean's Reg. §1.607-2. Student Identification.*** Each student must produce his or her Widener student identification card in order to sit for an examination or pick up a take-home examination.

***Dean's Reg. §1.607-3. Proctor Instructions.*** Students are required to follow all instructions given by proctors during examinations.

***Dean's Reg. §1.607-4. Required Disclosure.*** Official Form A-3 (reproduced in Appendix A) is the standard face sheet used for all examinations. This face sheet must be signed by each student at the end of an examination. Any student having information relating to any incident of academic

*dishonesty is required to report that information before leaving the examination room. Failure to report a known incident of academic dishonesty occurring during an examination is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct that may lead to the dismissal of the offending student from the Law School.*

- (b) Final Examination Exception. No final examination shall be required for Essential Legal Skills, Legal Methods, for all seminars, for Experiential Learning courses, and for courses in which students earn Non-Classroom Credit, Clinical Credit, or Directed Research Credit, or short-term courses, unless required by the professor teaching the course.
- (c) Materials Permitted at an Examination. During the first two weeks of the semester or summer term, each instructor should identify the materials students will be permitted to use during the examination. Upon entering the exam room, all materials not explicitly allowable in the exam must be left on the side of the room. Cell phones and headphones of any kind may not be brought into the exam room. An instructor may conduct an “open book” examination.

***Dean’s Reg. §1.607-5. Phones and Other Devices.*** *During examinations, students are not permitted to have any communication, data storage, electronic, programmable, Bluetooth, or internet-capable devices unless it is the computer and mouse with which they are taking the exam or an item that is expressly permitted by the professor. This prohibition includes: telephones, head phones, fitness trackers, calculators, timers, smartwatches, tablets, e-cigarettes, vaping devices, and similar items. All such devices must be turned off and placed at the side of the room before the exam begins. Students may not have the devices on their person even if the devices are turned off. In emergency situations, a cell phone may be left with the Registrar’s Office.*

- (d) Take-Home Final Examinations. An instructor may give a take-home final examination. Such examinations must be given during the regularly scheduled time for examinations at the end of each semester or term. Each student in the course in which a take-home final examination is given must pick up and return the examination as directed in writing by the instructor.
- (e) Mid-Term Examinations. An instructor may give a mid-term examination. An instructor who intends to give a mid-term examination must notify students during the first week of class that a mid-term exam is planned for the course.
- (f) Anonymous Grading.
  - (1) *General Rule*. All examinations are graded anonymously. Any statement made or action taken by a student that has the effect of compromising the anonymous grading system by allowing an instructor to identify a student for whom a grade must be issued shall be treated as a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
  - (2) *Exception*. Papers submitted for credit in a course, seminar, or directed research project, and work involving evaluation of student performance during the course of the semester, need not be graded anonymously.

- (g) Submission of Papers in Lieu of Final Examination. At the election of the instructor, all or any portion of the final grade awarded in any course or seminar may be determined by grades awarded to students on one or more papers completed in connection with the course.

***Dean's Reg. §1.607-6. No Right to Defer.*** Papers in seminars, courses, and directed research projects shall be completed and submitted in the semester in which the student has registered for the seminar, course, or directed research project. A student does not have the right to defer the completion of a seminar paper, course paper, or directed research paper beyond the last day of final examinations for the semester in which the student has registered for that seminar, course, or directed research project.

***Dean's Reg. §1.607-7. Exception to Deferral Rule.*** A student may receive a one-semester extension of time to complete a paper for a seminar, course, or directed research project, provided the student receives written approval of the deferral from the instructor and the Office of Student Affairs prior to the last day of classes for that semester. The Office of Student Affairs will grant a request made pursuant to this subsection only upon a showing of undue hardship resulting from circumstances beyond the student's control. If a request made under this subsection is granted, the Registrar shall record the grade for that semester as an incomplete.

***Dean's Reg. § 1.607-8. No Additional Extensions.*** No additional extensions of time will be granted for any reason. Additional extensions will not be granted for students on leave of absence.

***Dean's Reg. §1.607-9. Failure to Submit Paper.*** If a student who has received an incomplete for a course, seminar, or directed research project paper does not submit the paper by the end of the final examination period for the semester for which an extension is in effect, the Registrar shall enter a failing grade for the course, seminar, or directed research project on the student's transcript.

## **Section 1-608. Departure from Examination Schedule.**

(a) **General Rule.** Because examination schedules are published for students at the time students register for courses or by the end of the drop/add period, students are generally bound by the published examination schedule. A student does not have the right to defer an examination. A student who fails to sit for an examination when scheduled will receive a failing grade in the course unless the examination is properly deferred pursuant to this section.

***Dean's Reg. 1.608-1. Applicability.*** This section applies to all examinations, including mid-term and take-home examinations.

***Dean's Reg. 1.608-2. Request to Move Exam.***

(a) Policy on Deferral of Examinations When Close in Time. The Registrar generally schedules

exams in three slots during each exam day with exams beginning at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. Exams beginning at 9:00 a.m. are in the morning slot; exams beginning at 1:00 p.m. are in the afternoon slot; and exams beginning at 6:00 p.m. are in the evening slot. A student may request that a final exam be moved if:

- i. The student has two final exams at the same time on the same day,
- ii. The student has two final exams in consecutive exam slots,
- iii. The student has two final exams on the same date, or
- iv. The student has three or more exams on consecutive days.

Exams will not be moved simply because the student has two final exams within a 24-hour period, because the student has final exams on consecutive days, or because the student has a long commute to campus. Additionally, take-home examinations do not count as finals for deferral purposes unless only twenty-four hours was given to complete the take-home exam.

(b) Policy on Deferral of Examinations for Good Cause. Examinations will be deferred only for good cause. The decision of the Office of Student Affairs is final. Examples of good cause include:

- i. Serious personal illness or injury;
- ii. Serious injury, illness, or death in the immediate family; or
- iii. Other events beyond the student's control which prevent the student from taking the final examination when scheduled.

(c) Procedure for Requesting Deferred Examination. If a student desires to request deferral of an examination, the student should file a Dean's Action Request Form with the Registrar's Office requesting deferral of an examination in a timely fashion, but in no event later than the deadline posted each semester by the Registrar's Office for which the student seeks deferral. Every student requesting deferral of an examination must provide evidence of the event or situation which the student believes is justification for the request for deferral. Such evidence must be presented in a form which the Office of Student Affairs deems appropriate under the circumstances. **Students shall not communicate their interest in or intention to defer an examination to any faculty member.** The decision on which exam, if any, which will be deferred is within the sole discretion of the Office of Student Affairs.

(d) Emergency Deferral of Examination

(1) Emergency Deferral Request. If a student is unable to take an examination for good cause as defined in (b) which arises within 24 hours immediately prior to the examination time, the student may appear in person or communicate by email or telephone the Registrar to obtain permission to defer the examination. The Office of Student Affairs or the Registrar will be on duty each day or night during examinations to deal with deferred examinations. The Registrar or the Office of Student Affairs may defer an examination provisionally for up to 48 hours based on an explanation showing reasonable cause to believe the student, acting in good faith, cannot take an examination because of some event which is beyond the student's control. A provisional emergency examination deferral

requested under this subsection must be confirmed by a written request, supported by persuasive evidence of some event beyond the student's control which led the student to miss the examination, or it will expire within 48 hours from the date of grant of deferral, unless extended by the Office of Student Affairs. During normal working hours, the Office of Student Affairs must approve any request for a deferred examination.

(2) *Student Unable to Make Request in Person or by E-mail or Phone.* If the student cannot appear in person or communicate by e-mail or telephone with the Registrar, the student may miss the examination and apply for a deferral after the examination date. **Such application for deferral must be made within 48 hours of the administration of the exam for which the student seeks deferral, and in no event later than the last day of regularly scheduled examinations for that semester. The burden is on the student to show (i) good cause and (ii) sufficient reason for not requesting a deferral in writing, in person, or by telephone prior to the examination.**

(e) Timing of Deferred Examinations. Deferred examinations must be taken (1) on the scheduled examination make-up date for that semester, (2) at a time approved by the Office of Student Affairs, or (3) at the next time a regularly scheduled examination is given for that course if approved by the Office of Student Affairs. Students who fail to sit for a make-up examination within the time period prescribed shall receive a failing grade in the course in question.

***Dean's Reg. 1.608-3. Scheduling of Deferred Exams.***

*Absent extraordinary circumstances, final exams may only be deferred to a date following the originally scheduled exam. The new date and time will be set by the Registrar's Office.*

*Deferred exams must be completed by the last date of the semester. Students who fail to sit for an exam by the end of the semester will receive an Incomplete grade in the course. If a student remains unable to take the exam within 30 days of the last day of the semester, they must request approval from the Office of Student Affairs to withdraw from the course or they may earn a failing grade for the course.*

*In rare cases, the Office of Student Affairs may grant permission for the student to take the exam during the next regularly scheduled administration of the course exam.*

(f) Illness During Exam. If a student becomes ill during an examination and as a result is unable to continue the examination, the student shall notify the proctor and leave all examination materials with the proctor. The proctor shall take the student's name, year and division, and shall forward this information and the examination materials to the Registrar as soon as possible. The student shall seek medical attention immediately and shall obtain from the attending physician a letter in support of the illness which prevented the student from completing the examination. A student who fails to complete an examination due to illness shall sit for the make-up exam the next time a regularly-scheduled examination is administered for that course.

### **Section 1-609. Rules Concerning Examinations.**

- (a) Faculty Present During Examinations. Faculty members are required to be in the law school building or immediately reachable by telephone during the time of any regularly scheduled mid-term or final examination for their course or seminar.
- (b) ExamSoft Registration. All students are automatically registered for ExamSoft. Students wishing to opt out of ExamSoft must complete an “Opt Out Form” by the deadline imposed by the Registrar’s Office.
- (c) Computer Problems. In the event of computer failure during the exam, no additional time will be given. A student may begin to hand write the remainder of the exam immediately or may wait for his or her computer to reboot.
- (d) Reporting Grades. Instructors shall report all course grades to the Registrar within the time period prescribed by the Dean’s Office.



## Part Seven: Attendance

### Section 1-701. Attendance Standards.

- (a) General Rule. No student may miss more than 20% of the regularly scheduled classes in any course or seminar, nor more than 20% of the regularly scheduled clinical work periods in any course, seminar, or special course.

REGULAR SEMESTERS				
CREDIT HOURS	MEETINGS PER WEEK			
	1	2	3	4
2	3 absences	6 absences	--	--
3	3 absences	6 absences	8 absences	--
4	--	6 absences	8 absences	11 absences

SUMMER SESSIONS				
CREDIT HOURS	MEETINGS PER WEEK			
	1	2	3	4
2	--	3 absences	--	--
3	--	3 absences	4 absences	--
4	--	--	--	6 absences

**Dean's Reg. §1.701-1. Courses Meeting at Different Intervals During the Week.** In the case of a course that meets more than once a week at different intervals (e.g. one 55-minute class and one 110-minute class each week), the maximum number of absences permitted shall be computed by treating each 55-minute block of classroom time as a class meeting.

**Dean's Reg. §1.701-2. Courses Added During Add/Drop Period.** A student who adds a course during Add/Drop shall not be treated as "absent" for the day or days missed prior to adding the course.

**Deans' Reg. §1.701-3. Clinical Work Sessions.** A student enrolled in an in-house clinic must comply with the regulations of that clinical program for attendance at work sessions and clinical meetings. Students should consult the clinical instructor for further details regarding absences.

**Deans' Reg. §1.701-4. Remote Participation.** Classroom attendance may be an essential component of a course. Because not every classroom experience can be replicated via remote participation, approving such participation shall be solely within the discretion of the professor.

**Deans' Reg. §1.701-5. Remote Participation Attendance.** *If a class contains both synchronous and asynchronous instruction, then the student may not miss more than 20% of the synchronous instruction.*

- (b) Penalty for Violation of Attendance Rule. If a student who misses more than twenty percent of the classes scheduled for any course or seminar, the instructor shall notify the Registrar in writing, and the Registrar shall enter a failure "F" on the student's transcript. A student may petition the Office of Student Affairs in writing for a variance from this rule, which will be granted on only in cases of exceptional hardship to a student caused by circumstances beyond the student's control. The decision of the Office of Student Affairs is not appealable.

**Dean's Reg. §1.701-4.** *The faculty's collective judgment is that a student who misses more than 20% of the scheduled meetings of a course has not taken the course, and though one's absence is for the best possible reasons such as sickness, death in the family, religious observance, or job requirements, the student should re-take the course rather than sit for the exam.*

- (c) Standards for Administration. Attendance will be taken during each class and may be taken at any time or multiple times during the class period. A student who is present but unprepared for class may be treated as absent if the instructor announces at the beginning of the semester that unprepared students will be treated as absent. The student found to be unprepared shall be promptly so advised by the instructor.
- (d) Class Cancellation. If a class is cancelled, either through an individual class cancellation or when the University is closed due to weather or other emergencies, a student's failure to attend the scheduled make-up class will generally not be considered an absence under the attendance requirement.

**Dean's Reg. §1.701-5. No Class Cancellation Without Prior Approval.** *The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs must approve a class cancellation by any professor or instructor. Class cancellations should be kept to a minimum.*

**Dean's Reg. §1.701-6. Cancellation of Classes Before or After Holiday.** *The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will not approve cancellation of classes on the days immediately before or after a scheduled holiday, e.g., Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.*

**Dean's Reg. §1.701-6. Campus Closing.** *The decision regarding campus closure will be made by the President of the University who will notify the Director of Personnel, who then will communicate the decision to the deans and department heads. This decision may not be made by individual deans or department heads.*

*Students should expect to attend classes via video conferencing on days when the campus is closed due to unsafe weather conditions unless otherwise directed by their professor.*

**Dean's Reg. §1.701-7. Timing of Campus Closings.** When weather-related, the decision regarding campus closure usually will be made by 7:00 a.m. for the regular division and by 4:00 p.m. for the extended division. Students may call the campus information line (717-541-1939) to inquire about closing. Closing information will also be posted on the University website, and the Campus Alert system.

**Dean's Reg. §1.701-8. Personal Safety and Bad Weather.** Students, staff, and faculty are reminded that they are first and foremost responsible for their own personal safety. People travel to the law school from long distances and the weather conditions may vary greatly over those distances. Even if the campus is open, all are encouraged to use their best, personal judgment on whether it is safe for them to travel. Students are encouraged to contact their professors to determine if remote participation is available if it is unsafe for them to travel to campus.

**Dean's Reg. §1.701-9. No Excused Absences.** Students are reminded that they have a permitted number of absences allowed in each class. The law school does not have "excused absences." As such, students should manage their absences to allow for missing class when the campus is open but, in their judgment, it is not safe for them to travel so that they can still meet the attendance requirements of §1-701.

**Dean's Reg. §1.701-10. Weather Deferral.** When the law school remains open for class but weather conditions in outlying areas make travel difficult or unsafe, the Dean may declare a "Weather Deferral" and allow students to make up any missed quizzes or midterms without penalty. Any assignments to be submitted electronically remain due at the original day and time. Student absences are not excused and will be counted as provided in §1-701.

## Part Eight: Visiting Students

### Section 1-801. Visitation.

- (a) General Rule. A student may visit another American Bar Association approved law school for a summer term or during the academic year with the approval of the Office of Student Affairs. Ordinarily, a student must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.300 or higher in order to visit another law school.
- (b) Academic Year Visitation. If a student wishes to visit during the academic year, the decision of the Office of Student Affairs to approve or deny the student's petition to visit shall be based on the following factors:
  - (1) whether the student is in good academic standing, including whether the student's cumulative grade point average is 2.300 or higher;
  - (2) the extent to which the student has completed the required courses at the Law School; and
  - (3) the extent to which the requested visitation is necessitated by substantial personal hardship caused by conditions beyond the student's control.

### Section 1-802. Courses and Reporting of Grades.

- (a) Courses and Course Load During Visitation. A student visiting during the summer term or academic year will not receive academic credit for successful completion of a course offered at another law school if such course is designated by the Dean's Office as a required course. A student visiting during the summer term or academic year may not take a course load at another law school which exceeds the maximum course load authorized by §1-307.
- (b) Reporting of Grades for Visiting Students. The Law School will accept transfer credits only if the grade earned by the student has a grade point average equivalent of 2.000 or higher. For purposes of this subsection, passing grades awarded on a pass/fail scale will be treated as satisfying the 2.000 grade point average equivalent requirement. All grades received from other law schools will be reported on a student's Law School transcript as a "Transfer."

***Dean's Reg. §1.802-1.*** For courses designated as required, see Dean's Reg. §1.201-2.

***Dean's Reg. §1.802-2.*** "Required courses" as used in this section, includes Menu courses.

- (c) Transfer of Credit for Visiting Students. The Law School shall review a student's credits from another institution but does not guarantee that those credits will be accepted. This provision also applies to students who are permanently transferring to the law school.

### **Section 1-803. Other Rules.**

- (a) Petition to Visit. A student who wishes to visit at an American Bar Association approved law school year must file a written petition to visit with the Registrar. Except for emergency situations, the petition must be filed at least 60 days prior to the date of the first date of classes of an academic year or 14 days prior to the summer term in which the student wishes to visit.
- (b) Unapproved Visitation. Credits earned by a student while visiting at another law school will not be included in the computation of academic credits required for graduation unless the visitation was approved in advance by the Office of Student Affairs.

## **Part Nine: Reserved**

### **Reserved for Future Use**

## **Part Ten: Dismissal and Reconsideration**

### **Section 1-1001. Academic Good Standing.**

- (a) Grade Point Average Required for Good Standing. A cumulative grade point average of at least 2.000 or higher is required for a student to be considered in good academic standing.
- (b) Academic Success Program. Students whose cumulative grade point average is below 2.300 after the first, second, or third semester will be placed in the Academic Success Program.
- (c) Dismissal. A student's cumulative grade point average will be evaluated at the end of each fall and spring semester. If, after the student's fall semester of the first year of law school, the student's cumulative grade point average is below 1.700 for all law school work attempted, that student shall be dismissed from the law school 30 days after grades are released. If, after any subsequent semester, the student's cumulative grade point average is below 2.000 for all law school work attempted, that student shall be dismissed from the law school 30 days after grades are released.

### **Section 1-1002. Academic Success Program Students.**

- (a) General Rule. All students placed in the Academic Success Program pursuant to §1-1001 shall comply with the requirements of this section.
- (b) Academic Counseling. Each student in the Academic Success Program must participate in academic counseling or support programs established by the Office of Student Affairs for the benefit of Academic Success students.
- (c) Approval of Courses and Course Load. Each Academic Success Program student must obtain the approval of the Office of Student Affairs before registering for or dropping any course during preregistration or Add/Drop. The Office of Student Affairs shall maintain a system for pre-approval of any course registration for Academic Success students.
- (d) Restriction on Courses and Activities. Academic Success Program students may not participate in activities for which non-classroom credit, externship, or directed research credit is available. Students in the Academic Success Program may not serve as an officer, board member or committee chair in any student organization, and may not participate in any interscholastic competition. Academic Success Program students may participate in on-campus clinical programs.
- (e) Intensive Legal Analysis. Academic Success Program students shall be required to complete the Intensive Legal Analysis course in the spring semester of the first year. Intensive Legal Analysis shall be a required course for purposes of §1-201(d).

- (f) Legal Methods III: Writing for the Bar Exam. Students whose grade point average is below a 2.500 after attempting 40 credits shall be required to complete Legal Methods III: Writing for the Bar Exam during the third year. This course shall fulfill the Legal Methods III course requirement.

**Section 1-1003. Notice of Intent to Dismiss.**

- (a) Notice of Intent to Dismiss by Office of Student Affairs. Each student to be dismissed for poor scholarship pursuant to §1-1001 shall be notified of the impending dismissal in writing by the Office of Student Affairs. The notice of dismissal shall include an outline of the procedure for requesting reconsideration.
- (b) Definition of Notice. A Notice of Intent to Dismiss shall be sent by electronic mail to the student's university- assigned e-mail. Notice shall be deemed effective when e-mailed.

**Section 1-1004. Effect of Notice of Intent to Dismiss.**

- (a) Withdrawal From Classes. Any student whose law school cumulative grade point average is below the minimum required to stay in good standing following the release of grades for any semester shall be dropped from all courses at the law school for the following semester, summer term, or both, and shall receive a refund of any tuition paid with respect to all future semesters or terms. However, a student who has completed at least three semesters may be permitted to attend classes until the final determination of the reconsideration decision provided that (i) by the start of the semester or session or within five days of the release of grades for the previous semester, whichever occurs later, the student submits a written declaration of intention to file a Section 1-1005 Request for Reconsideration and (ii) the student files a timely reconsideration petition within 15 days of the release of grades.
- (b) Visiting Students. A student who is enrolled in courses at another accredited law school pursuant to §1-801 during the summer term, including another law school's study abroad program, shall not receive academic credit for successful completion of such courses if the student is dismissed from Widener University Commonwealth Law School.

