



STUDENT HANDBOOK 2022-2023

Notes:

1. *The online version of the student handbook is under the “Current Students” section of the website, and is the most up-to-date version. It may contain changes from the printed version. ~ Last update: August 2022.*
2. *The MHU Student Handbook uses the pronoun “they” rather than “he” or “she” in many instances to refer to a single person. This usage is deliberate. While traditionally considered a plural pronoun, “they” is gaining acceptance as a singular, gender-inclusive pronoun.*

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2022-2023 Student Handbook

Use of the Student Handbook

The Student Handbook is provided to articulate the standards, policies, and other aspects of being a member of the university community. This handbook covers policy and services affecting all those who are students taking classes MHU including undergraduate, graduate, on-line, and dual credit. In addition to our students, these policies are our expectations for all those who visit and work at MHU. The expectations in this handbook not only guide policy for our campus and extension buildings and classrooms, but are also expectations of how students will conduct themselves as representatives of MHU when off campus or on class field trips.

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this handbook, in no sense is it to be considered a binding contract, and it may be updated and changed at any time. The university strives to communicate effectively through a variety of media. Students are expected to frequently check their campus email as the primary source of university communication. Emails will contain important information and deadlines for students. It is each student's responsibility to regularly access and follow through with pertinent information in these different forms of communication.

By submitting acceptance to MHU, students are agreeing to abide by all the terms and conditions of this handbook and the MHU catalog. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with our expectations and live up to these policies and standards.

Official Communications From The University

Mars Hill University uses your MHU email address as the primary means for official communication with students. The institution will send important notifications to your university email such as requests for meetings, notices of policy changes, and communication regarding your status as a student. The emergency contact system will text and/or call your mobile number to communicate critical and time-sensitive safety information, including campus safety notifications and weather-related information, and emergency preparedness tests.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

Mars Hill University is dedicated to maintaining an environment where academic freedom flourishes and in which the rights of each member of the university community are respected. The university recognizes and upholds the inherent dignity and value of every person, and each individual's inalienable right to personal sovereignty.

USDA Notice of Non-Discrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. As a recipient of federal funds, through the United States Department of Agriculture, and in accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, sex, familial status, sexual orientation, and reprisal.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to:

Jennie Matthews
Director of Human Resources & Title IX Coordinator
209 Nash Hall, 100 Athletic Street, Mars Hill University
Mars Hill, N.C. 28754
828 689-1197
jmatthews@mhu.edu

USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

Notification of Rights under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords eligible students at universities like Mars Hill University (“MHU” or “University”) 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 at any age. These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days after the day MHU receives a request for access. A student should submit to the registrar a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The school official will arrange 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 school 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 is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA.

A student who requests the University to amend a record should write the Registrar, clearly identify the part of the record to be changed, and specify why it should be changed.

If MHU 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 MHU discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

MHU discloses education records without a student’s prior written consent under FERPA when the disclosure is to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official typically includes a person employed by MHU in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person serving on the board of trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the University who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent or a student volunteering to assist another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for MHU.

Upon request, MHU also discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. MHU hereby notifies students that it intends to forward such records on request or if the disclosure is initiated by the student.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by MHU to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

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

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from students’ education records, without consent of the student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in § 99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the student, § 99.32 of FERPA regulations requires the institution to record the disclosure. Eligible students have a right to

inspect and review the record of disclosures. A postsecondary institution may disclose PII from the education records without obtaining prior written consent of the student