***Dean's Reg. §1.1004-1.*** *If a student has not completed three semesters and the student's cumulative grade point average drops below the minimum required by §1-1001(c), the Registrar shall immediately place the student on an involuntary leave pending the final resolution of any request for reconsideration filed by the student.*

***Dean's Reg. §1.1004-2.*** *If a student has completed at least three semesters and the student's cumulative grade point average drops below the minimum required by §1-1001(c), the student may start a new semester or session, but only if the student (1) files a written intent to submit a Section 1-1005 Request for Reconsideration prior to the start of the semester or session or within five days of the release of grades, whichever occurs later, and (2) files a Request for Reconsideration within 15 days of the release of grades. If the student does not meet these requirements, the Registrar*

*shall immediately place the student on an involuntary leave pending the final resolution of any request for reconsideration filed by the student.*

#### **Section 1-1005. Request for Reconsideration.**

- (a) General Rule. Any student whose law school cumulative grade point average is below the minimum required to stay in good standing pursuant to §1-1001 of the Academic Code and who meets one of the requirements in subsection (c) below, may request that the Dean's Office reconsider the student's impending dismissal.
- (b) Filing Request for Reconsideration. A request for reconsideration must be filed within 15 days of the release of grades. The request shall be delivered to the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and copied to the Dean of Students
- (c) Requirements of Request. In the petition for reconsideration, the student must allege and prove that the student possesses the requisite ability to perform satisfactorily in law school and that the student's current grade point average does not indicate a lack of capacity to complete the program of legal education and be admitted to the bar. The petition shall be reviewed by a faculty committee. The committee shall grant the petition for reconsideration only if, in the judgment of the committee, the evidence indicates a substantial likelihood of academic success.
- (d) Dismissal Following Reconsideration. A student who has requested reconsideration of his or her impending dismissal and has been allowed by the Dean to continue at the law school is ineligible to request reconsideration if the student again fails to meet the minimum cumulative grade point average to remain in good standing.

#### **Section 1-1006. Consideration of Request for Reconsideration.**

- (a) Review of Request by Dean. The Dean may grant a request for reconsideration only upon a satisfactory showing of the circumstances described in §1-1005(c).
- (b) Delegation. The Dean may delegate part or all of his or her responsibility under this section to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
- (c) Student File. For each student allowed to continue at the law school and placed on academic probation, a statement of the considerations that led to the decision shall be placed in the student's file.

***Dean's Reg. §1.1006-1. Conditions for Repeating Students.*** *If, as a condition of continuing at the law school, the Dean requires the student to repeat the first semester or the first year, then the following rules apply to the student:*



- (1) Cumulative Grade Point Average Calculation. Grades received during the initial first semester or year of law studies will not be used in computing the student's class rank or grade point average.
- (2) Transcript Endorsement. The following endorsement shall appear on the transcript of the affected student:

This student was permitted to repeat the first semester (or year) for good cause and otherwise would have been dismissed for academic deficiencies. For purposes of computing the student's academic average and class rank on this transcript, only the grades for the repeated courses are included.

#### **Section 1-1007. Readmission after Dismissal.**

- (a) General Rule. Any student dismissed for poor scholarship shall not be readmitted to Widener University Commonwealth Law School unless the Dean and the Admissions Committee determine that the requirements of ABA Standard 501(c) have been satisfied. This section shall also apply to those students who have been dismissed from another law school and are seeking admission to Widener University Commonwealth Law School.
- (b) Application for Readmission. A former student may apply for readmission to the Law School at any time after the end of the two-year period beginning with the former student's dismissal from the law school. An application for readmission must be submitted to the Admissions Office of the Law School by the deadline established for admissions applications established by the Admissions Office for the year in question. The form of the readmission application shall be the same as that prescribed for all students applying to the Law School.
- (c) Cause for Readmission. An applicant for readmission must establish in the application for readmission that the nature of the applicant's work, activities or studies during the period following dismissal indicates a stronger potential for law study than that which existed upon dismissal.
- (d) For each reinstated, previously disqualified student, a statement of the considerations that led to the decision shall be placed in the student's file.

#### **Section 1-1008. Modification of Rules Governing Academic Code.**

- (a) All rules governing academic performance and student conduct may be modified or amended under the authority of the Dean or where appropriate, under the authority of the faculty. Modifications or amendments to rules governing academic performance and student conduct shall be applicable to students currently enrolled when the Dean, or, where appropriate, the faculty determine that such modifications are necessary and appropriate and do not cause undue hardship to students currently enrolled.

- (b) The Dean or the Office of Student Affairs acting under the authority of §§1-1002 and 1-1004, may set additional or different conditions for Academic Success Program students, students who have been placed on academic probation and allowed to continue at the law school, and students who have been reinstated after an academic dismissal.

## **Part Eleven: Dean's Office Regulations**

### **Section 1-1101. Purpose.**

- (a) Interpretation. The Dean's Office Regulations are the official interpretations of the Academic Code, the Student Code of Conduct, and the Faculty Policy Statement on the Curriculum prepared by the Registrar, the Dean, and the Office of Student Affairs, to guide students and faculty in the application of these documents to common situations and problems that arise in the administration of the Law School.
- (b) Incorporation. Dean's Office Regulations are incorporated throughout the Academic Code and are denoted as: "Dean's Reg. §" Regulations are included following the section of the Academic Code which they interpret but a regulation's applicability is not limited to that particular Academic Code section and may have applicability to other sections as well.

### **Section 1-1102. Modification of Dean's Office Regulations.**

The Dean's Office has the right to change the Dean's Office Regulations at any time to further the best interest of the Law School. A change in the Dean's Office Regulations is effective when posted to the Law School's webpage.

## **VOLUME II**

### **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **General Expectations and Community Standards**

As future professionals, Widener University Commonwealth Law School students are expected to maintain the highest ideals of academic and social conduct and are responsible for knowing the Law School's published policies and standards. Students are also expected to respect the views and personal dignity of other members of the Law School community.

In addition, students should learn about the expectations that will be required of them when they become lawyers. The Codes of Professional Responsibility published by each state's bar, including Pennsylvania's, describe these expectations. Students are encouraged to consult these codes for guidance.

#### **PART ONE: GENERAL MATTERS**

**Section 2-101. Definitions.** The following definitions apply to this Student Code of Conduct:

- (a) Student Code or Honor Code. The Student Code of Conduct of Widener University Commonwealth Law School.
- (b) Council. The Honor Council consisting of six full-time faculty members, four students, and one administrator created in accordance with the Student Code and for the purpose of hearing alleged Student Code violations.
- (c) Law School. Widener University Commonwealth Law School.
- (d) Law Library. The Law School Library.
- (e) Dean. The Dean of the Law School or, in the absence of the Dean, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the Law School.
- (f) Faculty. The Faculty of the Law School.
- (g) Office of Student Affairs. The Assistant Dean of Students.
- (h) Investigator. The Honor Council Investigator.
- (i) Investigation Report. The report prepared by the Honor Council Investigator.

- (j) Registrar. The Registrar of the Law School or a person designated by the Dean to carry out the Registrar's duties under this Student Code.
- (k) Student. Any person enrolled or matriculated as either a full or part-time student of the Law School at the time of an alleged violation of this Student Code. For purposes of Student Code of Conduct violations, an applicant who is subsequently admitted to the Law School is considered a "Student" as of the time of submission of his or her application materials.
- (l) Accused. The student against whom a complaint alleging violation of the Student Code of Conduct has been lodged.
- (m) SBA. The Student Bar Association.

#### **Section 2-102. Jurisdiction.**

Any alleged violation of this Student Code of Conduct committed by a student will be heard and determined as provided herein.

#### **Section 2-103. Relationship of Student Code with Other Authorities.**

- (a) Relationship with Criminal and Civil Law. The Student Code operates concurrently with the processes of criminal and civil law. The Law School has the right, at its discretion, to postpone Student Code proceedings pending the outcome of criminal proceedings other than matters requiring a prompt investigation, such as Title IX proceedings. When misconduct alleged under the Student Code might subject the accused to criminal prosecution, the accused may postpone the Student Code process by "removing" himself or herself from the Law School until the criminal charges are resolved or until the authorities decide not to press charges. Removal under this provision has no effect under academic rules; i.e., the removal does not entitle the accused to a leave of absence or relieve the accused of any academic consequences arising from his or her absence from the Law School. Removal does not abate the Student Code complaint, but may not result in any inference against the accused in a Student Code proceeding.
- (b) Relationship with Law School Policies and Processes. The Student Code governs only matters within its substantive scope and leaves undisturbed Law School policies and processes outside that scope. The Law School may in its discretion respond to any misconduct, such as non-academic misconduct, that is not within the scope of the Student Code. Some forms of misconduct not involving academic dishonesty may be so serious in nature as to render a student potentially unfit for continuation as a student at the Law School, as well as to enter the profession of law. Those matters may be addressed by both the Law School and the Honor Council, and any decision to proceed initially by one procedure does not preclude use of the other.

- (c) Relationship with Administration Powers. Widener University or the Law School may act to preserve the safety and security of any person or property, even when a matter falls within the substantive scope of the Student Code, regardless of whether the processes of the Student Code are initiated concurrently. This includes, without limitation, applying the University Policy on Protective Action.
- (d) Relationship with Faculty Powers. The Student Code in no way restricts the academic freedom of the Faculty, even when a matter falls within the substantive scope of the Student Code, regardless of whether the processes of the Student Code are initiated concurrently. For example, a Faculty member may impose a grade penalty based on academic misconduct regardless of the existence or outcome of concurrent Student Code proceedings.

#### **Section 2-104. Time Limits.**

An accused may agree to extend or waive any procedural time limit under the Student Code. Extension of time limits with or without the consent of the accused does not relieve the accused of responsibility for violations of the Student Code.

#### **Section 2-105. Notice.**

When the Student Code calls for notice to a student, it shall be sufficient to deliver notice in person, or to send a letter by certified U.S. mail to the address on file with the Law School Registrar. A student is responsible for ensuring that at all times his or her current address is on file with the Registrar. Notice shall be deemed received three days after a certified mailing.

#### **Section 2-106. Adherence to Student Code and Preservation of Rights.**

The Student Code is designed to anticipate irregular and exceptional circumstances. Nevertheless, it is impossible to anticipate all eventualities. When strict adherence to Student Code procedures is impossible or impracticable, it shall be sufficient that persons charged with responsibilities under the Student Code act reasonably and consistently with the spirit and intent of the Student Code so as to achieve justice while also preserving the rights of all persons involved.

#### **Section 2-107. Confidentiality.**

Honor Council members, as well as conciliators appointed pursuant to §2-305, shall indefinitely maintain the confidentiality of medical, admissions, and academic records obtained during the course of Honor Council proceedings.

## PART TWO: VIOLATIONS AND SANCTIONS

### Section 2-201. Academic Misconduct Violations.

It shall be a violation of the Student Code for a student to commit any of the following acts or omissions. Academic misconduct for purposes of this section includes both the curricular and extracurricular, regardless of whether academic credit is awarded.

(a) Cheating

- (1) To give or secure any information about an examination or other academic assignment except as authorized by the course professor.
- (2) To use, if prohibited by the course professor, any book, papers, notes, other person's work, or other materials for an examination or other academic assignment.
- (3) To continue writing an examination answer after the permitted time has expired.
- (4) To take, conceal, withhold, destroy, damage, abuse, or deface property without authorization when the act deprives another student of access to or use of the property for an academic purpose, or to otherwise impede the academic work of another student.
- (5) To copy, consult, or use, for an academic purpose, the work of another student without the authorization of both that student and the course professor.
- (6) To utilize unauthorized artificial intelligence or similar technology for student submissions.

(b) Plagiarism. To take the written work of another and pass it off as one's own for an academic purpose. The following are examples of plagiarism, but not an exhaustive list of situations in which plagiarism can occur:

- (1) To use someone else's words without unambiguous acknowledgment.
- (2) To paraphrase someone else's words without unambiguous acknowledgment.
- (3) To use someone else's ideas without unambiguous acknowledgment.
- (4) The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence.

(c) Misrepresentation.

- (1) To misrepresent a material fact with respect to academic performance or requirements.
- (2) For an academic purpose and without authorization and appropriate disclosure, to represent the work of another as one's own or one's own work as the work of another, or to represent oneself as another, or to procure representation of another as oneself.
- (3) To misrepresent attendance in class, either of one's self or of another.
- (4) To misrepresent, including a failure to disclose, any material fact concerning qualification for admission to the Law School or any of its programs.

(d) Tampering. To tamper with any document, file, or datum pertaining to academic activity, including student records, journals, examinations and papers, without authorization.

(e) Unfair Academic Advantage Generally.

- (1) When not otherwise specified as a violation under the Student Code, to violate any Law School rule or professor's course policy with respect to academic performance or requirements, including through unauthorized collaboration, when the violation creates an unfair academic advantage or creates an unfair academic disadvantage for another.
- (2) When not otherwise specified as a violation under the Student Code, to violate any rule of the Law School applicable to participation or membership in an activity or organization, when the violation creates an unfair academic advantage or creates an unfair academic disadvantage for another.

(f) Other Violations.

- (1) To create any material and substantial disruption of the Law School academic environment.
- (2) To violate any rule of professional conduct of the state in which a student is enrolled in a clinical program conducted by the Law School.
- (3) Recklessly or intentionally, to furnish false or misleading information on any Law School or other government document, or on any document intended to secure employment, admission to an academic program, or similar competitive opportunity.



- (4) To appear persistently in a Law School academic environment while noticeably under the influence of intoxicants or drugs not prescribed by a physician.
- (5) To violate any policy, procedure, rule or regulation of the University or the Law School.
- (g) General Unfitness. Any act which reflects adversely upon a student's fitness to practice law, or endangers the Law School community, including, but not limited to, acts involving violence, dishonesty, criminal conduct, breach of trust, or unprofessional conduct, or any act that interferes with the administration of justice or Law School policy.
- (h) Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Assault, and Sexual Violence. Cases relating to sexual misconduct, sexual assault, and sexual violence by students, as well as allegations of other forms of discrimination or harassment, shall be processed under the University's Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Policy and its applicable procedures.

#### **Section 2-202. Student Code Enforcement Violations.**

- (a) To knowingly fail to report another student's violation of the Student Code.
- (b) To knowingly make a false report of another student's violation of the Student Code, to knowingly make a false or materially incomplete report, or to give false or materially incomplete testimony in an investigation or proceeding under the Student Code.
- (c) To falsify, destroy, or place beyond the reach of an officer acting under the Student Code any documents, testimony, or other evidence material to an investigation or other process under the Student Code.
- (d) Without reasonable excuse, to fail to appear as a witness or to testify when called upon under the Student Code.
- (e) To breach a duty of confidentiality under the Student Code.

#### **Section 2-203. General Provisions Concerning Violations.**

- (a) Knowledge of Authorities. Students are presumed to know the provisions of the Student Code, the policies and rules of Widener University and of the Law School, and the policies and rules of courses in which the students are enrolled.
- (b) State of Mind. To violate the Student Code, the accused must have acted with the state of mind specified in the violation. If no state of mind is specified, then intent, knowledge, or recklessness is required. Intent, knowledge, or recklessness may be inferred from the evidence.

- (c) Recklessness defined. “Recklessness” means conscious disregard of a substantial risk that the conduct might produce a result or that certain circumstances exist, as appropriate to the case.
- (d) Attempt; Aiding and Abetting; Conspiracy. It shall be a violation of the Student Code to attempt to commit any offense; to aid or abet in the commission of any offense; or to participate in a conspiracy to commit any offense.

#### **Section 2-204. Sanctions.**

- (a) Available Sanctions. Upon a finding of responsibility under the Student Code, one or more of the following sanctions may be imposed, subject to the other provisions of §2-204.
  - (1) Restriction of library, activity, or other Law School privileges.
  - (2) Disciplinary probation or warning.
  - (3) Downward disciplinary grade adjustment for an assignment or course.
  - (4) Denial of credit for a course.
  - (5) Involuntary withdrawal from a course.
  - (6) Dismissal from a Law School office or activity.
  - (7) Oral or written reprimand.
  - (8) Written reprimand that becomes a temporary or permanent part of the student’s academic file, to be included with any transcript.
  - (9) Compensatory damages or restitution to the Law School or other appropriate entity.
  - (10) Suspension from the Law School.
  - (11) Expulsion from the Law School.
  - (12) Revocation of Degree.
- (b) Imposition of Sanctions.
  - (1) A sanction may be imposed on a probationary or temporary basis.

- (2) In selecting a sanction, any relevant information may be considered, and the following factors shall be considered:
- a. The nature and seriousness of the violation, including the degree of potential harm that the violation posed to the academic integrity of the Law School community.
  - b. The circumstances of the violation, including any aggravating or mitigating factors.
  - c. The need to uphold and promote respect for the Student Code and to deter future violation by the responsible student and others.
  - d. Whether the sanction will reconcile the responsible student with the Law School community.
  - e. Any comments of the responsible student relevant to sanction selection.
  - f. The state of mind of the responsible student.

## **PART THREE: PROCEDURES**

### **Section 2-301. Honor Council.**

The Honor Council shall consist of six full-time faculty members, four Law school students and one administrator who acts as Honor Council Investigator. The chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Council must be tenured faculty. Student members of the Council may be enrolled in the day- or evening-division, but they must be reasonably available to participate in a tribunal during both day and evening hours.

### **Section 2-302. Formation of Honor Council.**

- (a) Faculty Appointments. The Dean or the Dean's designee shall select the faculty members to serve on the Council, designating one as chairperson and one as vice chairperson. Initially, three faculty members are selected for a one-year term and three (including the chairperson and vice chairperson) for a two-year term. Thereafter each faculty member appointed to the Council will serve for a two-year term.
- (b) Student Appointments. Each spring the SBA shall solicit applications from students desiring to serve on the Honor Council, and shall recommend six of those students to the Dean. The Dean or the Dean's designee shall select four students to serve a one-year term on the Council, beginning the following fall. If the SBA fails to recommend students, or recommends fewer than six students, the Dean or the Dean's designee shall select students from the eligible student body.
- (c) Appointment of Honor Council Investigator. The Dean or the Dean's designee shall select an administrator to serve a one-year term on the Council as Honor Council Investigator. The administrator may be a Faculty member who works in the Office of Student Affairs Office or in another administrative capacity.

### **Section 2-303. Complaint.**

- (a) Any person may complain to the Registrar or the Office of Student Affairs that a student, the accused, has violated the Student Code. A complaint may not be lodged anonymously.
- (b) The Registrar shall place the complaint and all other materials related to it in a special file marked with the name of the accused and a docket number.
- (c) The Registrar shall maintain a docket stating the filing date and time of each complaint and all orders issued and actions taken by the Registrar and others regarding it. The docket, the case file and all reports and records maintained pursuant to this Student Code shall be maintained confidentially unless otherwise provided in this Student Code.

- (d) The Office of Student Affairs shall review all complaints. If the allegations in the complaint would constitute a violation of the Student Code, or at least present a colorable case of a violation that may be proved upon further investigation, the Office of Student Affairs shall present a written explanation of the allegations and the identity of the reporting party or parties to the Honor Council Investigator.
- (e) The Investigator shall investigate the merits of the complaint. If, after investigating the allegations of the complaint, the Investigator has reason to believe, in light of the complaint and any additional information collected, that the accused has violated the Student Code, the Investigator shall provide the Dean's Office with a report summarizing the charge and the evidence therefore.

#### **Section 2-304. Emergency Suspensions.**

- (a) In extreme, dangerous, or unusual circumstances the Dean or the Dean's designee may suspend the accused pending an investigation. An emergency suspension may be imposed when there is reason to believe that the accused has engaged and/or may engage in misconduct that may endanger the safety or welfare of the accused, students, faculty or employees of the Law School. Before such suspension takes place the Dean or the Dean's designee shall make reasonable efforts to interview the accused.
- (b) An accused suspended under this section shall have the right to an expedited hearing before an Honor Council tribunal ideally to be held no later than ten class-days after the commencement of the suspension. During the period of suspension, the accused shall not enter the Law School campus, except to meet with the Dean's designee for an informal conciliation pursuant to §2-305.
- (c) If an accused who has been suspended is subsequently held not responsible by an Honor Council tribunal, the Law School shall to the extent possible waive, and where that is not possible mitigate, any attendance or other collateral consequences of the suspension.

#### **Section 2-305. Informal Conciliation.**

- (a) Upon receipt of the Investigator's report of reason to believe the accused has violated the Student Code, the Dean shall designate an administrator to conduct an informal conciliation with the accused. The Dean's designee ordinarily will be an Associate Dean or administrator not serving in the Student Affairs Office. In extraordinary circumstances the Dean's designee may be any tenured faculty member.
- (b) No more than ten class-days after receiving a complaint, the Dean's designee shall notify the accused in writing of the complaint and of the provisions of the Student Code allegedly violated. The Dean's designee shall summon the accused to an informal conciliation, which should occur within five class-days of the accused receiving notice.