- To other school officials, including teachers, within the University whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that the conditions listed in § 99.31(a)(1)(i)(B)(1) - (a)(1)(i)(B)(3) are met. (§ 99.31(a)(1))
- To officials of another school where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of § 99.34. (§ 99.31(a)(2))
- To authorized representatives of the U. S. Comptroller General, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as a State postsecondary authority that is responsible for supervising the University's State supported education programs. Disclosures under this provision may be made, subject to the requirements of § 99.35, in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal- or State-supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of PII to outside entities that are designated by them as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf. (§§ 99.31(a)(3) and 99.35)
- In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (§ 99.31(a)(4))
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction. (§ 99.31(a)(6))
- To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§ 99.31(a)(7))
- To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes. (§ 99.31(a)(8))
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. (§ 99.31(a)(9))
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to § 99.36. (§ 99.31(a)(10))
- Information the school has designated as "directory information" under § 99.37. (§ 99.31(a)(11)) MHU has designated the following as "directory information:" your name; local, home, and email addresses; local and home telephone number; major field of study; enrollment status/rank (e.g., undergraduate or graduate; full time; freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior; first-year, second-year, or third-year); dates of attendance; anticipated degree and degree date; degrees, honors, and awards received; participation in officially recognized activities; student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems; most recent educational agency or institution attended; and photograph, to anyone within the MHU community and to the general public.
- To a victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense, subject to the requirements of § 99.39. The disclosure may only include the final results of the disciplinary proceeding with respect to that alleged crime or offense, regardless of the finding. (§ 99.31(a)(13))
- To the general public, the final results of a disciplinary proceeding, subject to the requirements of § 99.39, if the school determines the student is an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or non-forcible sex offense and the student has committed a violation of the school's rules or policies with respect to the allegation made against him or her. (§ 99.31(a)(14))
- To parents of a student regarding the student's violation of any Federal, State, or local law, or of any rule or policy of the school, governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance if the school determines the student committed a disciplinary violation and the student is under the age of 21. (§99.31(a)(15))

Title IX Notice of Non-Discrimination

As a recipient of federal funds, Mars Hill University is also required to comply with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681) (“Title IX”) that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender (sex) in all educational activities or programs. In accordance with Title IX, Mars Hill University does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the administration of its educational programs, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs or activities (both on and off campus) or in employment. The university further prohibits harassment, sexual violence, and other forms of violence against its students and employees. Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations may be referred to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, or to the university’s Title IX Coordinator:

Jennie Matthews
209 Nash Hall, Mars Hill University Mars Hill, N.C. 28754
(828) 689-1197
jmatthews@mhu.edu

Accreditation

Mars Hill University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Questions about the accreditation of Mars Hill University may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC’s website (www.sacscoc.org).

<https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2019/08/InstitutionalObligationsPublicDisclosure.pdf>



Mars Hill University Mission Statement

Mars Hill University, an academic community rooted in the Christian faith, challenges and equips students to pursue intellectual, personal, and spiritual growth that is:

Grounded in a rigorous study of the Liberal Arts,

Connected with the world of work, and

Committed to character development, to service, and to responsible citizenship in the community, the region, and the world.

Vision Statement

Mars Hill will be a preeminent private university, nationally recognized for transforming engaged learners into ethical citizens and successful leaders in an ever-changing world.



Seal and Motto

The Mars Hill University seal is primary used for official documents from the president's office and the registrar's office. It features the Marshbanks Hall cupola against the majestic Bailey Mountain . The seal also displays the year 1856, when the university was founded as French Broad Baptist Institute, and the university motto: *Pro Christo Adolescentibusque*, which means:

For Christ and Youth.

Mascot

The Mars Hill University mascot is Cosmo, the mountain lion. He can often be found whipping up the crowd at ballgames, or leaping out of the MHU athletic logo.



Website and Social Media

The best place to keep up with MHU and happenings on campus is the university website, “MyMHU” and the university social media accounts.

Website: www.mhu.edu

MyMHU: my.mhu.edu

Facebook: [Mars Hill University](#)

Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat: [@MarsHillU](#)



Mars Hill University Student Life Mission Statement

Student Life educates students by providing inclusive practices that offer appropriate challenge and support, including opportunities for meaningful engagement and transformation via the pathways of mind, heart, and soul:

- Promoting intellectual growth and engaged student learning
- Cultivating character development via social connections as global citizens
- Encouraging spiritual formation and purpose tied to the world of work

Student Learning Outcomes for Student Life

Promoting Intellectual Growth and Engaged Student Learning:

Infuse student environments and student life programming with activities that target intellectual growth by enhancing classroom learning.

- Students will identify and utilize resources for academic success
- Students will explore and utilize time management and learning strategies
- Students will demonstrate continual learning
- Students will define goals for their educational experience
- Students will demonstrate the ability to examine multiple perspectives on a topic
- Students will identify their own perspective amidst multiple perspectives
- Students will develop relationships with faculty, staff, and other students via co-curricular programming

Cultivating Character Development via Social Connections as Global Citizens:

Empower students to lead by providing diverse experiences that focus on the ability to influence others for good, and enhance existing and develop new transitional experiences that support students' developmental progression and success through graduation; provide services that encourage students to lead healthy lifestyles and promote holistic attitudes and behaviors; enhance experiences to encourage meaningful student involvement leading to a purposeful, open, just, disciplined, and engaged community.