- (c) The purpose of the informal conciliation shall be to ascertain the truth of the matter presented and to attain a just resolution of the matter consistent with the Student Code. The Dean's designee may conduct additional investigation in anticipation of the informal conciliation.
- (d) Only the accused has a right to be present at the informal conciliation with the Dean's designee. Any other person may be present whose presence the Dean's designee determines would further the purpose of the informal conciliation.
- (e) Procedures for the informal conciliation shall be at the discretion of the Dean's designee. Only the accused and the Dean's designee have a right to speak at the informal conciliation. The accused has no obligation to speak.
- (f) No separate complaint of a Student Code violation may arise against the accused as a result of communication during the informal conciliation. However, a violation of §2-202 forfeits this privilege and a complaint may be lodged if predicated on an allegation of that violation.
- (g) At the conclusion of the informal conciliation, the Dean's designee shall recommend a final disposition of the matter, including, if appropriate, a finding of the accused's responsibility and any appropriate sanction. The accused may agree with the finding of responsibility or with both the finding of responsibility and the sanction.
- (h) If the accused and Dean's designee reach any agreement, the Dean's designee shall make a written record of the agreement, which the accused shall sign. If the accused and Dean's designee agree on both the finding of responsibility and the sanction, then the Dean's designee shall arrange for the execution of the sanction and conclusion of the matter.
- (i) The accused may void an agreement with the Dean's designee by delivering written notice within twenty-four hours of signing the agreement. If the accused and Dean's designee have agreed on both responsibility and sanction, the accused may void the entire agreement, but not one part of it.
- (j) If the Dean's designee and the accused do not agree on the finding of responsibility or on the sanction, the Dean's designee shall promptly assemble a Student Code Hearing in accordance with §2-306.

#### **Section 2-306. Student Code Hearing.**

- (a) Notice to the Hearing Council and to the accused. Upon failure to reach an agreement with the accused during informal conciliation, the Dean's designee shall notify the Council and the Investigator. The Investigator shall forthwith provide a written report to the Council and the accused summarizing the allegations and the result of the investigation, including a list

of those witnesses from whom the Council is likely to want to hear.

- (b) Hearing Tribunal. The chairperson of the Council shall select two faculty members and two student members of the Council to participate with the chairperson in the hearing. This body constitutes the hearing tribunal. If the chairperson is unable to participate for any reason, the vice-chairperson shall take his or her place for all purposes described below. If neither can participate, or if there is an inadequate number of members of the Council to fulfill the other required roles, the Dean shall appoint replacements for purposes of the hearing. The chairperson of the hearing tribunal shall promptly set a hearing date and notify the accused of the hearing date as well as the identity of the members of the hearing tribunal.
- (c) Challenges. After receipt of notice of the hearing, the accused may choose to challenge the composition of the hearing tribunal. The accused shall have one peremptory challenge for student members and one peremptory challenge for faculty members of the tribunal. The accused may also challenge any member of the hearing tribunal for cause. The accused must communicate to the chairperson of the tribunal in writing any challenge. The accused must deliver any challenge within three class-days after receipt of notice. If the challenge is not delivered within three class-days, it will be denied.
- (d) Hearing Process.
  - (1) The hearing is not an adversarial process, but is instead an inquisitorial proceeding in which formal rules of evidence are not applicable. The hearing tribunal decides what documentary evidence to request, what witnesses to call, and what questions to present to those witnesses. The chair has final authority over all evidentiary and scheduling matters, other than that each member of the tribunal shall decide for him or herself what inference to draw from any failure to testify or present requested evidence.
  - (2) The accused shall have the right to have any one personal representative, including a family member, student, friend, or retained counsel, attend the hearing. However, no faculty member, either full- or part-time, may serve as this representative.
  - (3) The Investigator may request that the hearing tribunal call certain witnesses, request certain evidence, or ask certain questions, but the tribunal has discretion whether to make those inquiries. The Investigator attends the hearing, or portions thereof, at the discretion of the chair.
  - (4) The accused shall have the following rights, and only these rights, at the hearing:
    - (a) The right to be present during all testimony;
    - (b) the right, at the conclusion of the testimony of any witness, to request

further questions;

- (c) the right to request witnesses, but the chairperson may require an offer of proof and decide to exclude the testimony of the witness in whole or in part if the proposed testimony is considered to be irrelevant, duplicative, or otherwise unnecessary to a fair disposition,
  - (d) the right, at the conclusion of the receipt of all evidence and witness testimony, to request the receipt of additional evidence;
  - (e) the right to testify;
  - (f) the right to present a closing argument that may not exceed 15 minutes; and
  - (g) the right to bring a stenographer to transcribe the proceedings at the accused's own expense.
- (5) Hearings are closed, but must be recorded in some reliable fashion. They need not be transcribed.
- (6) At the conclusion of the hearing, the tribunal shall deliberate in secret to determine responsibility. A majority of the tribunal must agree to any decision on the accused's responsibility. If the accused is found to be responsible, the chairperson of the tribunal shall promptly inform the accused in writing of the tribunal's decision and of the accused's right to submit to the tribunal in writing any relevant information and arguments as to the appropriate sanction. The accused must deliver to the chairperson any information or arguments as to sanction within seven days after receipt of the decision. The tribunal then shall deliberate in secret to recommend to the Dean an appropriate sanction. When a majority of the tribunal has agreed on a recommended sanction, the chairperson shall promptly notify the accused that such an agreement has been made. The majority of the tribunal agreeing upon a recommended sanction need not be the same majority of the tribunal that agreed to the decision as to the accused's responsibility.
- (7) If the chairperson of the tribunal is in the majority, he or she shall draft a brief report to the Dean communicating the tribunal's numerical vote as to responsibility, explaining the tribunal's relevant findings, and, if applicable, communicating a recommended sanction agreed upon by a majority of hearing tribunal members. If the chair is in the minority, the most senior faculty member in the majority shall draft the report. Tribunal members may draft dissenting reports as to any recommended sanction, which the chairperson or ranking-majority member will pass on to the Dean, but members may not prepare any such report as to responsibility. The record of the hearing also shall be delivered to the Dean.



- (8) When a hearing tribunal finds responsibility, the Dean shall determine and impose an appropriate sanction pursuant to §2-204, subject to the following provisions. If the sanction recommended by the hearing tribunal is suspension, the Dean may impose any sanction other than expulsion. The Dean shall be guided by the sanction recommended by the hearing tribunal but may, in the Dean's sole discretion, impose a sanction of the same or greater or lesser severity. Nothing in this Student Code limits the Dean's ability to impose stronger sanctions than those recommended by the hearing tribunal or pursuant to Widener University's Policy on Protective Action.
- (9) The Dean shall notify the accused in writing of the Dean's determination in the matter. The Dean shall return the record to the Registrar. The Dean also shall transmit to the Registrar a copy of the Dean's determination, which shall become part of the record.
- (10) All evidence, testimony, and findings shall be kept and held confidential, and all parties, representatives and witnesses shall be required to agree to do so.

The Dean shall promptly arrange for the execution of any sanction upheld.

## **PART FOUR: MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Section 2-401. Amendments.**

This Student Code may be amended at any time in the same manner as it was ratified.

### **Section 2-402. Ratification.**

This Student Code becomes effective when approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the full-time members of the faculty of the Law School convened in a general or special meeting.

### **Section 2-403. Effective Date.**

**This Student Code will become effective on the first day of July, 2008, and was last amended on August, 2024.**

## **Student Complaints Concerning the Program of Legal Education ABA Standard 510**

1. Widener University Commonwealth Law School wishes to hear student concerns about significant problems that directly implicate the school's program of legal education and its compliance with the ABA's Accreditation Standards. [The ABA Standards for the Approval of Law Schools](#) can be accessed on the American Bar Association's webpage .
2. Any student who alleges that a significant problem directly implicates the law school's program of legal education and compliance with the ABA's Accreditation Standards should file a signed, written complaint with the Office of Student Affairs. The complaint may be sent as an email, a letter delivered by U.S. mail, or as a facsimile. The complaint must identify the problem in sufficient detail to permit the Dean's designee to investigate the matter, including the specific Accreditation Standard(s) at issue. The complaint must include the student's contact information, including name, mailing address, preferred email address, and telephone number.
3. Within 20 business days of receiving a signed, written complaint, the Dean of Students shall either meet with the complaining student or respond to the substance of the complaint in writing. The student shall be advised of any action the law school is taking to address the matter or any further investigation the law school is making into the matter.
4. The complaint should be filed with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs if the complaint involves the Office of Student Affairs or the Dean of Students. Furthermore, in such a situation, the Associate Dean shall either meet with the complaining student or respond in writing instead of the Dean of Students.
5. Within 10 business days of being advised of any action the law school is taking to address the matter, the student may appeal that decision to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Within 10 business days of being advised of the decision of the Associate Dean, the student may appeal that decision to the Dean of the Law School. The decision of the Dean is final.
6. The Law School shall maintain a complete written record of each complaint, how it was investigated, and its resolution. Written records shall be maintained in a confidential manner in the Office of Student Affairs.
7. Widener University and Widener University Commonwealth Law School have many policies and codes. Some student complaints may fall within the jurisdiction of these policies and codes, including Widener University's Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Policy and Widener University Commonwealth Law School's Student Code of Conduct. Jurisdiction over any student complaint is not exclusive to any single university or law school policy or code.

**VOLUME III**

**FACULTY STATEMENTS**

1. On Grading and Examinations
2. On the Curriculum
3. On the Law & Government Institute
4. On the Advocacy Certificate
5. On the Business Advising Program
7. On the Law Library
8. On Building Access

**STATEMENT 1**  
**ON GRADING AND EXAMINATIONS**

**Section 3-101. Grade Normalization Policy.**

- (a) In the fall semester, the mean grade in each section of a first year required course for regular division students and the equivalent courses for extended division students must fall within the 2.300 to 2.750 range. Additionally, at least 10% of the students must receive grades of B+ or above and at least 10% of the students must receive grades of C- or below.
- (b) In the spring semester, the mean grade in each section of a first year required course for regular division students and the equivalent courses for extended division students must fall within the 2.500 to 2.800 range.
- (c) The mean grade in each section of upper level required courses must fall within the 2.600 to 2.950 range.
- (d) The mean grade in each section of a Menu or Legal Methods III course must fall within the 2.600 to 3.100 range.
- (e) The mean grade in each section of an elective course with an enrollment of more than 20 students must fall within the 2.600 to 3.100 range.
- (f) The mean grade in each section of an elective course with an enrollment of more than five students but no more than 20 students, a seminar, or an experiential learning course must fall within the 2.600 to 3.400 range.
- (g) Departures from the grading standards specified in paragraphs (a)-(f) above must be approved in writing by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The Registrar must receive a copy of the Associate Dean's written approval before entering any grades that depart from these standards.

**Section 3-102. Faculty Recommendation.**

Students should take at least six credits or two courses in the second semester of their third year (RD), or nine credits or three courses in their last two semesters (ED) which are taught by a full-time faculty member and taken for a grade.

**Section 3-103. Effective Date.**

The provisions of the Faculty Statement on Grading and Examinations are effective for all students as of January 23, 2018.

STATEMENT 2

ON THE CURRICULUM

Part A. Required and Menu Courses

**Section 3-201. Required Upper Division Courses.**

Before you can graduate, you will need to take the following courses. These are in addition to Essential Legal Skills, Civil Procedure I & II, Contracts I & II, Criminal Law, Legal Methods I & II, Property I & II and Torts I & II. These are:

- Administrative Law (3)
- Business Organizations (3)
- Constitutional Law (4)
- Criminal Procedure (3)
- Evidence (3)
- First Amendment (*for students matriculating August 2022 or later*)
- Fundamentals of the Bar Exam (2)
- Legal Methods III (2)
- Professional Responsibility (3)
- Sales and Leases (3)
- Experiential Learning (6) including Clinic, Externship, or Practicum (2)
- Seminar/Writing Requirement (2)

These courses are required because they are central to law practice and are relatively heavily tested on the bar examinations of most states.

When two RD sections of a required upper division course are offered in a single semester, you are required to take that required course in that semester. If, for example, two RD sections of Constitutional Law are offered in the fall semester, all RD students must take that course. We also offer RD sections of most of the other required courses: Administrative Law, Business Organizations, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Professional Responsibility and Sales & Leases. You should talk to your professors and the Dean of Students to obtain advice about which courses to take each semester and which courses to defer until later in law school.

### **Section 3-202. Menus of Elective Courses.**

*(Applies ONLY to students matriculating August 2021 or earlier. See Code Menu below if matriculating August 2022 or later.)*

The faculty has also created two additional menus of courses. All students will have to take at least three courses from these menus, and perhaps as many as seven, depending on their grade point average.

#### **Menus A and B**

Menu A consists of important practice courses—courses that are also central to law practice and important for students expecting to practice in particular areas. In comparison to required courses, Menu A courses are (1) other bar courses that are less frequently tested or for which fewer points are awarded on most bar exams, and (2) other basic substantive courses.

##### **Menu A courses are as follows:**

- Family Law (only if 3 credit version)
- Federal Income Tax
- First Amendment
- Products Liability
- Remedies
- Secured Transactions
- Wills and Trusts

Menu B consists of courses newly added to, or only occasionally tested on, the bar exams in the region. Menu B also includes enrichment courses that permit you to expand your knowledge of specialized areas of the law, to deepen your understanding of a particular area of the law or practice, or to develop your lawyering skills.

##### **Menu B courses are as follows:**

- Advanced Criminal Procedure
- Bankruptcy
- Conflicts
- Copyright and Trademark
- Disability Law
- Employment Discrimination
- Environmental Law
- Federal Courts
- Immigration
- Labor Law
- Legislation
- Payment Systems

Real Estate Transactions  
State Constitutional Law  
Taxation of Business Entities

*(Applies ONLY to students matriculating August 2022 or later. Menu A & B requirements have been replaced with the Code Menu as indicated below.)*

### **Code Menu**

1. All students must take Secured Transactions OR Federal Income Tax.
2. *(For students with a GPA below a 3.000 after attempting 40 credits)—*

#### Additional Menu Courses--Choose Two:

Federal Courts  
Products Liability  
Remedies  
Federal Income Tax (if not taken to satisfy the Code menu requirement)  
Secured Transactions (if not taken to satisfy the Code menu requirement)

### **Section 3-203. Determining How Many Menu Courses You Must Take.**

*(Applies ONLY to students matriculating August 2021 or earlier)*

Your grade point average will determine how many of these courses you must take:

- Students with a GPA of 3.000 or higher must take and pass at least 9 credit hours from either Menu A or B.
- Students with a GPA of 2.500 to 2.999 must take and pass at least 15 credit hours of Menu courses, at least 7 of which must be from Menu A.
- Students with a GPA of 2.499 or below must take and pass at least 18 credit hours from Menu courses, at least 10 of which must be from Menu A.

For purposes of the menu courses, your grade point average will be calculated after you have attempted 40 credits. Classes in which you have received a letter grade or a Pass/Fail, including a failing grade, will count toward your attempted credits. As a practical matter, this should mean the GPA calculation for most RD students will occur after three semesters.

Your grade point average for this purpose will be based on your performance in required and menu courses only. Of course, any other credits in which you have received a passing grade will count toward your graduation. They will not, however, be used in calculating your grade point average for the purpose of determining how many menu courses you must take.



The 40-credit rule likely means that you will not know for certain how many menu courses you will need to take until after you have received your third semester grades. As a result, the menu system will have a considerable effect on your third-year class schedule. The higher your GPA, the more choices you will have.

We offer the following suggestions to help you think about how and when to take menu courses. Be aware, again, that you are responsible for ensuring that you have taken the required number and type of menu courses in order to graduate.

1. All students, regardless of their GPA, must take at least 9 credit hours from Menus A and B.
2. Use your current GPA to think about how many additional menu courses you should take in your second year.
3. Choose menu courses that meet your needs. Choose menu courses that are interesting or useful to you.
4. Choose elective courses that meet your needs. The schedule is intended to give you at least one elective course every semester. The elective course may be a menu course, but it doesn't have to be. We offer a wide range of other courses, and you should use this opportunity to choose courses that meet your needs. In order to become a certified legal intern in Pennsylvania, students must successfully complete both Evidence and Professional Responsibility before the start of the internship. Thus, you may want to take those courses sooner rather than later.
5. Figure out which courses you want to take before you graduate. Remember that some of these courses have prerequisites. For example, Administrative Law is required for all L&G certificates, so you should take that course as early as possible if you believe that you might seek L&G certification; however, Administrative Law is not a prerequisite for Environmental Law, and you should take Environmental Law as early as possible if you are contemplating an Environmental Law L&G certification. Be sure to take the prerequisite courses as soon as possible in your second year so that you can take the other courses you want before graduation.

### **Section 3-204. Thinking About Your Career.**

In order to practice successfully in a particular area of law, both knowledge and skills are needed. That mix of knowledge and skills, of course, varies based on the type of legal practice. You should feel free to consult faculty members with expertise in the area of law in which you are interested.

If you are undecided about what kind of legal career you would like, we suggest you choose courses to give yourself a broad range of different types of substantive courses and to acquire as many skills

as you can. This will give you the greatest flexibility after law school and also help you decide what you like and do not like. In addition, work with the Career Development Office to learn more about the best ways to prepare for different legal careers.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Student Affairs or the Registrar's Office.

## Part B. Course Sequencing

### Section 3-211. Regular Division Required Course Sequences.

(a) Sample Course Rotation (*rotation sequence may vary*)

<b><u>First Year</u></b>	<b><u>Fall</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>		<b><u>Spring</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>
	Essential Legal Skills	1		Civil Procedure II	3
	Civil Procedure I	3		Contracts II	3
	Contracts I	2		Legal Methods II	3
	Legal Methods I	3		Criminal Law	3
	Property I	4		Torts II	<u>3</u>
	Torts I	<u>2</u>			15
		15			

<b><u>Second Year</u></b>	<b><u>Fall</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>		<b><u>Spring</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>
	Constitutional Law	4		Property II	2
	Professional Responsibility	3		Required, Menu, Experiential,	
	Evidence	3		Writing, or Electives	<u>13-14</u>
	Required, Menu, Experiential,				15-16
	Writing or Electives	<u>5-6</u>			
		15-16			

<b><u>Third Year</u></b>	<b><u>Fall</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>		<b><u>Spring</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>
	Required, Menu, Experiential,			Required, Menu, Experiential,	
	Writing, or Electives	14-15		Writing, or Electives	14-15

**(b) Other Rules.**

**(1) Completion of First Year Courses.** Each regular division student must complete Essential Legal Skills, Civil Procedure I and II, Contracts I and II, Legal Methods I and II, Property I, and Torts I and II before taking any second year required course, unless the student is required to repeat a first-year course, or the student receives the permission of the Office of Student Affairs.

**(2) Application to Transfer Students and Students Who Change Divisions.** The limitation imposed by paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply to students who move from the extended division to the regular division at the end of the first year of legal studies, or to students who transfer from other ABA accredited law schools.

**Section 3-212. Extended Division Required Course Sequences.**

**(a) Normal Sequence of Courses.** The typical ED course sequence leaves students four credits short of the number of credits needed to graduate in eight semesters. These credits must be made up during a summer or in classes offered between semesters in order to graduate in eight semesters. An example of required courses for the extended division is found on the following pages. This rotation may vary. Please consult with the Dean of Students or the Registrar if you need assistance with course planning.

***ED Students Matriculating in Fall of an Even Year Beginning Fall 2022 (Sample Rotation)***

*\*ED students will need to earn four credits through enrollment in summer and/or pre-semester courses.*

<b><u>First Year</u></b>	<b><u>Fall</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>	<b><u>Spring</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>
	Essential Legal Skills	1	Civil Procedure II	3
	Civil Procedure I	3	Contracts II	3
	Contracts I	2	Legal Methods II	3
	Legal Methods I	<u>3</u>	Torts I	<u>2</u>
		9		11

<b><u>Second Year</u></b>	<b><u>Fall</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>	<b><u>Spring</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>
	Constitutional Law	4	Criminal Law	3
	Torts II	3	Criminal Procedure	3
	Property I	<u>4</u>	Professional Responsibility	3
		11	Property II	<u>2</u>
				11

	<b><u>Fall</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>		<b><u>Spring</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>
<b><u>Third Year</u></b>	Administrative Law	3		Business Organizations	3
	First Amendment	3		Evidence	3
	Required, Menu, Experiential, Writing, or Electives	<u>5</u>		Required, Menu, Experiential, Writing, or Electives	<u>5</u>
		11			11

	<b><u>Fall</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>		<b><u>Spring</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>
<b><u>Fourth Year</u></b>	Sales & Leases	3		Required, Menu, Experiential, Writing, or Electives	11
	Fundamentals of the Bar	2			
	Required, Menu, or Electives	<u>6</u>			
		11			

***ED Students Matriculating in Fall of an Odd Year Beginning Fall 2023 (Sample Rotation) \*ED students will need to earn four credits through enrollment in summer and/or pre-semester courses.***

	<b><u>Fall</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>		<b><u>Spring</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>
<b><u>First Year</u></b>	Essential Legal Skills	1		Civil Procedure II	3
	Civil Procedure I	3		Contracts II	3
	Contracts I	2		Legal Methods II	3
	Legal Methods I	<u>3</u>		Torts I	<u>2</u>
		9			11

	<b><u>Fall</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>		<b><u>Spring</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>
<b><u>Second Year</u></b>	Constitutional Law	4		Business Organizations	3
	Torts II	3		Professional Responsibility	3
	Property I	<u>4</u>		Property II	2
		11		Evidence	<u>3</u>
					11

	<b><u>Fall</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>		<b><u>Spring</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>
<b><u>Third Year</u></b>	Sales & Leases	3		Criminal Procedure	3
	Required, Menu, Experiential, Writing, or Electives	<u>8</u> 11		Criminal Law	3
				Required, Menu, Experiential, Writing, or Electives	<u>5</u> 11

	<b><u>Fall</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>		<b><u>Spring</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>
<b><u>Fourth Year</u></b>	Administrative Law	3		Required, Menu, Experiential, Writing, or Electives	11
	First Amendment	3			
	Fundamentals of the Bar	2			
	Required, Menu, Experiential, Writing, or Electives	<u>3</u> 11			

**(b) Other Rules.**

**(1) Completion of First Year Courses.** Each extended division student must complete Essential Legal Skills, Civil Procedure I and II, Contracts I and II, and Legal Methods I & II before taking any second year required course, unless the student is required to repeat a first- year course, or the student receives the permission of the Office of Student Affairs.