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of leadership principles and integrate them into their MHU experience
- Students will engage in formative transitional experiences and apply learned concepts throughout their MHU journey
- Students will develop interpersonal confidence and competence, leading to the positive influence of others
- Students will increase awareness of emotions and develop healthy ways of interacting with others
- Students will work to see the value in all people and will treat others with dignity and respect
- Students will develop authenticity by nurturing a love for self and others
- Students will develop and intentionally cultivate a sense of belonging in the campus community
- Students will constructively demonstrate an understanding of their role and responsibility in community
- Students will develop perspectives and connections that promote the development of the whole person
- Students will make choices that foster the greater good

Encouraging Spiritual Formation and Purpose Tied to the World of Work:

Promote student spiritual and moral development and the understanding of all of life as service by exposing them via programs and experiences to the discernment process and encouraging personal exploration of values, ethics, and morality.

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of their strengths and apply them through leadership, service, and academic endeavors
- Students will articulate a clear pathway to success, including their personal story
- Students will explore their personal values and beliefs, and develop an understanding of how to integrate a holistic spiritual perspective
- Students will develop a sense of purpose, explore the concept of calling, and recognize specific opportunities for societal contribution
- Students will grow and leverage their institutional pride and loyalty

MHU Diversity Statement

Mars Hill University is committed to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment. Dimensions of diversity can include race, age, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, intellectual and physical ability, sexual orientation, income, faith and non-faith perspectives, socio-economic class, political ideology, education, primary language, family status, military experience, cognitive style, and communication style. The intersection of these experiences and characteristics in individual makes them valued members of the MHU community.

MHU shows this commitment by respecting and valuing these differences. All students enrolled at MHU are expected to do the same by being considerate of others and striving to form a collaborative and supportive educational environment that treats every person with dignity and respect. MHU is working to create an environment that fosters inclusion, where students have the opportunity to allow their various identities to inform their conversations. At the same time, they are not expected to represent or speak for an entire group of people who share aspects of an identity.