**(2) Application to Transfer Students and Students Who Change Divisions.** The limitation imposed by paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply to students who move from the extended division to the regular division at the end of the first year of legal studies, or to students who transfer from other ABA accredited law schools.

## Part C. Prerequisites and Electives

### Section 3-221. Elective Course Prerequisites in General.

- (a) General Rule. A student must satisfactorily complete all prerequisite courses for an elective course before the student may register for the elective course. A student may not take an elective course and a prerequisite course for that elective in the same academic semester or term.
- (b) Completion of First Year Courses. A student must satisfactorily complete all first year required courses for the division in which the student is currently enrolled before registering for any elective course. This subsection shall not apply to those students for whom an exception is available under §3-211(b)(2) or §3-212(b)(2).

### Section 3-222. List of Electives and Prerequisites.

This section contains a partial list of elective courses, seminars, and clinical programs and the prerequisite courses for each. The list of seminars appears after the list of law courses. This list is not exhaustive; courses may be added or deleted as deemed necessary by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

COURSE	PREREQUISITES
Advanced Criminal Procedure	Criminal Law & Criminal Procedure
Advanced Trial Methods	Trial Methods or ITAP
Alternative Dispute Resolution	None
Bankruptcy	None
Business Planning	Federal Income Tax & Business Organizations
Climate Change	None
Clinical Externship	Evidence & Professional Responsibility
Conflicts of Laws	None
Copyright & Trademark	None
Employment Discrimination	None
Environmental Law	None
Family Law	None
Federal Courts	Constitutional Law plus Administrative Law (Co-req)
Federal Income Tax	None
First Amendment	Constitutional Law
Fundamentals of the Bar Exam	None
Government Contracting	None
Government Law Colloquium	None
Health Law	None

Immigration Law	None
Insurance Law	None
Intensive Legal Analysis	None
ITAP	Evidence
Judicial Externship	Evidence & Professional Responsibility
Land Use Planning	None
L&G Colloquium (Jurist in Residence)	None
Law & Policy of Sentencing & Correction	None
Law Practice Mgmt – Starting a Firm	None
Legal Methods III – Advanced Legal Research	LMI & LMII
Legal Methods III – Appellate Advocacy	LMI & LMII
Legal Methods III – Contract Drafting	LMI & LMII
Legal Methods III – Judicial Opinion Writing	LMI & LMII
Legal Methods III – Legislative Drafting	LMI & LMII
Legal Methods III – Technology	LMI & LMII
Legal Methods III – Writing for the Bar Exam	LMI & LMII
Legal Methods III – Writing for Crim. Law Practice	LMI & LMII
Legal Methods III – Writing for General Practice	LMI & LMII
Legal Methods III – Writing for Family Law Pract.	LMI & LMII
Legislation	None
Mediation	None
Negotiations	None
Oil and Gas Law	None
Patent Law	None
Payment Systems	None
Pennsylvania Civil Clinic	Evidence & Professional Responsibility
Pennsylvania Civil Practice	None
Pennsylvania Criminal Practice	None
Pre-Trial Methods	Evidence
Products Liability	None
Real Estate Transactions	Property I & II
Remedies	None
Secured Transactions	None
State Administrative Law	Administrative Law
State Constitutional Law	Constitutional Law
Trial Advocacy Workshop	
Trial Methods	Evidence
Wills & Trusts	None
Workers' Compensation	None

#### **SEMINAR**

Children and the Law  
Capital Punishment

#### **PREREQUISITES**

None  
None

Gender and Sexuality	None
Legal Issues and the Pandemic	None
Role of a Judge	None
Voting Rights and Election Law	Constitutional Law
Law and Sustainability	None

*The above are examples of recently offered seminars. Seminar topics rotate frequently.*

### **Section 3-299. Amendments.**

The Faculty Curriculum Committee shall have the power to approve amendments to the foregoing list of prerequisites.



**STATEMENT 3**

**ON THE LAW AND GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE**

**Part A. Introduction**

[The Law and Government Institute](#) is one of Widener Law Commonwealth's signature programs. It focuses on the complex intersection of legislation, regulation, public policy, and the law. The Institute has three main objectives:

1. **Help students earn specialized certificates** at graduation in Administrative/Constitutional Law, Environmental Law, Government Contracting, and/or Legislation & Public Policy.
2. **Host public programs** that explore and debate important topics of government law – for example, the John Gedid Lecture Series and the annual Jurist In Residence Lecture.
3. **Contribute to the development of government law** through scholarly and employment opportunities, such as special projects for the Legislative Reference Bureau in the Capitol, panel discussions on various careers in public service, and a career mentorship program that connects students with certificate alumni.

In order to earn one or more of the four specialized certificates, students must do the following:

1. **Complete the [Expression of Interest form](#)** (available online on the "JD Certificate Program Applications & Learning Outcomes" page of WLC's website).
2. **Meet with the director** to discuss your interest and develop a plan for earning the certificate(s).
3. **Satisfy the certificate requirements**, which consist of specific courses, a minimum GPA in those courses, a writing requirement, and a work experience. Not every certificate course is offered every semester, so long-term planning is key. Students only need to complete one work and one writing requirement regardless of how many certificates they seek to earn. It is very common for students to pursue and earn multiple certificates.
4. **Complete the [Application for a Law and Government Certificate](#)** prior to graduation (available on same page of WLC's website as the Expression of Interest form).

Certificate students receive special invitations to events and notices about scholarship, job, and other opportunities. They are also encouraged to become active in the Law and Government Student Society. A lunch to honor graduating certificate students and celebrate their achievements is held at the end of every spring semester.

For more information about the Law and Government Institute, please contact the director, Professor Robert F. Teplitz, at [rftplitz@widener.edu](mailto:rftplitz@widener.edu). However, students who already know that they want to pursue a certificate should simply complete the Expression of Interest form. They will then receive an email from the faculty secretary's office with the details of the current certificate requirements and information about how to schedule the required meeting with the director.

## **Part B. Administrative/Constitutional Law Certificate**

**Objectives:** Students who earn the [Administrative/Constitutional Law certificate](#) will have focused on the balance of power between government branches and the laws that govern administrative agencies. They will have a heightened understanding of administrative and constitutional law principles, especially at the state level, in a practical context. The certificate aims to intensify a student's experiential learning through a required internship that imparts professional and practical skills while also building knowledge. The certificate program enhances analytical skills, problem-solving capabilities, collaborative skills, and communication skills. By completing the certificate requirements, students are exposed to government in action while gaining a deeper understanding of government law.

**Course Requirements:** Students will take the foundational course Government Law Colloquium, the core courses State Constitutional Law or State Administrative Law, and two other qualifying electives or seminars (only one elective or seminar is required if the student takes *both* State Constitutional Law *and* State Administrative Law). (All Widener Law Commonwealth students are required to take Constitutional Law and Federal Administrative Law.)

**Other Requirements:** Students also will complete a writing assignment and a work experience, both of which must be substantively at the intersection of law and government/public policy. Students must earn at least a 2.6 GPA in the required certificate courses to earn the certificate; a 3.25 GPA earns the certificate "with honors."

## **Part B. Environmental Law Certificate**

**Objectives:** Students who earn the [Environmental Law certificate](#) will have focused on the role of law in fostering environmental protection and sustainable development. They will have heightened understanding of federal and state environmental law, as well as the tools and questions necessary to apply sustainable development concepts to real world legal situations. The certificate aims to intensify a student's experiential learning through a required externship that imparts professional and practical skills while also building knowledge. The certificate program enhances analytical skills, problem-solving capabilities, collaborative skills, and communication skills. By completing the certificate requirements, students are exposed to government in action

while gaining a deeper understanding of environmental law and sustainable development.

**Course Requirements:** Students will take the foundational course Government Law Colloquium, the core course Environmental Law, one qualifying elective, one qualifying seminar, and one qualifying experiential.

**Other Requirements:** Students also will complete a writing assignment and a work experience, both of which must be substantively at the intersection of law and government/public policy. Students must earn at least a 2.6 GPA in the required certificate courses to earn the certificate; a 3.25 GPA earns the certificate “with honors.”

### Part C. Government Contracting Certificate

**Objectives:** Students who earn the [Government Contracting certificate](#) will have focused on the process of negotiating, drafting, and implementing contracts for goods and services, including information technology, on behalf of public entities. They will have heightened understanding of the government procurement process. The certificate aims to intensify a student’s experiential learning through a required internship that imparts professional and practical skills while also building knowledge. The certificate program enhances analytical skills, problem-solving capabilities, collaborative skills, and communication skills. By completing the certificate requirements, students are exposed to government in action while gaining a deeper understanding of government law.

**Course Requirements:** Students will take the foundational course Government Law Colloquium, the core courses Government Contracting and Contract Drafting, and one qualifying elective or seminar.

**Other Requirements:** Students also will complete a writing assignment and a work experience, both of which must be substantively at the intersection of law and government/public policy. Students must earn at least a 2.6 GPA in the required certificate courses to earn the certificate; a 3.25 GPA earns the certificate “with honors.”

### Part D. Legislation & Public Policy Certificate

**Objectives:** Students who earn the [Legislation & Public Policy certificate](#) will have focused on the legislative process, including the drafting of statutes and ordinances, as well as the intersection of law and public policy. They will have heightened understanding of the legislative drafting process. The certificate aims to intensify a student’s experiential learning through a required internship that imparts professional and practical skills while also building knowledge. The certificate program enhances analytical skills, problem-solving capabilities, collaborative skills, and communication skills. By completing the certificate requirements, students are exposed to government in action

while gaining a deeper understanding of government law.

**Course Requirements:** Students will take the foundational course Government Law Colloquium, the core courses Legislation and Legislative Drafting, and one other qualifying elective or seminar.

**Other Requirements:** Students also will complete a writing assignment and a work experience, both of which must be substantively at the intersection of law and government/public policy. Students must earn at least a 2.6 GPA in the required certificate courses to earn the certificate; a 3.25 GPA earns the certificate “with honors.”

For more information, please contact Professor Rob Teplitz at [rftplitz@widener.edu](mailto:rftplitz@widener.edu).

## ON THE ADVOCACY CERTIFICATE

[The Advocacy Certificate](#) provides students with course work and hands-on learning opportunities in litigation (civil, criminal, and administrative) and dispute resolution. The program is designed to enhance the placement opportunities in the region's district attorney and public defender offices, public agencies that conduct administrative hearings and private law firms.

### 3-401. Required Courses.

**You must take:**

- ITAP (Intensive Trial Advocacy Program) (779) or Trial Methods (781) and
- Advanced Trial Methods (788)

**You must additionally take for a grade (pass/fail courses do not qualify) one class from each of the two lists below.** Please be aware of course prerequisites. We recommend you take Evidence (836), Professional Responsibility (702), and Criminal Procedure (506) as early as possible, but no later than by the end of the second year for Regular Division students and by the end of the fifth semester for Extended Division students.

**At least one of the following courses:**

- Pre-Trial Methods (786)
- Pennsylvania Civil Practice (741)
- Federal Civil Practice (7009)
- Legal Methods III (512) with a specialization in civil, criminal, or administrative litigation as approved by the program director
- Negotiations (889)
- Alternative Dispute Resolution (879)
- Mediation (688)
- Interviewing and Counseling (849)
- Other courses as approved by the program director

**AND**

**At least one of the following courses:**

- Advanced Evidence (6016)

- Criminal Procedure: Adjudication (784)
- Federal Criminal Practice (7011)
- Law and Policy of Sentencing and Corrections (6015)
- Pennsylvania Criminal Practice (743)
- Other courses as approved by the program director

**§3-402. Experiential Requirements.** The certificate has two experiential requirements. First, you must participate in the attorney role in a hearing, trial, or appellate argument. Second you must observe a full trial and submit a report to the program director.

(a) Participation in Attorney Role. You must participate in the attorney role in a hearing, trial, or appellate argument. This experiential requirement may be satisfied in a clinical placement, externship, or external competition, such as with the Appellate Advocacy (Moot Court) Honor Society or the Trial Advocacy Honor Society. Internal competitions and competitions with Delaware Law do not qualify. You must submit a signed verification form to the program director confirming your participation

(b) Trial Observation. You must observe a full trial in either the Court of Common Pleas or the United States District Court. You must submit a [Trial Observation Report](#) on the experience to the program director. It is important that you observe the full trial, including *voir dire* if applicable, so that you are able to comment upon each part of the trial. If you have concerns about the trial you plan to attend, please consult with the program director.

**§3-403. Writing Requirement.** To satisfy the program's writing requirement, you must prepare a trial brief or other writing project approved by the program director. This may be satisfied in conjunction with an advocacy course (such as Advanced Trial Methods) or the fulfillment of the experiential requirement. The brief must be approved by the program director.

**§3-404. Additional Requirements.** In addition to successful completion of the course, experiential, and writing requirements, students must earn a B- or better in all certificate courses and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.800 or higher.

For more information, please contact the Registrar's Office.

## ON THE BUSINESS ADVISING PROGRAM

**§3-501. Introduction.** Attorneys advising small and midsize business owners must have a foundational understanding of many areas of law including business organization and structure, taxation, business transactions, financing, real estate and zoning issues, employment management, and risk management. Widener's [Business Advising Certificate](#) is designed to provide students a broad understanding of the law and issues affecting small and midsize business owners

**§3-502. Requirements.**

(a) Students who seek the Business Advising Certificate (BAC) must complete required courses, elective courses, and an experiential learning class with a drafting requirement. These classes prepare students to effectively represent business clients upon graduation by teaching foundational law and skills.

Students must take the following classes:

1. Business Organizations, (strongly recommended in the 2L year),
2. Federal Income Taxation,
3. Taxation of Business Entities
4. Contract Drafting, Business Planning, or Deal Skills: Mergers and Acquisitions,
5. Secured Transactions, Bankruptcy, or Real Estate Transactions,
6. Copyright and Trademark, Employment Law, Employment Discrimination, or Insurance Law, and
7. One additional class from either group 4 or 5 or an elective approved by the Certificate Director. Examples of approved electives are: Business Basics, Nonprofit Organizations, Privacy and Cybersecurity, Securities Regulation, Sports and Entertainment Law, and Wills and Trusts.

(b) The Business Advising Certificate Director may approve other courses for any of these requirements.

**§3-503. Graduating GPA Requirement.** A Juris Doctor candidate must earn an overall cumulative grade point average of 2.700 or higher and a cumulative grade point average of 2.700 or higher in the courses required by the concentration in order to earn a Business Advising Certificate.

**§3-504. Certificate with Honors.** A student earning a cumulative grade point average of 3.250 or higher in certificate courses will receive a Business Advising Certificate with honors.

**§3-505. Registration.** All BAC seekers should register in the semester that they begin their BAC

coursework by submitting an expression of interest to the BAC Director. After submitting their expression of interest, students should schedule a meeting with Professor Moringiello for advising about the BAC program.

**§3-506. Contact Information.** Interested students should contact Professor Christian Johnson, [cajohnson2@widener.edu](mailto:cajohnson2@widener.edu).

**§3-507. Effective Date.** This certificate program is effective beginning with the fall 2013 semester.



## Widener Law Commonwealth

### STATEMENT 6

#### ON THE LAW LIBRARY

The Law Library is one of the major law libraries in the region containing an outstanding collection composed of print and electronic resources. The library and collection are designed to serve as the gateway to your legal research needs. The Law Library [Home Page](#), offers easy links to facilitate legal research.

Knowledgeable and highly experienced librarians are easily accessible to students and always willing to provide personal assistance in researching the law, both in person and online. For a complete description of our services and policies consult the homepage.

Library Hours. Because library hours vary according to the needs of the law school's students and faculty, for the most current library hours, please visit:

<https://libguides.law.widener.edu/commonwealth#hours>

During school breaks, holidays, holiday weekends, and the summer, the library usually has reduced hours. Please check the link above for the current library hours.

#### Key Contacts

General Information & Reference	717-541-3933
Document Delivery (ILL)	717-541-3984
Administration	717-541-3935
Fax	717-541-3998

Link to the law library's home page:

<http://commonwealthlaw.widener.edu/current-students/law-library/>

Last Revised: August, 2025

*The Law School reserves the right to change or modify the library access policy at any time without prior notice. See also Policy On Building Access (Statement 7)*

## ON BUILDING ACCESS

### ***Public Health Considerations***

All are encouraged to check the law school's webpage for any restrictions on campus access that may be imposed when needed to protect the health of the campus community.

### ***Library Building – Law Library***

#### **Public**

Members of the public are welcome to use the law library Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Use is restricted to the law library on the main floor, for legal research purposes only. Upon arrival, call Campus Safety at 717.541.1911 and present a valid photo ID. You must sign the visitor's log.

#### **Alumni, Bench, and Bar**

Alumni and members of the bench and bar are welcome to use the law library Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Use of the law library is for legal research purposes and is not intended for meetings, including client meetings, of any kind. Upon arrival, please call Campus Safety at 717.541.1911 and present a valid photo ID and bar membership card. You must sign the visitor's log.

### ***Library Building – Generally***

#### **Guests, Speakers, and Other Visitors**

The law school, its student body, and its faculty regularly have guests, speakers, and other visitors to campus for a variety of educational purposes. All visitors must be fully vaccinated. Proof of vaccination will be required prior to entry. Please fill out the [Visitor's Form](#) online prior to the arrival of your guest. Upon arrival, call Campus Safety at 717.541.1911 and present a valid photo ID. Your host will have submitted your name to Campus Safety for inclusion on our daily Visitor Log.

### ***Administration Building***

Visitors to the Administration Building are welcome each day until 5:00 p.m. After 5:00 p.m., access is limited to Widener students, faculty, and staff unless prior arrangements have been made. Please note that access will be limited to faculty, staff, and students during final exam periods.

### ***Student Organizations Building***

Access is limited to Widener students, faculty, and staff unless prior arrangements have been made, absent an applicable exemption.

Last Revised: August, 2025.

*The Law School reserves the right to change or modify the building access policy at any time without prior notice.*

**VOLUME IV**

**WIDENER UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

1. Policy Pertaining to the Confidentiality of, Access to, and Disclosure of Student Records (FERPA Policy)
2. Annual Notice to Students regarding Education Records
3. Title IX, Discrimination, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct
4. Equal Opportunity, Harassment and Nondiscrimination Policy
5. A Clean and Health Conscious Environment
6. Emergencies and Circumstances Beyond the Control of the University
7. Photography and Videotaping Policy
8. Service and Assistance Animal Policy
9. University Community Standards
10. Format and Delivery of Instruction
11. Children on Campus and Working with Children Policy
12. Information Technology Services

# **POLICY PERTAINING TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF, ACCESS TO, AND DISCLOSURE OF STUDENT RECORDS (FERPA POLICY)**

## **Section One. Scope of Policy.**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, also known as the Buckley Amendment (“FERPA” or “Act”), was enacted to assure parents of students, and students themselves if they are over the age of eighteen or attending an institution of post-secondary education, access to the students’ education records and to protect such individuals’ rights to privacy by limiting the transferability and disclosure of their records without their consent. In accordance with the Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder, the instant Policy has been adopted.

This Policy applies to students presently enrolled in the University and to alumni, but not to applicants who have not been admitted to or attended the University. The rights contained in this Policy are afforded to such students as well to the parents of “Dependent Students” as such term is defined herein.

**This Policy is intended to provide general guidance only, and any questions as to its applicability, operation or enforcement should be referred to the Vice President for Administration and Finance of the University.**

## **Section Two. Definitions.**

For purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply. Additional definitions are contained in the federal regulations promulgated under FERPA.

(a) “Attendance” includes, but is not limited to –

(1) Attendance in person or by paper correspondence, videoconference, satellite, Internet, or other electronic information and telecommunications technologies for students who are not physically present in the classroom; and

(2) The period during which a person is working under a work-study program.