Mars Hill University Bucket List

- Raft down the French Broad River
- Walk a mile on the Appalachian Trail
- Visit Hot Springs and sit in a hot tub
- Play four square in front of Owen Theatre
- Slip and Slide down Men's Hill
- Climb Bailey Mountain in the fall
- Ski the Wolf
- Walk the "Loop" with someone special
- Play Disc Golf around campus
- See the Biltmore House at Christmas
- Visit Joe Anderson's grave
- Sled down every hill on campus
- Visit all the "haunted" buildings on campus
- Visit Cherokee
- Take a clogging class
- Take a ride on the Blue Ridge Parkway
- Go to Zuma's in Marshall
- Go snipe hunting on the mountain
- Walk the "Loop" at midnight
- Play Frisbee on the Quad
- Go see a play at Owen Theatre
- Play Uno on the Quad
- Watch the BMC spring concert
- Go to Waffle House between 2 am-6 am
- Take part in a snowball fight on the Quad
- Go caroling at the Mars Hill Retirement Center
- Make a snowman
- Go to the drum circle in downtown Asheville
- Attend an MHU choir concert
- Go to the Asheville Pizza Co.
- Attend Spring Fling
- Get to know a Professor you respect
- Play or watch Intramurals
- Go to at least one game of each sport
- Attend homecoming events
- Eat at Mellow Mushroom in Asheville
- Do community service for local people
- Enjoy a bonfire
- Attend an Empty Bowls dinner
- Get to know an international student
- Get up early to watch a sunrise
- Go for a donut run during exam week
- Get to know the friendly people of Mars Hill
- Take a class outside your major that is not required
- Run for a position in SGA
- Consider taking part in Greek Life
- Go to El Chapala's in Weaverville
- Paint the spirit rock
- Spend at least one summer on campus
- Have your picture made in front of the chapel doors
- Make your neon night t-shirt
- Chase lightning bugs
- Have a water balloon fight on the Quad
- Lie out at night and look at the stars
- Eat some ramps/Attend a ramp festival
- Play on the playground at Rec Park
- Go to the local Farmer's Market
- Go to Sliding Rock in Brevard
- Hike at Craggy Gardens
- Visit Linville Caverns
- Asheville Farmer's Market/eat breakfast at the Moose Cafe
- Go to Mt. Mitchell
- Go to Grandfather Mountain
- Go to Blue Mountain Pizza
- Eat garlic knots from Papa Nick's
- Join at least one student organization
- Go to late night breakfast at the end of semester
- Go on one outdoor center activity
- Go to the Bascom Lamar Lunsford Festival
- Visit the Ramsey Center on campus
- Go to the corn maze at Eliada in Asheville
- Go ziplining at Navitat in Barnardsville
- Go to a show at the Orange Peel
- Present at SLAM
- Catch a salamander in the river or creek
- Attend the Christmas Concert
- Go to the Grove Park Inn when decorated for Christmas
- Read in a hammock on campus
- Visit the Triple Falls at Dupont in Brevard
- Picnic at Max Patch in Hot Springs
- Hike the Lover's Leap Trail in Hot Springs
- Visit the N.C. Arboretum
- Decorate your room with thrift store finds
- Get a Buffalo Chicken Wrap at the caf
- Donate blood at one of the campus blood drives
- Watch the sunset from the Heritage Cabin porch
- Hike to Douglas Falls in Barnardsville
- Go to a Tourist game
- Look at old Mars Hill yearbooks and laugh at the pictures
- Go on an alternative spring or fall break mission trip
- Check out Downtown after Five (Asheville)
- Check out First Fridays in Mars Hill
- Visit the River Arts District in Asheville
- Have your picture taken in the gazebo on Main Street
- Participate in the Lions Against Hunger Food Drive
- Go bouldering on the side of Wren
- Participate in a skit for the Lion's Growl
- Go people watching in downtown Asheville
- Attend a movie on campus
- Climb one of the big trees on the Quad
- Be part of creating a new Mars Hill tradition
- Go swimming at the MHU pool
- Take a LaZoom Comedy Tour in Asheville
- Go to the Madison County Arts Council

Religious Identity Statement

Mars Hill’s religious identity will never be fully answered through a simple written statement, but will continually emerge through an ongoing dialogue among members of the Mars Hill family. Based on our mission statement (pg. 7), this document (below) was developed by the Religious Life Committee in consultation with the Church Relations Council. In addition, faculty, staff, students, and the Board of Advisors offered feedback at various stages of its drafting. On November 7, 2003, the Board of Trustees of Mars Hill University voted to approve the use of this document to publicly communicate the religious identity of the university. It represents our best understanding of who we are relative to our Christian roots, and it is an invitation to all members of the Mars Hill community—alumni, trustees, faculty, staff, students, and prospective students—to join us in this rich conversation as we seek to fulfill our mission.

Mars Hill University, an academic community rooted in the Christian faith. . .

Paul stood up in the midst of Mars Hill and said: “People of Athens, I see that you are very religious.”—Acts 17:22

Mars Hill University is a place where faith and reason meet, where students, faculty, and staff explore questions of faith reasonably in the spirit of Christ-like compassion and respect. While Mars Hill is not a church, our roots are Christian and our heritage is Baptist. We encourage students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees and alumni in their practice and expression of faith. We honor the variety of denominations, faith traditions, worship practices, theological persuasions and spiritual disciplines represented among our constituencies. By experiencing this diversity in community, we learn from each other and find our own spiritual journeys enriched.

. . .challenges and equips students to pursue intellectual, spiritual, and personal growth. . .

“The most important [commandment],” answered Jesus, “is this: . . . Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” —Mark 12:28-30

At Mars Hill, we see that developing knowledge, values, and skills are integral ways of loving God and following what Jesus called the greatest commandment. Pursuing intellectual growth—developing knowledge—is critical to loving God with all your mind. Pursuing spiritual growth—deepening values—is critical to loving God with all your heart and soul. And pursuing personal growth—strengthening skills for life and work—is critical to loving God with all your strength.

. . .through an education that is grounded in a rigorous study of the liberal arts. . .

You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. —John 8:32

“Liberal arts” comes from a Latin phrase meaning “the arts suitable and necessary for free people to govern themselves.” The liberal arts at Mars Hill are rooted in freedom—freedom to explore critical questions of life from different perspectives in the pursuit of truth. Our Baptist heritage strongly emphasizes religious liberty, expressed as the freedom and autonomy of persons and churches in a free state. This heritage nurtures our practice of academic freedom. We recognize that any form of coercive dogmatism claiming to have the only correct version of truth, imposing that view on others, and restricting freedom of inquiry is incompatible with the way we experience the liberal arts and Christian higher education at Mars Hill.

. . .connected to the world of work. . .

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. —Ephesians 4:1

The idea of vocation, or calling, is central to Mars Hill’s mission. God gifts people with a wide variety of abilities and interests and calls them to employ their gifts across the spectrum of professions: ministry, law, medicine, education, business, social work, et al. We want our graduates to find worthwhile work and distinguish themselves in every field by doing good [ethical work—making a life] and doing well [successful work—making a living].

...and committed to character development, to service, and to responsible citizenship in the community, the region, and the world. There are different kinds of service. . . [and] varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. —I Corinthians 12:5-6

At Mars Hill, we balance the freedom inherent in a liberal arts education with responsibility. We challenge our students to become “response-able,” prepared to respond to the difficult challenges of the 21st century with core commitments and activities that serve the common good. We want our graduates to value civic engagement, to be the kind of people who live out their faith commitments in every arena and spend their lives making a positive difference in their homes, in their workplaces, in their communities, and in their world.

Academic Calendar

Summer 2022

Memorial Day Observed–University Holiday	Monday, May 30
Summer Full Term & Short Term 1 Classes Start	Tuesday, May 31
Last day to Add a Full Term or Term 1 Class	Thursday, June 2
Last day to Drop a Full Term or Term 1 Class	Friday, June 3
Lion Life . Saturday, June 18	
Juneteenth Observed–University Holiday	Monday, June 20
Term 1 last day to withdraw from class with grade of W	Tuesday, June 21
Term 1 Ends	Saturday, July 2
Independence Day Observed–University Holiday	Monday, July 4
Summer Short Term 2 Classes Start	Tuesday, July 5
Term 1 Final Grades Due 5:00 p.m.	Wednesday, July 6
Last day to Add a Term 2 Class	Thursday, July 7
Last day to Drop a Term 2 Class	Friday, July 8
Term 2 last day to withdraw from class with grade of W	Tuesday, July 12
Lion Life . Saturday, July 16	
Full Term last day to withdraw from class with grade of W	Tuesday, July 26
Lion Life . Saturday, July 30	
Full Term & Term 2 Ends	Saturday, August 6
All Final Summer Grades Due 8:00 a.m.	Thursday, August 11
Degrees Conferred	Friday, August 12

2022 Late Summer Session Master of Management

MM Online Cohort begins–LSU Term 1 (will not be used 2022)	Tuesday, July 5
Last day to Add–LSU Term 1 (will not be used 2022)	Thursday, July 7
Last day to Drop–LSU Term 1 (will not be used 2022)	Friday, July 8
LSU Term 1 Ends (will not be used 2022)	Saturday, August 6
MM Seated Cohort begins & LSU Online Term 2 Starts	Monday, August 8
Last day to Add–LSU Term 2	Thursday, August 11
Last day to Drop–LSU Term 2	Friday, August 12
LSU Term 2 Ends	Friday, August 26
LSU Final Grades Due 5:00 p.m.	Wednesday, August 31

2022 Fall Semester

Faculty Workshop	Wednesday–Thursday, August 17–18
Residence Halls open for First Year & Transfer Students	Wednesday, August 24
First Year & Transfer Lion’s Roar	Wednesday–Sunday, August 24–28
Residence Halls open for Registered Continuing Students	Sunday, August 28
Advising Day	Monday, August 29
First Day of Classes Full Semester & AGS Short Term I	Tuesday, August 30
AGS Short Term I last day to Add	Thursday, September 1
AGS Short Term I last day to Drop	Friday, September 2
Last day to drop a student from class for non-attendance **	Friday, September 2
Full Semester last day to Add & Internship Applications due	Monday, September 5
Local Lion & Tennessee Neighbor Promise Visit Day	Saturday, September 17
Last day to drop full term class without transcript entry	Monday, September 26
Last to remove “I” Grades from 2022 SP & SU	Monday, September 26
Fall Lionfest Visit Day	Saturday, October 1
AGS Short Term 1 Last day to withdraw from a class with grade of “W”	Monday, October 3