(b) “Biometric Record” as used in the definition of personally identifiable

information means a record of one or more measurable biological or behavioral characteristics that can be used for automated recognition of an individual. Examples include fingerprints; retina and iris patterns; voiceprints; DNA sequence; facial characteristics; and handwriting. "Dates of Attendance" means the period of time during which a student attends or attended the University. Examples of dates of attendance includes an academic year, a spring semester or a first quarter. The term does not include specific daily records of a student's attendance at the University.

(c) "Dependent Student" shall have the meaning as defined in Section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as same may be amended from time to time. For purposes of this Policy, all undergraduate students will be considered as "dependent" unless the student specifically informs the Registrar's Office that he/she considers himself/herself "independent." All graduate students and Extended Learning students will be considered as "independent," unless the student specifically informs the Registrar's Office of the University, the Delaware Law School or the Commonwealth Law School, as applicable, that he/she is a "dependent." Notwithstanding the foregoing, a student claimed as a dependent on a parent's federal income tax return will in all cases be considered as a "dependent" student.

(d) "Directory Information" means information contained in an Education Record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed.

- (1) Directory Information includes, but is not limited to, the student's name; home and campus address; telephone listing(s); electronic mail address; photograph; major field of study; grade level; enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or graduate, full-time or part-time); dates of attendance; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; degrees, honors and awards received; and the most recent educational agency or institution attended.
- (2) Directory Information does not include a student's –
  - (i) Social Security Number; or
  - (ii) Student Identification (ID) number, except as provided in paragraph (3) of this section.
- (3) Directory Information includes a student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to Education Records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that

authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user. The University (and its vendors) may not use a social security number or other non-directory information, either alone or in combination with other data elements, to identify student records when disclosing or confirming directory information without written consent of the student.

- (4) Directory information also includes a student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student ID badge, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to Education Records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.

(e) "Disciplinary Action or Proceeding" means the investigation, adjudication, or imposition of sanctions by the University with respect to an infraction or violation of the internal rules of conduct applicable to students of the University.

(f) "Disclosure" means to permit access to or the release, transfer, or other communication of personally identifiable information contained in Education Records by any means, including oral, written, or electronic means, to any party except the party identified as the party that provided or created the record.

(g) "Education Records" means those records, files, documents and other materials which contain information directly related to a student and which are maintained by the University or by a person acting for the University. The term "Education Records" does not include the following:

- (1) records of instructional, supervisory, and administrative personnel and educational personnel ancillary thereto which are in the sole possession of the maker thereof, are used only as a personal memory aid, and which are not accessible or revealed to any other person except a temporary substitute for the maker of the record;
- (2) records maintained by a law enforcement unit of the University that were created by that law enforcement unit for the purpose of law enforcement;
- (3) in the case of persons who are employed by the University but who are not in attendance at the University, records made and

maintained in the normal course of business which relate exclusively to such person in that person's capacity as an employee and are not available for use for any other purpose;

- (4) records on a student who is eighteen years of age or older, or is attending the University, which are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in his professional or paraprofessional capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made, maintained, or used only in connection with the provision of treatment to the student, and are not available to

anyone other than persons providing such treatment, except that such records can be personally reviewed by a physician or other appropriate professional of the student's choice;

- (5) records created or received by the University after an individual is no longer a student in attendance and that are not directly related to the individual's attendance as a student; or

- (6) grades on peer-graded papers before they are collected and recorded by a teacher.

(h) "Parent" means a parent of a student and includes a natural parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or guardian.

- (i) "Personally Identifiable Information" includes, but is not limited to –

- (1) the student's name;
- (2) the name of the student's parent or other family members;
- (3) the address of the student or student's family;
- (4) a personal identifier, such as the student's social security number, student number, or biometric record;
- (5) other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name;



(6) other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty; or

(7) information requested by a person who the University reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the Education Record relates.

(j) “Record” means any information recorded in any way, including, but not limited to, handwriting, print, computer media, video or audio tape, film, microfilm and microfiche.

### Section Three. Permitted Disclosures.

(a) Except for certain exceptions stated in the Act, no one shall have access to Education Records without the written consent of the student concerned. However, the student concerned may authorize in writing the disclosure of Education Records to specified individuals or to a class of organizations or persons for the purpose of employment, graduate study, or fellowships or for other purposes specified by the student. A valid written consent under the Act must be in writing, signed by the student and dated and shall specify the Education Records to be released, the reasons for such release and the party or the class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made. The student may also request a copy of the Education Records to be released. The exceptions to the consent requirement include the following, without limitation:

(1) 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, without limitation, law enforcement unit personnel, health staff, athletic coaches and trainers and admissions counselors and recruiters); a person or company with whom the University has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using University employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, contractor, consultant, volunteer or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; 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 responsibilities for the University;

- (2) under certain specific conditions, officials of other schools, school systems, or institutions of higher education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled, so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer;
- (3) under certain specific conditions, authorized representatives of the Controller General of the United States, the Attorney General of the United States, the United States Secretary of Education or state educational authorities in connection with the audit and evaluation of Federally-supported education programs or in connection with the enforcement of Federal legal requirements which relate to such programs;
- (4) under certain specific conditions, authorized representatives of the United States Attorney General for law enforcement purposes;
- (5) persons processing financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for or the amount of the aid, the conditions for the aid or to enforce the terms and conditions of the aid;
- (6) under certain specific circumstances, state and local officials or authorities to whom such information is specifically allowed to be reported or disclosed pursuant to state statute if the allowed reporting or disclosure concerns the juvenile justice system and the system's ability to effectively serve the students whose records are to be released;
- (7) organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, educational agencies or institutions for the purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, or improving instruction, subject to certain conditions;
- (8) accrediting organizations in order to carry out their accrediting functions;
- (9) parents of a Dependent Student, as defined in this Policy;

- (10) if the University determines that there is an articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals, but only to those persons whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals. In these circumstances, a record must be kept of the threat and the parties to whom the information was disclosed;
- (11) under certain specific circumstances, to an entity or persons designated in a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena, or pursuant to certain ex parte court orders obtained by the United States Attorney General (or designee not lower than an Assistant Attorney General) concerning investigations or prosecutions of certain offenses or an act of domestic or international terrorism;
- (12) the disclosure is information the University has designated as “Directory Information”; provided, however, that any student may withhold disclosure of any or all of such Directory Information by notification in writing to the Registrar’s Office of the University, the Delaware Law School or the Commonwealth Law School, as applicable;
- (13) the disclosure is to the student;
- (14) the disclosure is to a victim of an alleged perpetrator of any crime of violence (as that term is defined in Section 16 of Title 18 of the United States Code) or a nonforcible sex offense of the final results of any Disciplinary Proceeding conducted by the University against the alleged perpetrator of such crime or offense with respect to such crime or offense. The University may disclose the final results of the Disciplinary Proceeding to the victim regardless of whether the University concluded a violation was committed.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the University from disclosing to individuals or entities other than the victim the final results of any such Disciplinary Proceeding if the University determines as a result of such Disciplinary Proceeding that: (i) the student is an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or nonforcible sex offense; and (ii) with respect to the allegations made against him or her, the student has committed a violation of the University’s rules or policies. For purposes of this section, the

final results of any Disciplinary Proceeding: (i) shall include only the name of the student, the violation committed and any sanction imposed by the University on that student; and (ii) may include the name of any other student, such as a victim or witness, only with the written consent of that other student;

- (15) the disclosure relates to appropriate information in the Education Records of any student concerning disciplinary action taken against such student for conduct that posed a significant risk to the safety or well-being of that student, other students or other members of the University community, and the disclosure is made to faculty, administration, or other University officials, or faculty, administration or officials of other schools or institutions of postsecondary education, who have legitimate educational interests in the behavior of the student;
- (16) the disclosure is to the parent of a student and relates to information regarding any violation by a student of any Federal, state or local law, or of any rule or policy of the University, governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance, regardless of whether that information is contained in the student's Education Records if: (i) the student is under the age of 21 at the time of the disclosure to the parent; and (ii) the University determines that the student has committed a disciplinary violation with respect to such use or possession; provided, however, that no provision of applicable state law prohibits the University from making such disclosure;
- (17) the disclosure concerns sex offenders and other individuals required to register under applicable law and the information was provided to the University under applicable law and guidelines; or
- (18) when the University is returning records to the apparent creator (e.g., of a transcript or letter) to verify authenticity.

(b) Whenever a student's Education Records or information from such records is disclosed to any organization, agency or individual, and it is required by applicable law, a transmittal letter shall inform the recipient that such records or information are not to be disclosed to any other party without the prior written consent of the student.

(c) Each University office which maintains Education Records shall keep with the

records of each student a form which lists, with the exceptions stated below, all individuals, agencies or organizations which have requested or obtained access to such student's Education Records. This form shall also include the legitimate interest the requestor had, if any, in making the request. This requirement does not apply to disclosures to University officials described in Section 3(a)(1) hereof, to the student or his or her parent, to parties to whom disclosure has been specifically approved by the student, to disclosures of Directory Information, or to a party seeking or receiving the records as directed by a Federal grand jury or other law enforcement subpoena and the issuing court or agency has ordered that the information furnished in response thereto not be disclosed or an ex parte court order obtained by the United States Attorney General (or designee not lower than an Assistant Attorney General) concerning investigations or prosecution of certain offenses or an act of domestic or international terrorism. Where it is required by applicable law, personal information shall only be transferred to a third party on the condition that such party will not permit any other party to have access to such information without the written consent of the student.

#### Section Four. Student's Rights to Access.

(a) General.

- (1) The types of Education Records maintained by the University include academic records (transcripts, advising records, and letters of evaluation ) and other personal records, such as work-study and financial records, and records of Disciplinary Proceedings. The offices in which such records are maintained include the Provost's Office, the Deans' offices of the various schools/colleges of the University, offices of faculty advisors and department/division heads, the Registrars' Offices, Counseling Center, Placement Offices, the Offices of the Deans of Students and the subordinate sections, Admissions, Financial Aid, Special Programs and the Business Offices.
- (2) With certain exceptions set forth in this Policy or in the Act, the Education Records of a particular student shall be open for inspection by that student.
- (3) The following types of information shall not be released to students:
  - (i) financial records of the parents of the student or any information contained therein;
  - (ii) confidential letters and statements of recommendation,

which were placed in the Education Records prior to January 1, 1975, if such letters or statements are not used for purposes other than those for which they were specifically intended; and

- (iii) if the student has signed a waiver of the student's right of access in accordance with subsection (4) below, confidential recommendations -
  - (A) respecting admission to any educational agency or institution;
  - (B) respecting an application for employment, and
  - (C) respecting the receipt of an honor or honorary recognition.
- (4) A student or person applying for admission may waive his right of access to confidential statements described in clause (iii) of subsection (3) above, except that such waiver shall apply to recommendations only if (i) the student is, upon request, notified of the names of all persons making confidential recommendations and (ii) such recommendations are used solely for the purpose for which they were specifically intended.
- (5) Subject to the limitations otherwise stated herein, a student may waive any of his or her rights granted pursuant to the Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder. The University will not require such a waiver as a condition of admission, receipt of financial aid or receipt of any other services or benefits. A waiver under this Section may be made with respect to specified classes of Education Records and persons or institutions. A waiver under this Section may be revoked, in writing, with respect to any actions occurring after the revocation.
- (6) If any material or demand in the Education Records of a student includes information on more than one student, the student (or the parent of a Dependent Student) shall have the right to inspect and review only such part of such material or document as relates to such student or to be informed of the specific information contained in such part of such material.

(b) Procedures for Access to Records.

- (1) A request by a student (or the parent of a Dependent Student) to inspect his or her Education Records shall be made to the office which maintains such records. Each office maintaining Education Records shall designate a person to receive and process such requests. Upon receipt of a dated, signed request form and proper identification, the designated person receiving the request shall give the student or parent a written confirmation or receipt of the request. Such person shall also inform the student or parent when the requested records will be made available, as soon as is reasonably possible, but in no event more than forty-five (45) days after receipt of the request.
- (2) After the designated person has removed from the student's file all information which may not be disclosed under this Policy or the Act, the records shall be made available to the student or parent on the specified date, after the student or parent again displays proper identification, for inspection and review under supervision of the designated person. If a student or parent requests a copy of one or more of such records, the requested copies, with limited exceptions, shall be transmitted to the student or parent upon payment of a fee. Unless otherwise specifically stated, the fee for such copies shall be Twenty-Five cents (\$.25) per page. The University may deny the request for a copy of records for legitimate cause, provided that such denial and the circumstances do not effectively prevent the student from exercising the right to inspect and review the records. In order to have this right, the circumstances surrounding the possible denial of a copy of records must be described. **In no event will the records of another institution which a student attended be released to any person including a student or his/her parent.**
- (3) After reviewing his or her records, a student or parent has a right to challenge the contents of such records as being inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student. Unless otherwise established by the school/college in which a student has matriculated, a student or parent may not challenge the correctness of a grade which has been assigned to the performance of the student in a course, but may challenge the

accuracy of the recording of the grade.

- (4) Upon deciding that some aspect of the student's record(s) is inaccurate, the student or parent shall so inform the designated person in the office where the records are maintained and shall attempt to resolve the problem through informal discussion with such person and the person in charge of that office.
- (5) If no agreement is reached through informal discussions, the student may submit in writing to the Dean of the School or College in which the student has matriculated, a rebuttal and/or request for a hearing, specifying the record or records alleged to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise inappropriate. If the Dean's review of the hearing request and file also does not result in an agreement, the Dean shall appoint as hearing officer a University official with no direct interest in the outcome of the hearing. Unless the student or parent withdraws his request or requests a delay, the hearing shall be held within forty-five (45) days after receipt of the student's or parent's request, and the hearing officer shall provide the student or parent notice of the date, time and place of the hearing reasonably in advance of the hearing. At the hearing, the student or parent shall be given an opportunity to present evidence in support of the challenge and the student or parent may, at his/her own expense, be assisted or represented by one or more individuals of his/her own choice, including an attorney. The impartial official conducting the hearing shall render his/her decision in writing within thirty (30) days after the hearing, which decision must include a summary of the evidence and the reasons for the decision. If the decision denies the challenge, the student or parent may have inserted in the student's records a written explanation concerning the allegedly inappropriate contents.

#### Section Five. Miscellaneous Policy Items.

(a) This Policy and a copy of the Act and regulations promulgated thereunder shall be made available at registration headquarters during regular registration periods. In addition, copies of this Policy may be found in the offices of the Deans of Students and the offices of the Deans of the various schools and colleges of the University.



(b) An annual notification of rights under the Act shall be given to students in attendance at the University. This notification shall typically be contained in the student handbooks.

(c) If a student feels that the University has failed to comply in some way with the Act or the regulations promulgated thereunder, and has failed to answer his or her complaint satisfactorily, he or she has the right to file a complaint with the Student Privacy Policy Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20202.

(d) Nothing in this Policy may be construed to prohibit the University from disclosing information concerning registered sex offenders.

(e) This Policy became effective as of the commencement of the 2009-2010 academic year and was last revised in August, 2024. This Policy may be amended, supplemented or revoked by the University at any time.

## ANNUAL NOTICE TO STUDENTS REGARDING EDUCATION RECORDS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”) affords eligible students certain rights with respect to their education records. (An “eligible student” under FERPA is a student who is 18 years of age or older or who attends a postsecondary institution.) These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days after the day the University receives a request for access. A student should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes 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.

2. 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 under FERPA.

A student who wishes to ask the University to amend a record should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed.

If the University decides not to amend the record as requested, the University will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student’s 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.

3. The right to provide written consent before the University discloses personally identifiable information (“PII”) from the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

The University discloses education records without a student’s prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to University officials with legitimate educational interests. A University official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position (including, without limitation, law enforcement unit personnel, health staff, athletic coaches and trainers, and admissions counselors and recruiters); a person serving on the board of trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee. A University official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the University who performs an institutional service or function for which the University would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the University with respect to the use and maintenance of PII

from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, contractor, consultant, or collection agent, or a student volunteering to assist 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 responsibilities for the University.

Upon request, the University also discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. Such education records may include updated or corrected information, including, without limitation, disciplinary and health records.

4. 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:

Student Privacy Policy Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

5. The right to withhold public disclosure of any or all items of “directory information” by written notification to the Registrar’s Office of the University, the Delaware Law School or the Commonwealth Law School, as applicable, within two (2) weeks after the commencement of the fall or spring semesters of any given academic year. Under current University policy, the term “directory information” includes, without limitation, a student’s name, home and campus address, telephone listing(s), electronic mail address, photograph, major field of study, grade level, enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or graduate, full-time or part-time); dates of attendance, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees, honors, and awards received, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

## TITLE IX, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”) prohibits discrimination based on sex and gender in educational programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Such programs include recruitment, admissions, financial aid and scholarships, athletics, course offerings and access, hiring and retention, and benefits and leave. Title IX also protects students and employees from unlawful sexual harassment (including sexual violence) in University programs and activities. In compliance with Title IX, the University prohibits discrimination and harassment based on sex in employment as well as in all programs and activities.

The University’s Title IX Coordinator monitors compliance with Title IX and its accompanying regulations. Individuals with questions or concerns about Title IX may contact the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinators. The University’s Title IX Coordinator is Kiara F. Allison, Ph.D., One University Place, Chester, PA 19013, 610-499-4553, [kfallison@widener.edu](mailto:kfallison@widener.edu). The University also has several Deputy Title IX Coordinators, as set forth on the University’s Title IX Resource Page. Those who wish to [make a report](#) of noncompliance are encouraged to use our [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct reporting form](#). Please contact the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator if you would like to consult about a report or have questions before you submit a report using the reporting form.

For more information regarding Title IX, including contact information for the University’s full Title IX Team, please visit the [Title IX resource page](#) and the University’s Equal Opportunity, Harassment and Nondiscrimination Policy (“EOHN Policy”).

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is the division of the federal government charged with enforcing compliance with Title IX. Information regarding OCR can be found at: [https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/tix\\_dis.html](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/tix_dis.html). Questions about Title IX may be directed to OCR as well as to the University’s Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinators.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, HARASSMENT AND NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The University is committed to establishing and maintaining a safe learning, living, and working environment where healthy, respectful, and consensual conduct represents the campus cultural norm. To that end, the University's Equal Opportunity, Harassment and Nondiscrimination Policy ("EOHN Policy") prohibits sexual and gender-based harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, relationship and interpersonal violence, stalking, and discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex, gender, pregnancy status, age, race, color, national origin or ethnicity, religion, disability (including perceived disability), military status, status as a veteran, citizenship, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, or genetic information, or any other category protected by applicable law. The EOHN Policy also protects against retaliation against an individual for making a report of conduct prohibited under this Policy.

The University's complete EOHN Policy is available on the [Title IX resource page](https://www.widener.edu/title-ix-sexual-misconduct-resources).  
<https://www.widener.edu/title-ix-sexual-misconduct-resources>

## A CLEAN AND HEALTH-CONSCIOUS ENVIRONMENT

All members of the University community—students, residents, faculty, employees, and visitors—share the responsibility for maintaining a clean environment.

All members of the University community are required to act in a manner that demonstrates respect and consideration for all those around them, including respect and consideration for the health and safety of all community members. All community members share in this responsibility and are prohibited from creating a health or safety hazard within the University community. Campus community members are required to comply with all health and safety laws, orders, ordinances, regulations, and health and safety guidance issued by local, state, and national public health officials and any other specific public health measures adopted by the University as it relates to public health. This guidance will evolve as any public health crisis evolves and may include, but is not limited to, social distancing, limitations on mass gatherings, wearing a face covering, public-health related diagnostic and surveillance testing (including before or upon arrival to campus) subject to any applicable statutory limitations, contact tracing, disinfection protocols, limitations on guests into residence halls, limitations on access to certain University buildings or facilities, limitations on occupancy in certain University buildings or facilities, and quarantine/isolation requirements (including before or upon arrival to campus). Adherence to health and safety requirements applies to all campus community members and all physical locations owned, operated, and maintained by the University.

## EMERGENCIES AND CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE UNIVERSITY

Certain circumstances beyond the control of the University may impact the learning experience in unpredictable ways. The University reserves the right at all times, **without any adjustment to tuition or fees**, to cancel, suspend or delay all or any classes or programs provided by the University, to transition all or any classes or programs to an online or hybrid format, to close campus facilities, or to take any other measures that the University deems necessary in order to protect the health and safety of University community members and/or to comply with health and safety laws, orders, ordinances, regulations, and health and safety guidance issued by local, state and national public health officials.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO RECORDING POLICY**

The University reserves the right to photograph and video record students, faculty, staff, guests, and visitors while in any public area on University property and/or in public areas at University-sponsored functions off our campus. These images, video, and audio may be used on any University website and associated sites such as Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, or other social media platforms, and for promotional purposes, including use in the University magazines, newsletters, press releases, booklets, brochures, and other publications.



## SERVICE AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL POLICY

Widener University is committed to providing members of the Widener University community who have disabilities with equal access to programs, services, and physical facilities. It is acknowledged that some members of the Widener University community who have disabilities may require the use of service and emotional support animals while on campus.

Below are guidelines for the appropriate use of and protocols associated with service and emotional support animals.

Students who have disabilities and require the use of emotional support animals should submit an accommodation request form along with supporting documentation found at the Office of Student Accessibility Services Website. Faculty and staff who have disabilities and require the use of emotional support animals should contact the Office of Human Resources.

### Pets

A “pet” is any animal kept for ordinary use and companionship. Service animals and emotional support animals, as defined below, are not considered pets.

### Service Animals

A “service animal” is defined under the Department of Justice’s ADA regulations as “any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.” There is also a provision permitting miniature horses to qualify as service animals in some cases. No animals other than dogs or miniature horses may qualify as service animals.

The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the person’s disability. The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship does not constitute work or tasks for the purpose of this definition.

Service animals are permitted to accompany people with disabilities in all of Widener University’s facilities where students, members of the public, and other participants in services, programs, or activities are allowed to go. Widener University does not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal.

In addition, Widener University cannot ask about the nature or extent of a person’s disability to determine whether a person’s animal qualifies as a service animal when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability (e.g., where a dog is observed guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision or pulling a person’s wheelchair).

If it is not readily apparent that the animal is a service animal, Widener University staff may make two inquiries to determine whether the animal qualifies as a service animal, which are:

- Is the animal required because of a disability?
- What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

The university will not require documentation that a service animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal. A service animal must be housebroken (i.e., trained so that it

controls its waste elimination, absent illness or accident) and must be kept under control by a harness, leash, or other tether, unless the person is unable to hold those, or such use would interfere with the service animal's performance of work or tasks. In such instances, the service animal must be kept under control by voice, signals, or other effective means. In addition, the university need not accommodate a service animal if it poses a threat to the health or safety of others.

#### Emotional Support Animals

An "emotional support animal," pursuant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is described as an animal that "provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability."

An emotional support animal is not a pet. Unlike service animals, emotional support animals are not trained to perform work or tasks, and they include species other than dogs and miniature horses. Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Fair Housing Act, students who have disabilities may be eligible to have an emotional support animal in campus housing.

Emotional support animals are not allowed to accompany persons with disabilities in all areas of Widener University (unless otherwise specifically authorized in writing by the University), but they may reside in university housing with people who have disabilities. Before an emotional support animal can move into university housing with a person who has a disability, a request must be submitted to the Student Accessibility Services Office, and approval must be granted, preferably at least 30 days prior to move in.

Under the Fair Housing Act, a person may be eligible to have an emotional support animal in campus housing as a reasonable accommodation if:

- The individual has a disability.
- The animal is necessary to afford the individual who has a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy campus housing.
- There is an identifiable relationship or nexus between the disability and the assistance the animal provides.

Accommodation for emotional support animals must be reasonable. The university is not required to permit animals that pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation, would cause substantial physical damage to the property of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation, would pose an undue financial and administrative burden, that are not legal to privately own under federal, state or local policy, or would fundamentally alter the nature of the university's operations.

#### Steps to Request Permission to Have an Emotional Support Animal in Campus Housing

1. Submit a ["Request to Have Emotional Support Animal in Housing" form](#) to the Office of Student Accessibility Services. Provide supporting documents listed on request form including:
  - Vaccination records
  - Animal license, if applicable
  - Photo of animal

2. Sign and agree to the “Policy and Care Agreement.”
3. Documentation of the need for an assistance animal must be submitted from a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other mental health professional who is not a family member, and who has a historical therapeutical relationship with the student. Documentation of the need for an emotional support animal must include the following:
  - Verification of a disability that substantially limits a major life activity and a description of the impact of the condition on a major life activity.
  - A description of why the animal is necessary for the student to use or enjoy university housing.
  - A description of an identifiable relationship or nexus between the disability and the assistance the animal provides.
  - A description of the historical therapeutic relationship the writer has with the student requesting accommodations.

Approval of an emotional support animal is determined on a case-by-case basis through the interactive process.

## UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY STANDARDS

- **Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances Policy**

Federal law requires that in order for an institution of higher education to receive federal funds, it must adopt and implement a program to prevent the possession, use, or distribution of illegal or illicit drugs by students and employees and alcohol by students and/or employees under the age of 21. In keeping with the foregoing, all students are required to strictly adhere to the standards of conduct outlined below.

- a. *Alcoholic Beverages*: In keeping with the laws of Pennsylvania and Delaware, University policy regarding alcoholic beverages is as follows:
  - 1. It is illegal for any person under 21 years of age to possess alcoholic beverages or to attempt to purchase or to consume or transport any alcoholic beverage within Pennsylvania or Delaware.
  - 2. It is illegal for any person to sell or give alcoholic beverages of any kind to a minor.
  - 3. It is illegal for any person to misrepresent his or her own age or the age of any other person to obtain alcoholic beverages.

For students and their guests of legal age, alcoholic beverages are confined to resident rooms with doors closed, or to a location designated and approved by the Student Affairs Office. All individual students or guests in any student room must be of legal age (21 years or older) when alcohol is present. Alcohol is prohibited in all public areas, including, without limitation, porches, lounges, stairs, lobbies, classrooms, hallways, and offices. In those situations in which exceptions are made, the University reserves the right to require additional procedures to ensure safety and responsible consumption. No alcohol is permitted in Schwartz Athletic Center, and alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the University Center unless during an event where all in attendance are of age and the sponsoring group has received the explicit written permission of the dean of students. No alcohol is permitted in the University stadium during athletic events or at University athletic events played elsewhere. Public intoxication is also prohibited, regardless of age.

Special procedures may exist for 21-and-older events, particularly those involving alcohol. Organizations are responsible for abiding by the University's alcohol policy. In addition, the University does not permit organizations contracting with third party vendors to facilitate "open bar" events.

- b. *Bulk Container Policy*: The University promotes an environment that complies with the laws of Pennsylvania and Delaware and our University alcohol policy. We do permit individual students who are 21 years of age or older to possess and consume alcoholic beverages within their individual room, suite, or apartment, as long as no one under the age of 21 is present. The University does have a bulk container policy that regulates the amount of alcohol a student who is 21 or older may possess in our residence halls or while on University property. The essential elements of that policy are as follows:
  - 1. No kegs are permitted in any residence facility or on University property.

2. No alcoholic punch/mix/concoction is permitted in the residence halls or on University property.
3. No student may possess more than two total units in any combination of the following list of alcohol unit amounts:
  - One gallon of wine.
  - One liter of hard liquor or natural or distilled spirits used or intended for consumption.
  - One case of beer or malt products (24 12-ounce bottles or cans).
  - One case of wine coolers or similar alcoholic products (24 12-ounce bottles or cans).

Alcohol in violation of University policy will be confiscated.

The laws of Pennsylvania and Delaware carry strict sanctions for violation of alcohol-related offenses, including jail sentences, substantial fines, and revocation of one's driver's license. Additionally, the City of Chester enforces an ordinance that prohibits open containers (e.g., cans, bottles, cups, squeeze bottles, etc.) of alcohol in outdoor public areas, including streets, roofs, porches, yards, sidewalks, and any external areas of the residence structure that are construed as part of the Widener University Main Campus. Students are reminded that off-campus violations of the University Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances Policy are subject to disciplinary action via the Campus Student Conduct System.

In addition, empty alcoholic containers and paraphernalia—including wine bottles, beer cans/bottles, liquor bottles of any size, shot glasses, beer bong, and funnels—are prohibited on University property, including those for decorative purposes.

- c. *Drugs and Other Controlled Substances:* The possession, use, and sale of illegal drugs, narcotics, and other controlled substances is a federal and state offense subject to mandatory heavy fines and imprisonment. The University cannot and will not shield students from the law and its consequences. The University must and will cooperate with law enforcement agencies.

Any University student who (1) possesses, uses, or distributes illegal drugs, narcotics, or drug-related paraphernalia either on or off campus (not specifically prescribed by a physician or without the knowledge of the dean of students on the Chester Campus or the associate dean of student affairs on the Wilmington Campus or the dean of students on the Harrisburg Campus); (2) brings such illegal drugs, narcotics, or drug-related paraphernalia onto University premises; or (3) causes such illegal drugs, narcotics, or drug-related paraphernalia to be brought onto University premises may be suspended, dismissed, expelled, and/or referred for prosecution. Any antisocial conduct resulting from illegal drugs or other controlled substances will result in appropriate disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University. Applicable federal law states that any student convicted of various illegal drug offenses will lose his or her student aid eligibility for specified periods of time depending upon whether the conviction was for use or sale and how many times the student has been convicted.

- d. *Prohibited Conduct:* The following nonexclusive list of behaviors may result in disciplinary action, including suspension, dismissal, expulsion, and referral for prosecution:

1. Disobedience of any of the general regulations as noted in any Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, or any other generally available set of guidelines.
  2. The possession, use, or distribution, either on or off campus, of illegal or illicit drugs, drug paraphernalia, narcotics, or medicine requiring a physician's prescription and used without such prescription.
  3. Violation of federal, state, or local criminal laws.
  4. Violation of the University's policies on the use and possession of alcoholic beverages.
- e. Students are reminded that violations of University policy are not limited to the above list. Rather, this information is provided merely to highlight some important rules and regulations which must be observed.

- [Weapons Policy](#)

The possession and/or use of offensive weapons of any kind are strictly prohibited on all University campuses. Offensive weapons include, without limitation, firearms of any kind, guns, pellet guns, B.B. guns, paintball guns, dart guns, ammunition, bows and arrows, darts, chemicals, flammable materials, items that constitute a fire hazard, fireworks, explosives, any instrument that can hurl a projectile, sling shots, brass knuckles, knives, hunting knives, switchblades, any other cutting instrument, or any other device or instrument, as determined within the sole discretion of the University, except those whose sole purpose is related to the preparation or consumption of food. In addition, items that are not generally considered as weapons but could be used or viewed as a weapon are prohibited. All offensive weapons and similar items will be confiscated immediately. Students violating this policy will be severely sanctioned, up to and including expulsion. The University will report such violations to the authorities if warranted. Pepper spray and mace are considered to be offensive weapons; however, possession of these items and the like for self-defense purposes are permitted.

- [Gambling Policy](#)

Students are expected to abide by federal laws and state laws prohibiting illegal gambling, including online gaming. Gambling for money or other things of value on campus or at University-related activities is prohibited except as permitted by law. Such prohibited activity includes, but may not be limited to, betting on, wagering on, or selling pools of any University athletic event; possessing on one's person or premises (e.g., room, residence unit, car) any card, book, or other device for registering bets; knowingly receiving or delivering a letter, package, or parcel related to illegal gambling; offering, soliciting, or accepting a bribe to influence the outcome of an athletic event; and involvement in bookmaking or wagering pools with respect to athletic events.

- [Understanding, Reporting, and Preventing Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes](#)

The University celebrates diversity and embraces multiculturalism. We strive to maintain an inclusive and welcoming campus community. We encourage all students, faculty, staff, and guests on campus to interact in a manner of human respect at all times. But we are also aware that incidents of bias and hate crimes have increased on college campuses around the country,

sometimes disrupting that sense of community. The University condemns such acts and encourages all members of our community to do the same.

The following clarifications of definitions are meant to help students, faculty, and staff understand the serious offenses that may grow out of intolerance. Our policies, handbooks, and practices—as well as the laws—are provided or referenced here to help everyone understand where we stand as a community and how we pursue violations and help those affected. As always, we encourage exploration and dialogue about diversity through the guidance provided by numerous University professionals.

### What Are Bias Incidents?

A bias incident is conduct, speech, or expression that is motivated by bias or prejudice but doesn't involve a criminal act. Bias incidents may, however, violate campus disciplinary or harassment policies. A bias incident is the use of degrading language and slurs directed toward people of color, women, members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community, people with disabilities, members of religious groups, and others who belong to groups that have traditionally been marginalized.

### What Are Hate Crimes?

A hate crime is a criminal act—such as simple or physical assault, arson, or vandalism—motivated by bias, particularly against any given race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, disability, sex, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation. In addition, any writing, including graffiti, email, or even anonymous letters, that threatens or encourages violence toward an individual or group of people may also be a hate crime.

### What Do I Do if I Think a Hate Crime or Bias Incident Has Been Committed?

- a. Do not confront the person you think committed the act.
- b. Call Campus Safety immediately at 610-499-4200, or the police at 911 if there is an immediate safety concern or if you think a crime has been committed.
- c. Do not disturb a crime scene or remove/destroy evidence such as graffiti. Campus Safety officers or the police may need to gather evidence.
- d. Tell someone you trust—for example, a professor, a staff member, or a resident assistant. Ask that person to help you file a report under the Student Code of Conduct or the University's EOHN Policy. Here are some University offices that can assist you:
  - Campus Safety, 610-499-4200
  - Student Affairs, Main Campus, 610-499-4385; Delaware Campus, 302-477-2174; Harrisburg Campus, 717-541-3952
  - Graduate Programs, 610-499-4351
  - Continuing Studies, 610-499-4335
  - Undergraduate Academic Affairs, 610-499-4110
  - Counseling Center, 610-499-1261
  - Residence Life, 610-499-4390
  - Multicultural Student Affairs, 610-499-4488
  - International Student Services, 610-499-4498

- Student Conduct, 610-499-4391

Any of these offices can serve as your initial point of contact. They will then work with you to address or resolve the matter. Your personal wishes, as well as community safety issues, will be considered in determining how to proceed.

What is the Process of Reporting an on-Campus Incident?

- You should begin by telling the Title IX Coordinator, campus safety, your professor, advisor, dean, associate provost, resident assistant, the assistant dean of residence life, the dean of students, a counselor, or some other University professional what has happened. After speaking with you, that person informs his/her supervisor that a hate crime or bias incident has occurred.**
- A University professional will support you with an initial telephone call to the Office of Campus Safety, whose officers will be dispatched to the scene to talk with you, gather evidence, and begin an investigation. The Title IX Coordinator will also be notified, if not previously notified.**
- The officers may ask you to provide any item of evidence, if such exists, like a message board or note.**
- The Title IX Coordinator or designee will meet with you to learn the specifics of the incident and gain a better understanding of your personal feelings, reactions, and wishes. At your request, a University staff member from the Counseling Center, Student Affairs, and/or other relevant University area will be contacted to provide additional assistance.**
- Taking into account your personal feelings, reactions, and wishes, the Title IX Coordinator or designee may implement or recommend that others implement activities responding to the incident. These activities may include a letter or a similar communication to the community addressing the situation, a floor or hall meeting, educational programming, and student conduct proceedings.**

What is Done to Help the Victim of a Hate Crime or Bias Incident?

The University provides support, including counseling if necessary, and help in coping with problems that result from incidents of hate crimes or bias incidents.

What Happens if Someone is Found Guilty of Committing a Bias Incident?

Alleged perpetrators involved in the incident will be adjudicated according to the University's Student Code of Conduct or the EOHN Policy. A student found guilty of committing such an act could receive a penalty ranging from a disciplinary warning to expulsion from the University.

What Happens if Someone is Found Guilty of Committing a Hate Crime?

Alleged perpetrators involved in the incident will be adjudicated according to the University's Student Code of Conduct or the EOHN Policy. A student found guilty of committing such an act could receive a penalty ranging from a disciplinary warning to expulsion from the University. Alleged perpetrators may also be subject to state, civil, and criminal penalties. Moreover, many states as well as the federal government have special statutes allowing any crime motivated by



hate toward the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity of an individual or group to carry criminal charges in addition to those of the original crime. Consequently, the person found guilty of a hate crime may also face criminal penalties that may include fines and even jail.

What Can I Do to Help Prevent These Kinds of Things from Happening?

All students are encouraged to access the resources offered by the Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA) office. Through this office, students can learn about opportunities to join or support student groups whose members work to educate, dispel myths, and sensitize the University community to the value of our differences. The MSA office promotes and coordinates a range of diversity activities and programs at the University. We encourage all student, staff, and faculty groups to invite MSA staff to talk about the values of diversity on our campus. Working together, all members of the University community can help to create a more inclusive, welcoming, and comfortable campus for everyone.

- [Anti-Hazing Policy](#)

The University prohibits all acts of hazing and adheres to the Pennsylvania Timothy J. Piazza Anti-hazing Law and the Delaware Anti-Hazing Law.

The Pennsylvania Timothy J. Piazza Anti-hazing Law defines hazing to include Hazing, Aggravated Hazing, and Organizational Hazing as defined in this policy.

- **HAZING.** A person commits the offense of hazing if the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a minor or student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a minor or student's membership or status in an organization, causes, coerces or forces a minor or student to do or participate in any of the following: (1) Violate Federal or State criminal law; (2) Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the minor or student to a risk of emotional or physical harm; (3) Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics or exposure to the elements; (4) Endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment; (5) Endure brutality of a sexual nature; or (6) Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the minor or student. Hazing also includes any action or situation that requires or encourages violation of University policy.
- **AGGRAVATED HAZING.** A person commits the offense of aggravated hazing if the person commits a violation of Hazing that results in serious bodily injury or death to the minor or student; and (1) The person acts with reckless indifference to the health and safety of the minor or student; or (2) The person causes, coerces, or forces the consumption of an alcoholic liquid or drug by the minor or student.

- **ORGANIZATIONAL HAZING.** An organization commits the offense of organizational hazing if the organization intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly promotes or facilitates a violation of Hazing or Aggravated Hazing.

The Delaware Anti-hazing Law defines hazing as any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any organization operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by an institution of higher learning. Hazing includes but is not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property. For purposes of the DE Anti-hazing Law, any activity upon which the admission or initiation into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be “forced” activity, the willingness of the individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

Any student, student group, student organization (recognized or not), team, or other persons associated with a student group or organization found responsible of Hazing, Aggravated Hazing, or Organizational Hazing under this Policy, whether occurring on or off campus, may face disciplinary action from the University, and may also face criminal charges under state law or federal law. It is not a defense that the consent of the minor or student was sought or obtained, or that an instance of hazing was sanctioned or approved by the organization.

**REPORTING VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY.** Any violation of this policy shall be deemed a violation of any/all University student codes of conduct and may also constitute a violation of the University’s EOHN Policy. The University encourages all members of the campus community who believe that they have witnessed, experienced, or are aware of conduct that constitutes Hazing, Aggravated Hazing, or Organizational Hazing in violation of this policy to report the violation to the Office of Student Conduct. All reports will be promptly investigated.

- [Tobacco-Free Enforcement Policy](#)

The University is dedicated to providing and promoting a healthy and productive environment for its faculty, staff, students, visitors, contractors, and guests. The Tobacco-Free Policy adopted by the University in May of 2009 is consistent with that goal. By endorsing this policy, the University demonstrates its commitment to eliminating environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) exposure, promoting best healthcare practices and choices for individuals, and establishing a University culture of wellness.

The Tobacco-Free Policy applies to all University faculty, staff, students, visitors, contractors, and guests at all times. Tobacco use includes any lighted tobacco product, e-cigarettes, and any oral tobacco product, including Zyn packs and other similar products. The use of all tobacco products

is prohibited within the boundaries of each of the University's three campuses (see "[Campus Tobacco-Free Boundaries](#)" below). The prohibited areas within each of the campus's boundaries include all buildings, facilities, indoor and outdoor spaces, and grounds owned, rented, and licensed by the University. This policy also applies to parking lots, walkways, sidewalks, sports venues, University vehicles, and private vehicles parked or operated on University property.

- a. *Enforcement*: All members of the University community are asked to respectfully remind faculty, staff, students, visitors, contractors, and guests who are smoking, chewing tobacco, or vaping on University property about the University's Tobacco-Free Policy.

Campus Safety staff is also responsible for reminding any faculty, staff, student, visitor, contractor, or guest who is using tobacco on University property about the University's tobacco-free policy. Campus Safety staff may ask to see official identification for faculty, staff, students, visitors, contractors, and guests and complete an incident report for anyone who is found violating the University's policy. The original incident reports are directed to the Campus Safety Office. Campus Safety will review incident reports and send copies of reports to the appropriate office. Student reports are sent to the Student Affairs Office or the Associate Provost's Office for processing through the student disciplinary process. Employee reports are sent to the Human Resources Office in Chester for processing through the employee disciplinary process. The Human Resources Office will send a copy of the incident report to the employee's supervisor.

There are four levels of offenses, with a requirement for each offense that a cited student or employee attend an educational program or seek assistance for cessation, in addition to the noted penalties as follows:

- 1st Offense—Warning
- 2nd Offense—\$25 fine
- 3rd Offense—\$50 fine
- 4th Offense—Dismissal, suspension or termination of enrollment/employment, based on the respective disciplinary code.

Campus Safety staff will ask visitors using tobacco on University property to extinguish cigarettes, cigars, or pipes, turn off e-cigarettes, or dispose of smokeless tobacco products. If a visitor refuses to comply with this request, Campus Safety staff may ask the visitor to leave campus (as is currently done when visitors violate the University's alcohol and drug policy).