Last day to apply for graduation in December	Monday, October 3
Bascom Lamar Lunsford & Madison County Heritage Festivals	Saturday, October 8
AGS Short Term 1 Classes End	Friday, October 14
Homecoming, Alumni Day	Saturday, October 15
Full Semester Mid-term evaluation week	Monday–Friday, October 17-21
AGS Short Term 2 Classes Start	Monday, October 17
AGS Short Term 1 Final Grades posted by Faculty 8:00 a.m.....	Wednesday, October 19
AGS Short Term 2 last day to Add.....	Thursday, October 20
AGS Short Term 2 last day to Drop	Friday, October 21
Fall Break begins at end of classes.....	Friday, October 21
Fall Break Ends and Full Semester Classes resume, 8 a.m.....	Wednesday, October 26
Full semester mid-term grades due, 8:00 a.m.	Thursday, October 27
Spring Registration Opens.....	Monday, October 31
Full semester Last day to withdraw from a class with grade of “W” **	Thursday, November 3
AGS Short Term 2 Last day to withdraw from a class with grade of “W”	Monday, November 21
Thanksgiving holidays begin at end of classes & Admin Offices Close 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday, November 22
Classes Resume/Offices reopen at 8:00 a.m.	Monday, November 28
Senior Visit Day.....	Saturday, December 3
Finals Week Begins.....	Wednesday, December 7
Full Semester & AGS Short Term 2 Classes End	Tuesday, December 13
Residence Halls close.....	Wednesday, December 14
Full Semester & AGS Short Term 2 Final Grades posted by faculty 8:00 a.m.	Thursday, December 15
Graduation Exercises 3:00 p.m.–Degrees Conferred	Friday, December 16
University Offices Close for Holidays–end of day	Friday, December 16

2023 Spring Semester

Administrative Offices open for Spring Semester	Tuesday, January 3
Residence Halls open for New Students	Thursday, January 5
Residence Halls open for Registered Continuing Students	Sunday, January 8
Advising Day	Monday, January 9
Full Semester & AGS Short Term 1 Classes Start at 8 a.m.	Tuesday, January 10
AGS Short Term 1 last day to Add.....	Thursday, January 12
AGS Short Term 1 last day to Drop	Friday, January 13
Last day to drop student from a class for non-attendance **	Friday, January 13
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day–Classes Suspended	Monday, January 16
Full semester last day to Add & Internship Applications deadline	Tuesday, January 17
Majors & Minors Fair.....	Thursday, February 2
Full Semester Last day to drop ** & Last day to remove “I” Grades from 2022 Fall	Monday, February 6
Last day to apply for graduation in May or August.....	Wednesday, February 8
Accepted Student Visit Day.....	Saturday, February 11
AGS Short Term 1 Last day to withdraw from a class with grade of “W”	Monday, February 13
Choral Festival.....	Fri.–Sat., February 17–18
Full Semester Mid-term evaluation week	Mon–Fri, February 20–24
AGS Short Term 1 Classes End	Friday, February 24
Spring Break begins at end of classes.....	Friday, February 24
Administrative Offices reopen after spring break.....	Wednesday, March 1
Classes Resume After Spring Break 8:00 a.m. & AGS Short Term 2 classes Start.....	Monday, March 6
AGS Short Term 1 Final Grades due 8:00 a.m.....	Tuesday, March 7
Full semester Mid-term grades due, 8:00 a.m.....	Wednesday, March 8
AGS Short Term 2 last day to Add.....	Thursday, March 9
AGS Short Term 2 last day to Drop	Friday, March 10
Summer & Fall Registration Opens	Monday, March 13