- b. *Assistance*: Educational and cessation assistance programs are offered to students, faculty, and staff to help them quit using tobacco products. Any money collected from the noted fines supports the wellness education program.
- c. *Campus Tobacco-Free Boundaries*
  1. Chester Campus—The boundaries are generally described as I-95 to the south, the west side of Melrose Avenue to the east, the south side of 18th Street to the north, and the east side of Providence Avenue to the west. Other facilities included in the tobacco-free boundaries are the Maintenance Complex on 12th Street; the Spang parking lot at Melrose Avenue and 14th Street; the entire Athletic Complex, including 17th Street, the sidewalk along 17th Street, and the softball field in

Ridley Township; the Child Development Center at Walnut and 18th Streets; Balin Hall at Providence Avenue and 22nd Street; the Access Center at Providence Avenue and 21st Street; the parking lot on the west side of Providence Avenue between 16th and 17th Streets; the Development Office on 15th Street; the Bell property in Upland; and all of the University-owned properties along Melrose Avenue and throughout Sun Hill.

2. Wilmington Campus—The boundaries are generally described as Concord Pike to the west, the moat between the shopping center and the campus to the south, the country club to the east, and the maintenance complex, rugby field, the townhouses, and adjacent parking lots to the north. We ask that you be respectful of the private property owners that are within the general campus boundaries.
3. Harrisburg Campus—The boundaries are generally described as all of the property bounded by Thea Drive to the south, both sides of Vartan Way going north, including the parking lot, buildings, basketball/tennis courts, and the surrounding land. Also included is the maintenance complex on Progress Avenue.

- [Fire Safety Policy](#)

Smoke detectors are placed in student rooms and public areas for the safety of the community. Students may not tamper with this equipment (e.g., remove batteries). *Students caught tampering will be subject to immediate disciplinary action. Nothing may cover smoke detectors.* No open fires are permitted anywhere on campus at any time. Lighted candles, lava lamps and burning incense are strictly prohibited. The individual use of a hibachi, grill, or any other open cooking equipment is prohibited. Permits may be issued on a special request basis by the Office of Residence Life for campus programming. However, at no time are gas or propane grills permitted on University property. Coffee pots, corn poppers, and other cooking devices with self-contained, thermostatically controlled heating elements must be used with extreme care. Immersion coils, hot plates, appliances with open coils or burners, George Forman grills, and any non-thermostatically controlled appliances are not permitted and will be subject to confiscation. Only equipment that has been tested to be safe (UL or Factory of Mutual Approval) and is in good repair should be used.

The University further enforces restrictions on seasonal decorations. No one is permitted to have a live decorative tree in his or her room, office, or lounge area. Artificial trees are permitted, but decorative lights of any sort are prohibited. Christmas lights and decorative hanging lights are not permitted around any walls or doors. No decorations may be hung from the ceiling of any University building.

Prohibited items, if discovered, will be confiscated and students responsible will be subject to disciplinary action.

- [Athletic/Recreational Activities Policy](#)

All athletic activities must be confined to the proper playing fields or gym. All Department of Athletics policies and rules in effect for athletic contests must be followed. Check with the Department of Athletics for complete details of its policies for the stadium and gymnasium. Ball

playing, Frisbee, and other recreational games are restricted to the appropriate athletic fields and areas designated by the Student Affairs Office.

- [Identification/One Card Policy](#)

*Students are required to carry their One Card (identification card) at all times.* The One Card is the official card that is used as a University ID card, library card, flexible spending debit card, meal plan card, residence hall access card, and academic building access card. These cards admit students to home athletic games and most student activities. *One Cards are not transferable, cannot be borrowed, and may not be altered.* Misuse of or tampering with any One Card is strictly prohibited. The use of the card is governed by University regulations. The One Card must be submitted upon request to any University employee who requires it for official performance of his or her duties or fulfillment of his or her responsibilities.

If a student has a meal plan, it must be presented at each meal. Check-in officials have the authority to deny any person access to the dining center who does not have proper identification or cash payment.

## FORMAT AND DELIVERY OF INSTRUCTION

It is the policy of the University that tuition and fees are paid only for the opportunity to learn, earn academic credit, and obtain certain non-academic services, all of which can be delivered in an in-person format, remote format with the assistance of technology aids, or a hybrid of in-person and technology supported formats. The University retains the sole and exclusive right to determine what format the opportunity to learn, earn academic credit, and receive certain non-academic services will take. By enrolling in the University and making tuition payments, every student acknowledges this policy and agrees to receive the opportunity to learn, earn academic credit, and receive certain non-academic services in the manner that the University, in its sole and exclusive determination, deems to be the most appropriate after taking into account all relevant circumstances. Every student further acknowledges that the value of learning and the obtaining of academic credit is the same regardless of how such learning is delivered to a student and that the format of any University learning opportunity may change at any time in accordance with external circumstances, occurrences or safety concerns or within the discretion of the University. So long as the student's opportunity to learn in any format continues, the University shall not be required to make any adjustment to tuition or fees.

## CHILDREN ON CAMPUS AND WORKING WITH CHILDREN POLICY

- A. PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Policy is to ensure the fulfillment of the University's moral obligation to protect children as vulnerable members of society and the University's obligation to its students, staff and visitors to conduct its operations and maintain its facilities in a manner consistent with its mission as an institution of higher education.
- B. SCOPE:** This Policy applies to activities and programs taking place on any University campus, or under the authority and direction of the University at other locations in which Minors will be physically present and participating. This Policy shall not apply to research programs subject to the review and approval of the University's Institutional Review Board. All camps involving Minors, whether athletic, academic, recreational or otherwise, are subject to this Policy.
- C. DEFINITIONS:** The following definitions apply to this Policy:
1. "Minor" means any person under the age of 18, including, without limitation, those persons referred to in this policy as "children"; provided, however, that it shall exclude any person who is at least the age of 17 who is enrolled as an undergraduate student of the University and high school students who are at least the age of fourteen who are participating in dual enrollment, scholarship, youth collaborative or similar programs.
  2. "Authorized Adult" means a parent, legal guardian or adult who has complied with the requirements to be present with Minors under this Policy and who is responsible for escorting or supervising the Minor(s) while on campus or while participating in any activities identified in this Policy.
- D. REQUIREMENTS OF POLICY GOVERNING PRESENCE OF MINORS ON CAMPUS:**
1. General Rule: As a general rule, because the University's work is higher education, University campuses are not appropriate environments for children unless they are enrolled in a program specifically designed for children and appropriately supervised by adults with the proper training and credentials. The University manages its campuses primarily for adults, and does not have the capacity to provide safe places for children who are not enrolled in a specific program. As such, parents and guardians who find it necessary to bring a Minor onto campus must adhere strictly to the following rules:
    - (a) No Minor may be left alone on campus at any time for any reason; the University will call the police if any child is found locked or alone in a car or wandering alone around the campus;
    - (b) Minors may not accompany University students to class, unless approved in advance as part of a University sanctioned program;
    - (c) Personnel may not bring Minors to work unless the University has specifically designated a time and place for staff children to be present;

- (d) Resident students may not “babysit” children in their rooms; in addition, resident students may not have guests in their rooms who are Minors.
  - (e) The University understands that child care emergencies happen. However, the University does not provide emergency child care on campus. We advise students, faculty and staff who have child care emergencies to choose to remain at home rather than trying to bring the child to class, work or other events on campus. We ask supervisors and faculty members to be lenient in excusing absences that result from child care emergencies. If, despite this policy statement, a student brings a child to class or an employee brings a child to work, the faculty member or supervisor may act at his or her discretion in handling the immediate situation, but in all cases, should remind the student or employee of this Policy. In all cases involving students, the faculty member should inform the Dean of Students so that appropriate follow-up communications can occur in a timely way. In all cases involving employees, the employee should notify the Associate Vice President/Chief Human Resources Officer so that the appropriate follow-up communications can occur in a timely way.
2. Requirements Governing Presence of Minors on Campus: In order to ensure that the essential functioning of the University is not impaired, and recognizing the occasional presence of Minors on campus, it is necessary to establish certain requirements governing the presence of Minors on the University’s campuses.

These requirements are as follows:

(a) All Minors:

- (i) All Minors not registered for classes who are otherwise participating in a University program or a program taking place on University property must be supervised by an Authorized Adult(s) at all times while they are participating in that program.
- (ii) All supervised Minors participating in a University program or a program taking place on University property are permitted in the general use facilities (Athletic Fields, Public Spaces, Academic Buildings, Dining Areas, etc.) but may be restricted from certain areas of the facilities or from utilizing certain equipment.
- (iii) Minors accompanied by an Authorized Adult are permitted at events and venues open to the public. However, the University reserves the right to determine, in its sole discretion, whether selected events or venues are appropriate for unescorted or unsupervised Minors, such as recruiting events.

(b) Pre-High School Age Children:

- (i) All pre-high school age children on University campuses must be escorted or supervised at all times by an Authorized Adult. It is the responsibility of the parents, legal guardians or other Authorized



Adult to make appropriate off-campus arrangements if these children cannot be accompanied at all times while on campus.

- (ii) Pre-high school age children, not participating in University sponsored programs or a program taking place on University property, are prohibited from laboratories and other areas where significant potential risks may exist and where strict safety precautions are required. In addition, unsupervised or unescorted pre-high school age children are prohibited from entering areas that include, but are not limited to, storage rooms, equipment rooms and certain athletic facilities such as locker rooms, training rooms, courts, swimming pools and playing fields.

(c) High School Age Children:

- (i) High school age children not participating in University programs or programs taking place on University property may utilize University facilities such as the Library and the University bookstore as long as they meet behavioral standards expected of enrolled students. When using these facilities, all high school age Minors must be accompanied by an Authorized Adult. High school age children not meeting University community conduct standards for University students will be asked to leave the campus.
- (ii) High school age children, not participating in University sponsored programs or a program taking place on University property, are prohibited from laboratories and other areas where significant potential risks may exist and where strict safety precautions are required. In addition, unsupervised or unescorted high school age children are prohibited from entering areas that include, but are not limited to, storage rooms, equipment rooms and certain athletic facilities such as locker rooms, training rooms, courts, swimming pools and playing fields.
- (iii) High school age students are not allowed in classrooms while classrooms are in session unless permission is granted by the faculty member having authorized access to the classroom. Should a high school age student become disruptive, the University student and visitor may be asked to leave.

**E. IMPLEMENTING THIS POLICY:**

1. Program Registration: Departmental units shall, through an appropriate supervisor or department head, prior to the beginning of the University's fiscal year for ongoing programs and activities and at least sixty days prior to the first scheduled date of participation by Minors, inform the Director of Risk Management of the details of the program or activity provided by the Department of Human Resources by completing the Working with Minors Activity Form.

Any requests for clarification as to whether a particular program or activity is subject to this Policy, or a request for a waiver to this Policy, should also be sent to the Vice President for Administration and Finance and the Director of Risk Management and shall include, at a minimum, the University employee in charge of the program or activity; the dates and locations where Minors will be participating; the general nature of the activities and program to be undertaken or offered; the names of all adults who will be participating directly with Minors in the program or activity; and the administrative requirements associated with the program or activity, including but not limited to waivers and permission slips to be obtained from the parent/guardians of participating Minors and medical emergency forms.

2. Background checks and clearances: Successful background clearances will be required of each adult prior to his or her direct participation with Minors in a program or activity covered by this Policy and at least once every five (5) years thereafter. Background checks are not required of University employees whose direct contact with Minors, in the course of their employment, is limited to: (a) prospective students visiting the University's campus; or (b) matriculated students who are enrolled at the University. Background checks are also required of all employees, volunteers and independent contractors who have direct contact with anyone under the age of eighteen (18) participating in dual enrollment, scholarship, youth collaborative or similar programs, even those such participants are not specifically defined as Minors under this policy. Background checks and child abuse clearances may be conducted by the University, or by an outside contractor at the request of the Director of Risk Management though certain background requests may be accessed directly by the applicant. Background check and clearance request forms and information will be available from the Director of Risk Management. Background clearances are not required in connection with events at which parents or guardians are present with their respective Minors. Additional information regarding the University's policies and procedures with respect to background checks is set forth on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

It is the responsibility of the person in charge of the program or activity to assure that each participating adult has submitted the required background check and clearance request forms and has subsequently received clearance to participate. The Director of Risk Management will maintain a roster of individuals who have been cleared to participate and the dates on which new background clearances will be required.

The background checks will be limited to criminal offenses, including, but not limited to, child abuse, for which an individual has been convicted, plead guilty to a felony or misdemeanor, or where such charges are currently pending.

A decision not to permit an individual to participate in a program or activity covered by this Policy based on the results of a background check will be made by the Director of Risk Management after consultation with the Vice President for Administration and Finance or others as needed. The results of background

checks conducted under this Policy will be used only for the purposes of this Policy, except that the University reserves the right to take appropriate action with respect to employees who may have falsified or failed to disclose information material to their employment or employment applications uncovered as a result of the background check, including and up to immediate termination of employment. Copies of background check reports and any clearances or certifications shall be retained in the Department of Human Resources.

3. Training: Each adult who will be participating with Minors in a covered program or activity shall attend annual mandatory training on the conduct requirements of this Policy, on protecting Minors from abusive emotional and physical treatment, and on appropriate or required reporting of incidents of improper conduct (including, but not limited to, appropriate law enforcement authorities). The Vice President for Administration and Finance or his/her designee may enhance and/or modify the required training program to meet specific needs of the particular program or activity involved, but any such enhanced or modified program must include all the elements described in this section. In addition, the Vice President for Administration and Finance or his/her designee shall arrange for sufficiently frequent training sessions to permit covered programs and activities to continue to function on a regularly scheduled basis.
4. Conduct Requirements: Adults participating in programs and activities covered by this Policy shall not:
  - (a) Have one-on-one contact with Minors, except in cases of emergency;
  - (b) Participate in a sleepover under the auspices of the program or activity, unless (1) one of the Minor's parents or legal guardians is present or (2) one of the Minor's parents or legal guardians has given written consent and there is at least one other adult present.
  - (c) Engage in abusive conduct of any kind toward, or in the presence of, a Minor.
  - (d) Strike, hit, administer corporal punishment to, or touch in an inappropriate or illegal manner any Minor.
  - (e) Pick up Minors or drop off Minors from their homes, other than the driver's child or children or friend of the driver's child or children, in the adult's personal vehicle, whether before, during, or after the program or activity.
  - (f) Engage in the use of alcohol or illegal drugs, or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs during such programs or activities.
  - (g) Make pornography in any form available to Minors participating in programs and activities covered by this Policy or assist them in any way in gaining access to pornography.
  - (h) Engage in hazing of any kind.
  - (i) Engage in bullying, including verbal, physical and cyber bullying.

- (j) Use the adult's home for any program activities.
- (k) Provide alcohol or illegal drugs to any Minor.
- (l) Provide or administer prescription drugs or any medication to a Minor.
- (m) Use tobacco, in any form, in or on any University owned, managed or leased property, vehicles, shuttles and vans.
- (n) Provide gifts to a Minor.
- (o) Possess or use guns or other weapons.
- (p) Engage in or communicate with the Minor through e-mail, text messages, social networking, websites, chat rooms or other forms of social media at any time, except and unless there is an educational or programming purpose and the content of the communication is consistent with the purpose of the program.
- (q) Engage in intimate displays of affection towards others in the presence of Minors.
- (r) Fail to report abuse, harassment or exploitation of Minors by other Minors participating in any program.

5. Allegation of Inappropriate Conduct: Adults participating in programs and activities covered by this Policy shall:

- (a) Immediately report any violation of the Conduct Requirements of this Policy to the person in charge of the program or activity and to the Vice President for Administration and Finance and the Director of Campus Safety, and shall contact law enforcement and emergency responders as may be appropriate under the circumstances.
- (b) Assure the safety of Minors participating in programs and activities covered by this Policy, irrespective of any other limitation or requirement, including removal of Minors from dangerous or potentially dangerous situations. In such case, the Director of the Campus Safety must be notified immediately.
- (c) Discontinue any further participation in programs and activities covered by this Policy when an allegation of inappropriate conduct has been made against him or her, until such allegation has been satisfactorily resolved.

6. CHILD ABUSE: IN ANY AND ALL CASES OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE, REFER TO THE UNIVERSITY'S POLICIES ON CHILD ABUSE REPORTING FOR ADDITIONAL REPORTING OBLIGATIONS.

F. RETALIATION: The University prohibits retaliation against any individual who, in good faith, reports a violation of this Policy or who participates in any investigation or disciplinary action arising from a report of a violation of this Policy. Individuals found to have participated in retaliatory action, either personally or through any agent or representative, in contravention of this Policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment, suspension or expulsion.

EXHIBIT "A"  
BACKGROUND CHECK AND CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. PURPOSE: As mandated by the Widener University Children on Campus and Working with Children Policy ("Policy"), the University requires criminal background checks and child abuse clearances for all employees, volunteers, contract workers, vendors and third (3<sup>rd</sup>) party groups who work directly with minors, as defined herein.
- B. SCOPE: All programs and/or departments that engage in activities that involve working directly with Minors are covered under the Policy and this Exhibit. Background checks are not required of University employees whose direct contact with Minors, in the course of their employment, is limited to: (a) prospective students visiting the University's campus; or (b) matriculated students who are enrolled at the University. While not specifically defined as "Minors" for purposes of supervision and oversight pursuant to this Policy, background checks are required of all employees, volunteers, contract workers, vendors and third-party groups who have direct contact with anyone under the age of eighteen (18) participating in dual enrollment, scholarship, youth collaborative or similar programs. As such, at least sixty (60) days prior to the start of any activity and/or program involving minors, the Department Head must complete a Working with Minors Activity Form (Exhibit "B" to the Policy) and return it to the Director of Risk Management. (These forms are available in the Office of Human Resources and can be conveyed electronically upon request.)
- C. DEFINITIONS: The following definitions apply:
1. "Direct contact with minors" includes, without limitation, the possibility of care, supervision, guidance or control over children.
- D. REQUIRED BACKGROUND CHECKS AND CLEARANCES:
1. Pennsylvania State Criminal History Record Check (Form SP4-164): All those who work directly with minors are required to submit to a Pennsylvania criminal background check, regardless of their state of residence. The University will perform this background check, at its own expense, for all University students, employees and volunteers who will have direct contact with minors. All others must submit to this background check and provide a copy of the results to the Director of Risk Management before commencing any activities in which direct contact with minors is involved.
    - a. The Pennsylvania Criminal History Record Check (Form SP4-164) may be obtained in the Office of Human Resources or completed online at <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>. The cost for the background check is \$10.00, which can be paid via credit card. The online search results are generally instant. In the alternative, individuals may submit to the background check by sending \$10.00, via certified check or money order, payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and mailed along with a completed Form SP4-

164 to Pennsylvania State Police Central Repository-164, 1800 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9758. Note: It may take up to four (4) weeks for results to be received.

2. Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (CY113): All those who work directly with minors are required to submit to a Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, regardless of their state of residence. The University will bear the expense of this clearance for all University students, employees and volunteers who will have direct contact with minors. All others must submit to this clearance and provide a copy of the results to the University's Director of Risk Management before commencing any activities in which direct contact with minors is involved.
  - a. The Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance Form (CY113) may be obtained online at the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare website <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ucmprd/groups/webcontent/documents/forms/001762.pdf> or from the Director of Risk Management;
  - b. This clearance may also be requested online at <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis>. Individuals must submit the CY113, along with a money order payment of \$13.00, to Childline and Abuse Registry, Department of Public Welfare, PO Box 8170, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8170. **A copy of a processed Request for Criminal Record (Form SP4-164) must be attached to this application.** Out of state residents must attach a copy of their FBI Clearance Form (FD-258) in order to process this clearance.
3. FBI Background Check: All those who work directly with minors are required to submit to an FBI Background Check. Applicants can apply online at <https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index-dpw.htm>. Applicants must next go to a fingerprint site and have two (2) sets of fingerprints taken. A listing of fingerprint locations is available at <https://www.pa.cogentid.com>. Once completed, applicants must mail completed fingerprint cards, a copy of the completed registration and money order to: 3M Cogent, Attn: Fingerprint Card Scan, PA DHS, 5025 Bradenton Avenue, Suite A, Dublin, OH 43017.
4. Certified Delaware Criminal History: All individuals who will have direct contact with minors on the University's Delaware campus must obtain and submit to the University's Director of Risk Management a certified Delaware Criminal History Report. Information on how to obtain such a report is available at <http://dsp.delaware.gov>. The cost to obtain a Delaware Criminal History Report is \$52.00 and individuals must physically submit to fingerprinting at a state approved site, set forth on the official Delaware state website.
5. Residents of Other States: In addition to the background checks set forth herein, individuals who reside outside of either Pennsylvania or Delaware, and who will have direct contact with minors, must obtain and submit to the Director of Risk Management a certified criminal background check from their individual state of residence.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The University's computing resources are managed by the Office of Information Technology Services (ITS), which is located on the second floor of Academic Center North (ACN) on the Main Campus and also has offices on the Wilmington and Harrisburg campuses.

ITS provides central computing resources, including Internet access via LAN and wireless, numerous lab-based academic-specific software applications, residential computing connections, and technical support. ITS maintains general-purpose labs on all campuses, with two on the Chester campus and one each on the Wilmington and Harrisburg campuses. Students are issued a network login and password to access the computers in the general labs. ITS maintains several computer classrooms throughout the University and provides support for Main Campus classrooms equipped with multimedia presentations (DE and HB classrooms are supported by Media Services).

ITS also provides MyWidener as the web-based information portal for the University. The University provides each student with an e-mail account and other services. All "official" University correspondence will be sent to students' University e-mail accounts. It is the student's responsibility to routinely check their e-mail. MyWidener allows the University community to access personal and group calendars, class schedules, and campus events. MyWidener also allows users to register for classes and review personal academic information such as GPA, financial status, and more.

**Student Technical Support:** The University is dedicated to providing both commuter and residential students technical support through the ITS Student Technical Support program. This includes virus issues, spyware/adware removal, software incompatibility, hardware issues, and problems connecting to the University's network. A walk-in support office is also available to students throughout the week, located in the ITS offices.

## **VOLUME V**

### **Widener Law Commonwealth Policies**

1. Outside Speaker Policy
2. Campus Protest Policy
3. Career Development Office Discrimination in Recruitment Policy and Procedures
4. Financial Information
5. Financial Aid Information
6. Veterans Education Benefits
7. Religious Observances Policy



## OUTSIDE SPEAKER POLICY

Preamble. Widener Law Commonwealth is committed to a vibrant and a robust intellectual and cultural life on its campus. Having outside speakers visit campus is an important part of the law school's intellectual and cultural life.

Request for Approval. Before a student organization may invite a speaker to campus, the organization must request approval from the Director of Student Organizations by submitting a written request five or more days before the proposed speech or event. The request should set forth the name of the sponsoring organization, the name of the speaker, a short speaker biography, and the proposed date, time, and location for the speech or event. If the request is denied, the organization may appeal the decision to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Time and Place Restrictions. The law school reserves the right to place restrictions on the time and location of speeches and events to ensure (i) the personal safety of students, faculty, staff, administrators, and invited guests; and (ii) that the law school's regular academic environment is not unreasonably disrupted.

Academic Freedom. Widener Law Commonwealth is committed to the principles of academic freedom. As such, this policy does not apply to guest speakers to regularly-scheduled classes who are speaking on topics germane to the class even if those topics are controversial or about a sensitive subject matter.

Harassment and Discrimination. Widener Law Commonwealth's students, faculty, staff, and administrators are entitled to an educational and working environment that is free of discriminatory harassment. In particular, the law school will not approve a speaker whose speech or event would be a violation of the university's Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Policy or other university or law school policy.

Reasons for Denial. Widener Law Commonwealth may deny any speaker permission to speak on campus for any of the following reasons:

- (i) No student organization submitted a timely request for approval,
- (ii) The law school would not be able to ensure the personal safety of its students, faculty, staff, administrators, and invited guests if the speech or event is approved,
- (iii) The proposed speaker or event advocates violence, hatred, harassment, discrimination, or other action that is incompatible with the professional obligations of lawyers,
- (iv) The proposed speech or event, in the discretion of the dean, would not constitute a legitimate educational experience, or would unreasonably disrupt the law school's regular academic environment, or
- (v) The proposed speech or event, in the discretion of the dean, would not contribute to the university's mission.

Disclaimer on Promotional Materials. Promotional materials for an approved speech or event should include the following: “An invitation to speak at Widener University does not imply approval or endorsement by Widener of the views expressed.”

Widener Law Commonwealth

**CAMPUS PROTEST POLICY**

Protests, Pickets, and Demonstrations Permitted. Protests, pickets, and demonstrations will be permitted on the Widener Law Commonwealth campus by students currently enrolled in a program of study at Widener Law Commonwealth, if the protest is conducted within the parameters of this policy. Members of the press will be permitted on the campus for the purpose of reporting on protests. Individuals who are not enrolled in a program of study on the campus and are not members of the press will not be permitted to participate in protests, pickets, or demonstrations on the campus and will not be permitted on campus for the purpose of supporting protests.

Location. Protests may take place outside of law school buildings on parking lots and sidewalks. Protests are not allowed inside of law school buildings.

Orderly and Non-Disruptive. All protests must be orderly and non-disruptive. A non-disruptive protest is one that does not: (i) block ingress or egress to buildings, the library, offices, or classrooms, (ii) attempt to prevent a presentation or interview from taking place, or (iii) disturb events, classes, or meetings other than the one being protested.

Student Code of Conduct. Violations of this policy will be considered prohibited conduct as defined in Student Code of Conduct §§2-201(f)(1) and (5) or any other applicable section.

Widener Law Commonwealth

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

**Discrimination in Recruitment Practices Policy and Procedures**

The Career Development Office of Widener University Commonwealth Law School is committed to helping students and graduates find employment which fulfills their personal and professional goals. The Office offers a wide variety of services to the student and graduate body, such as individual counseling, workshops and programs, job fairs, and job listings. Employers list job openings throughout the year and participate in spring and fall on-campus interviewing.

Employers who utilize the services of the Career Development Office to recruit law clerks or attorneys are informed of Widener's non-discrimination policy, to which Widener is firmly committed. The Career Development Office is guided by the non-discrimination principles of the University, the National Association for Law Placement, and the Association of American Law Schools, and so informs employers using the Office's services. Because of our strong commitment to the principles of non-discrimination, the school's Career Development facilities and resources are not available to employers whose employment practices are not consistent with principles of non-discrimination.

In practice, non-discrimination policies require employers to use valid, job-related criteria when evaluating candidates. Hiring decisions must be based solely on bona fide occupational qualifications. Criteria such as age, marital status, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation may be illegal considerations, and questions relating to such factors should generally not be a part of the interviewing and hiring process. While the vast majority of employers are sensitive to this issue and diligently strive to attract a diverse, well-qualified body of employees, from time to time we are distressed to learn that employers ask questions which may be illegal or which may violate school policy.

At Widener University Commonwealth Law School, we take these incidents seriously. Students, graduates, or those using the Career Development Office through reciprocity, who believe they have been subject to discriminatory hiring practices, either on- or off-campus, may report the incident to any administrator in the Career Development Office. You may choose to file a formal complaint. The following procedures have been put in place to handle such allegations:

1. Students, alumni, or those using the Career Development Office through reciprocity, may make an oral or written complaint to any administrator in the Career Development Office regarding possible discriminatory hiring practices by an employer using the services of the Office. The complainant must outline the circumstances and reasons for the complaint, including the date of the occurrence, name and address of the employer, name of the interviewer involved, and the interviewer's statements or conduct that are in question. The administrator receiving the complaint shall inform the Director for Career Development.
2. The complainant has the option of remaining anonymous with the employer. The

Director shall inform the complainant, however, that remaining anonymous may hinder the ability to investigate or otherwise handle the complaint.

3. Upon receipt of a written complaint, the Director shall report the incident to the Dean of the Law School. The Director shall then investigate the complaint by interviewing the complaining party and, if appropriate, other parties who interviewed with the employer.

4. If the conduct complained of appears to the Director to establish a violation of the School's nondiscrimination policy, the Director shall inform the employer of the complaint. The Director shall seek the employer's response to the complaint.

5. The Director shall inform the Dean of the Law School when the investigation is completed and describe the positions of the parties. The Director shall also recommend a course of action, including the imposition of sanctions where appropriate, which must be approved by the Dean of the Law School prior to implementation.

6. If any sanctions are to be imposed, the Director shall be responsible for imposing them, unless otherwise advised by the Dean of the Law School.

7. The Director shall keep the complainant informed of all relevant developments with regard to the complaint, such as the employer's response to the inquiry and the sanctions to be imposed, if any. The complainant should also be informed that if the complainant is interested in pursuing remedies outside those provided for in the above policy, he or she should contact legal counsel.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE LAW SCHOOL'S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SUPPORTING NON-DISCRIMINATION, PLEASE CONSULT THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.**

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Billing/Student Account Statement Information

Complete information on tuition billing, due dates, payment and payment plan options, direct deposit of refunds, and withdrawal policies can be found in the Law School Guide to Fees and Payment at [Widener Commonwealth Tuition and Payment Guide](#)

You will be able to view a copy of your student account and your online activity through MyWidener and the “Student Account” function.

### How to Pay

To pay ONLINE with a credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover) or via Direct Debit from a checking or savings account:

<b>Step #1</b>	Go directly to: or Log on to your account through <i>MyWidener</i>
<b>Step #2</b>	Enter “payment” in the search bar
<b>Step #3</b>	Launch Task

Widener Students and Allies can also access Billing and Account website at: <https://pay.widener.edu/>

### Important Note about Credit Card Payments/Refund Policy:

Payments made toward student tuition accounts using a credit card will be charged a 2.95% service fee by our credit card vendor. The service fee for international transactions is 4.25%. The service fee is non-refundable, even if the student account payment is refunded. Authorization of a credit card payment to a student account signifies acceptance of these terms.

If you would like to mail your payment, please send checks only. Widener Law Commonwealth will not accept cash payments. In lieu of cash, payments may be submitted via cashier’s check or money order.

Make your check payable to Widener University and write your student identification number on the check. The cancelled check will serve as your receipt. Please enclose payment and mail to:

Enrollment Services  
Widener University Commonwealth Law School  
3737 Vartan Way  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

If you need to wire tuition payments to Widener University, email your request to the University Bursar at [busoffmc@widener.edu](mailto:busoffmc@widener.edu) including student name and Widener ID in the body of the email.

### **University Payment Plans**

Payment plans are designed to assist students in managing the “gap” or balance remaining after all charges and financial aid have been applied to the student account. Widener University assesses charges by semester; the statement of account will reflect charges for the current semester tuition, fees, and housing. Your financial aid award letter also breaks up your annual award by semester and applies financial aid to your student account by semester. Widener payment plans are designed to assist in covering each semester balance.

**Fall/Spring Semester Payment Plans Enrollment Fee: \$75 per semester (Non-refundable)** The payment plan is available for both the fall and Spring semesters. This plan distributes the total semester estimated net charges across month plan selected with payments due in Fall and Spring semesters.

If you have any questions regarding payment plans or payment options contact the Office of the Bursar at [busoffmc@widener.edu](mailto:busoffmc@widener.edu).

#### **How to Enroll in a University Payment Plan:**

Step #1 Log on to your Widener account through myWidener

Step #2 <https://pay.widener.edu/> Widener Students and Allies can access Billing and Account website at: <https://pay.widener.edu/>

### **University Complete Withdrawal Policy**

Adjustments to charges for complete withdrawal will be effective on the date written notice is received by the appropriate program office of Widener University. At that point the total withdrawal policy and refunding of semester charges is enacted. Students have a drop/add period at the start of each semester to adjust their schedule of courses. Once drop/add ends, semester course schedules are set and there is no refund issued when a student does a course withdrawal (a “W” is noted on the student transcript) from one or more courses throughout the semester unless the student is withdrawing from all courses in the semester.

**Note:** If you completely withdraw from the University AND have received financial aid, you may be responsible for returning financial aid funds you have received based on the eligibility requirements set by the federal government. This may result in a balance owed to the University.

## Widener University Commonwealth Law School

### FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

#### **Tuition and Fees**

Tuition is charged on a per credit basis depending on your program. Tuition and fees are set annually by the University. Please follow this link to the Tuition Rate and Payment Guide: <http://sites.widener.edu/bursar/tuition-and-fees/>

#### **Types of Aid**

**Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan** - Graduate students may borrow up to \$20,500 per year from this program. The aggregate for this program (including undergraduate debt) is \$138,500 of which no more than \$65,000 can be from the subsidized loan program. The Department of Education calculates a fixed interest rate on an annual basis and that interest rate will apply for the life of the loan. The interest rate calculation is based on the 10-year Treasury Note sold at the last auction prior to June 1 plus 3.60 percent. Interest for the 2025-2026 academic year is fixed at 7.94% and accrues from the day the loan is disbursed. All Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans are charged a 1.057% origination fee. Repayment begins six months after the student graduates or ceases at least half-time enrollment. Students may elect to make interest payments while in school, or have the unpaid interest capitalized once they enter repayment.

**Federal Direct Graduate PLUS (GradPLUS) Loan**- Widener University Commonwealth Law School recommends that students needing additional funding after borrowing the maximum Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan apply for a Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan.

The GradPLUS Loan does require a credit check. *The credit check is based on credit history, not credit score. Lack of a credit history does not negatively affect your ability to be approved.* Students not able to borrow on the strength of their own credit history will be offered an *endorser* option. A student may generally borrow up to their cost of attendance minus all other aid offered. The U.S. Department of Education calculates a fixed interest rate on an annual basis and that interest rate will apply for the life of the loan. The interest rate calculation is based on the 10-year Treasury Note sold at the last auction prior to June 1 plus 4.60 percent. The interest rate for the 2025-2026 academic year is fixed at 8.94%. All Federal Direct GradPLUS Loans are charged a 4.228% origination fee.

Students may elect to make interest payments on the GradPLUS loan while in school, or have the unpaid interest capitalized. Repayment on the loan begins 60 days from disbursement. However, an in-school deferment will automatically be applied as long as a student remains enrolled at least half-time. A post half-time enrollment deferment will allow repayment to begin six months from graduation or when a student drops below half time status.

#### **Campus-Based Programs**

**Federal Work-Study (FWS)** is need-based as determined by information submitted on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and reserved for the neediest students. Widener University receives a yearly allocation from the Federal government to fund the program. To be



considered for this program, returning students must submit the FAFSA by April 1, add Widener Law Commonwealth's school code E00656, and answer "yes" to "Are you interested in being considered for work-study?"

### **Scholarships**

Incoming students are reviewed for merit-based scholarships upon their admission to the Law School and the award is renewable for the duration of their career provided the required GPA is maintained.

Merit-based scholarships are reviewed for retention once spring grades are finalized. Students must maintain the required cumulative GPA to have their scholarships renewed for the next academic year. Scholarship awards are based on a student's division at the time of the award. Changes in division may impact your scholarship award and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. A student may switch to extended division or FLEX in their final semester without a change in scholarship provided the amount of the scholarship is less than the tuition charges for that semester. Any division change should be discussed with the Dean of Admissions and the Financial Aid Office prior to the change.

Endowed scholarships are listed on the Widener University Commonwealth Law School website with applications due in the spring. There are also various foundations, bar associations, and organizations which provide assistance to qualified students.

### **TO ACCESS THE OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIP DATABASE FILE:**

Go to <https://sites.widener.edu/finaidcwlaw/posts/>

*Note: Widener University Commonwealth Law School posts the listed outside scholarships on this site as a courtesy to students. The law school does not endorse or solicit participation from any of the above listed scholarships. The scholarships are posted so students can know of additional scholarship opportunities.*

## **Veterans Education Benefits**

The Registrar Office is the office that certifies enrollment to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Please provide a copy of your certificate of eligibility to have your enrollment reported. Widener Law Commonwealth participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

### **The Yellow Ribbon Program**

The Yellow Ribbon Program, part of the Post-9/11 GI Bill <sup>®</sup>, is a voluntary program that allows universities to fund additional tuition expenses exceeding the amount of the core benefit provided by the Post-9/11 GI Bill <sup>®</sup>, which is determined based on the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. Institutions participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program can contribute up to 50% of the expenses that exceed the base benefit, and the Department of Veterans Affairs then matches the amount provided by the institution.

Widener Law Commonwealth has elected to fund all eligible JD students with an unlimited contribution per student, not to exceed the cost of tuition.

Students participating in the Yellow Ribbon program will pay nothing out of pocket towards their tuition for the fall, spring, and summer semesters. After the base award, Widener Law Commonwealth and VA will split the balance of the tuition due.

A student who anticipates receiving educational assistance under Chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, or Chapter 33, Post-9/11 GI Bill <sup>®</sup> benefits is provided with the opportunity to enroll in and attend classes, without any late fee being imposed, even if the student's anticipated educational assistance from the VA Educational Benefits has not yet arrived at the University. In addition, a student will be able to utilize all University student services, including the library.

This policy is in place for students who have provided to Widener University a certificate of eligibility for entitlement (this may include a Statement of Benefits obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) website e-Benefits, or a VAF 28-1905 form for chapter 31 authorization purposes for the upcoming term.

The policy may cease once the VA has made payment to the University OR 90 days after the University has received the certificate of eligibility and certified tuition and fees.

For Chapter 31 and Chapter 33 Educational Benefit recipients, Widener University requires students to complete a form and possibly provide additional information to the VA Certifying Official so their certification of enrollment is accurate.

*GI Bill <sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by the VA is available at the official U.S. government website at [www.benefits.va.gov/gbill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gbill).*

## RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES POLICY

### **PURPOSE**

Widener University recognizes that some members of our community will sometimes observe religious practices that may require them to seek reasonable accommodations to perform their essential functions or responsibilities as students or employees.

### **STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Widener University is an environment that respects the religious observances of all members of our community and is committed to making reasonable efforts to accommodate the religious observances of students and employees. Widener University will endeavor to provide reasonable religious accommodations to individuals whose sincerely held religious beliefs conflict with a University policy, procedure, or academic or employment requirement as long as the accommodation does not result in undue hardship or substantially modify any program of instruction, program or activity. All requests for reasonable religious accommodations should be made as much in advance as reasonably practicable. A request for a religious accommodation may trigger an interactive process, particularly if the University reasonably needs more information, between the responsible University official and the individual making the request to discuss the request and assess available options.

### **REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

The Title IX and Equal Opportunity Office is available to work with students and employees to provide information, resources, and options concerning reasonable accommodations, at any stage in the request process.

**Policy Owner:** Title IX and Equal Opportunity Office

**Effective Date:** August, 2024

**Date of Last Revision:** August, 2024

### **Procedures for Student Requests**

#### **ACADEMIC MATTERS**

A student seeking religious accommodations with regard to academic matters, including absences from class for religious observances, should consult their syllabi at the beginning of the semester. A request for religious accommodations may be made orally or in writing (via letter, email or fax). The request for accommodation should be made to either their instructor or the Dean of Students. Being absent from class or other educational responsibilities does not excuse students from keeping up with any information shared or expectations set during the missed class(es). Students are responsible for obtaining materials and information provided during any class(es) missed. Students involved in a clerkship, internship, or practicum should provide advance notice to their supervisor prior to any absence. Students should understand that, if an accommodation is granted, students may be required to make up missed time from a clerkship, internship or practicum. A student seeking a religious accommodation for academic matters may contact the Title IX and Equal Opportunity Office, [TitleIX@widener.edu](mailto:TitleIX@widener.edu), at any stage in the process for its review. The decision of the Title IX and Equal Opportunity Office shall be final.

## **HOUSING**

A student seeking religious accommodations in the residence halls on the Chester Campus should make a request, either orally or in writing, to [responsible individual] or [ResidenceLife@widener.edu](mailto:ResidenceLife@widener.edu) to explore possible housing accommodations. A student seeking a religious accommodation for housing may contact the Title IX and Equal Opportunity Office, [TitleIX@widener.edu](mailto:TitleIX@widener.edu), at any stage in the process for its review. The decision of the Title IX and Equal Opportunity Office shall be final.

## **DINING**

A student seeking religious accommodations in the dining halls on the Chester Campus due to should make a request, either orally or in writing, to the [responsible individual] or [campusdining@widener.edu](mailto:campusdining@widener.edu). A student seeking a religious accommodation for dining may contact the Title IX and Equal Opportunity Office, [TitleIX@widener.edu](mailto:TitleIX@widener.edu), at any stage in the process for its review. The decision of the Title IX and Equal Opportunity Office shall be final.

### **Procedures for Employee Requests**

An employee seeking religious accommodation should make a request, either orally or in writing, to their immediate supervisor. An employee seeking a religious accommodation may contact the Title IX and Equal Opportunity Office at any stage in the process for its review. The decision of the Title IX and Equal Opportunity Office shall be final.

APPENDIX A  
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

1. ABA Standard 501(c) – Admissions (*Relating to Previously Disqualified Applicants*)
2. ABA Standard 510 – Student Complaints

American Bar Association  
Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar  
ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools

**Standard 501(c). Admissions. (*Relating to Previously Disqualified Applicants*)**

A law school shall not admit or readmit a student who has been disqualified previously for academic reasons without an affirmative showing that the prior disqualification does not indicate a lack of capacity to complete its program of legal education and be admitted to the bar. For every admission or readmission of a previously disqualified individual, a statement of the considerations that led to the decision shall be placed in the admittee's file.

American Bar Association  
Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar  
ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools

**Standard 510. Student Complaints**

- (a) A law school shall establish, publish, and comply with policies for addressing student complaints.
- (b) A law school shall maintain a record of student complaints submitted during the most recent accreditation period. The record shall include the resolution of the complaints.

**Interpretation 510-1**

*A “complaint” is a communication in writing that seeks to bring to the attention of the law school a significant problem that directly implicates the school’s compliance with the Standards.*

**Interpretation 510-2**

*A law school’s policies on student complaints must address, at a minimum, procedures for filing and addressing complaints, appeal rights if any, and timelines.*