Full Term–Last day to withdraw from a class with grade of “W” ** Tuesday, March 14
 Local Lion & Tennessee Neighbor Promise Visit Day..... Thursday, March 16
 Full semester deadline for Juniors/Seniors to indicate S/U grade optionFriday, March 31
 AGS Short Term 2 Last day to withdraw from a class with grade of “W” Monday, April 3
 Good Friday–classes suspended, University Holiday..... Friday, April 7
 Spring Lionfest Visit Day Saturday, April 15
 SLAM–Student Liberal Arts Mosaic–Classes Suspended.....Tuesday, April 18
 Finals Week Begins..... Wednesday, April 26
 Lion Life . Saturday, April 29
 Last Day of ClassesTuesday, May 2
 Residence Halls close at noon..... Wednesday, May 3
 Full Semester & AGS Short Term 2 Final Grades posted by faculty 8:00 a.m..... Thursday, May 4
 Graduation Exercises 9:30 a.m.–Degrees Conferred Saturday, May 6
 Faculty In-service Days TBA
 Memorial Day Observed–University Holiday Monday, May 29

** To maintain full-time status for the semester, traditional students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours.**Notes:**

1. AGS short term classes will meet with the Block 1 & 2 dates

2. To maintain full-time status for the semester, students must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Student Learning Outcomes

Mars Hill University has established learning outcomes to be demonstrated by students upon graduation. These “institutional student learning outcomes” incorporate current views of assessment in liberal education and reflects the university’s mission to provide curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular opportunities for students to grow intellectually, personally, and spiritually. This growth is fostered by the inherent interconnections among all the outcomes and its departments, programs, and offices across the university.

In preparing for a meaningful life and meaningful work, graduates of Mars Hill University demonstrate:

- Knowledge – Graduates apply knowledge acquired in their academic studies and co-curricular activities.
- Effective communication – Graduates communicate effectively using a variety of methods and appropriate technologies.
- Informed, critical, and creative thinking – Graduates identify and solve problems using appropriate methods of inquiry, analysis, critical thinking, and creativity.
- Aesthetic awareness – Graduates comprehend the nature and value of aesthetic experience and expression.
- Personal growth and social responsibility – Graduates cultivate intellectual discipline, physical and spiritual well-being, ethical engagement, and respect for others within diverse communities.

These learning outcomes are consistent with those embraced by the Association of American Colleges and Universities in its “Liberal Education for America’s Promise” campaign. Mars Hill University’s outcomes, though, reflect our distinctive emphasis on liberal arts education that integrates general and subject area knowledge in preparation for lifelong learning and achievement. These outcomes are the product of campus-wide collaborative efforts to establish a framework that curricular, co-curricular, and extra curricular programs use to define program-level outcomes.

Telephone Directory

Emergency (Campus Security) 1230

(All phone numbers begin with (828) 689-----)

Academic Departments Location Ext.

Academic Dean.....	Marshbanks.....	1156
Art.....	Moore.....	1209
Biology.....	Wall.....	1144
Business Administration.....	Day.....	1127
Chemistry.....	Wall.....	1144
Education.....	Nash.....	1204
English.....	Cornwell.....	1515
Fashion Marketing.....	Day.....	1385
Foreign Languages.....	Cornwell.....	1515
Health/PE/Recreation.....	Chambers.....	1219
History.....	Cornwell.....	1515
International Education.....	Cornwell.....	1208
Library.....	Renfro.....	1244
Mathematics.....	Wall.....	1144
Music.....	Moore.....	1209
Nursing.....	Ferguson HSC.....	1600
Religion.....	Cornwell.....	1515
Political Science.....	Founders.....	1338
Psychology.....	Founders.....	1186
Social Work.....	Founders.....	1303
Sociology.....	Founders.....	1186
Theatre Arts.....	Spilman.....	1377

Administrative Departments..... Location Ext.

Admissions.....	Ferguson M/S.....	1201
Alumni.....	Jarvis House.....	1102
Business Office.....	Marshbanks.....	1100
Advancement.....	Jarvis House.....	1102
Facilities Management.....	Park Drive.....	1246
Financial Aid.....	Marshbanks.....	1123
Food Services.....	Pittman Dining.....	1221
Lion's Den.....	Wren.....	1258
Hilltop Cafe.....	Day.....	1321
Human Resources.....	Nash.....	1200
Information Technology Services.....	Wall.....	1346
IT Help Desk.....	Wall.....	1444
Marketing/Communications.....	Spilman.....	1298
President's Office.....	Marshbanks.....	1111
Provost.....	Marshbanks.....	1156
Registrar.....	Marshbanks.....	1151

Ramsey Center/Appalachian St. Loc. Ext.

Appalachian Room.....	Renfro.....	1262
Ramsey Center.....	Renfro.....	1115

Campus Life..... Loc Ext.

Bookstore.....	Day.....	1248
Campus Security.....	Wren.....	1230
Campus Post Office.....	Wren.....	1411
Career Center.....	Day.....	1122
CSS (Center for Student Success).....	Renfro.....	1480
Chaplains.....	Bentley.....	1664/1299
Conferences/Events.....	Spilman.....	1167
Counseling Services.....	Nash.....	1196
Disability Services.....	Renfro.....	1410
First Year Experience.....	Wren.....	1481
Ctr. for Community Engagement.....	Wall.....	1162
Media Center.....	Cornwell.....	1515
Residence Life.....	Wren.....	1253
Rural Heritage Museum.....	Montague.....	1400
Student Support Services.....	Renfro.....	1380
Student Work.....	Nash.....	1736
Title IX Office.....	Nash.....	1197
Student Health Center.....	Nash.....	1243

Sports Location Ext.

Athletics.....	Ammons.....	1219
Sports Information Director.....	Chambers.....	1363

Student Life..... Location Ext.

Student Life Office.....	Wren.....	1253
Student Government.....	Wren.....	1253
Campus Engagement and Leadership.....	Wren.....	1253
Cadenza Publication.....	Wren.....	1439

Theatre Location Ext.

Information/Box Office.....	Owen.....	1239
Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre (SART).....	Owen.....	1384

UNIVERSITY SERVICES

Academic Program

The academic program of the university includes all persons and activities related directly to registration, the program of instruction, and the recording and reporting of grades. Details concerning academic requirements and procedures are contained in the Academic Catalog. Information in this part of the handbook is designed to be explanatory in nature and should not be used as a substitute for your Academic Catalog.

First Year Seminar

All first-year students take FYS 111: First Year Seminar, a theme-based course designed to provide an orientation to the liberal arts, ways of learning, and campus resources. FYS 111 aims also to help students develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions it will take to succeed at the university. It is the first of a two-semester “FYS” sequence, which is central to the “Foundations” component of the university’s general education curriculum.

FYS 111 classes typically have no more than 18 students, plus a student mentor to support student transition and learning. The FYS 111 instructor serves as the first-year student’s academic advisor during the first year. As the student’s first academic advisor, the FYS 111 instructor orients students to the concept of academic advising in the university setting, helps them learn the skills necessary to be a participant in the process of registration and scheduling, and works with them on major exploration with a view towards career and life goals.

International Education

Mars Hill University recognizes the importance of global awareness and supports academic programs that emphasize international/intercultural education. Through the General Education sequence of courses, global learning and understanding will be central to the student’s academic experience.

International students are valued highly at the university and international student orientation and advising are important responsibilities of the Director of International Education. Information about admission is available at the Admissions tab of the university website.

The university also offers an International Studies major. Through an interdisciplinary approach, students take courses in a wide range of fields. Moreover, the university offers over 60 courses of an international nature in many different disciplines.

Music

The following ensembles, sponsored by the Department of Music, are open to Mars Hill University students regardless of major. Students interested in participating in the music department ensembles can find additional information at www.mhu.edu/music.

The University Choir is the primary choral group on the campus of the university. The choir rehearses daily in preparation for its schedule of performances throughout the academic year. The singers perform regularly with the instrumental ensembles in concerts held on campus and tour regularly in the region, performing for church, university, public school, and community functions. The choir has performed major works with both the Asheville Symphony Orchestra and the South Carolina Philharmonic and has appeared regularly for conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and the Music Educators National Conference. The choir has several thousand alumni who return to campus regularly to participate in the Homecoming choral events.

The Marching Mountain Lion Band is open to all students by Director approval. The marching band appears at all home football games and select community events throughout the season.

The Wind Symphony is the primary instrumental ensemble at the university. Admission is by audition. The wind symphony performs campus concerts throughout the year and has appeared at state and regional conferences such as North Carolina Music Educators Association and the College Band Directors National Association. In the spring semester this ensemble travels on a one-week recruiting tour.

The Jazz Ensemble includes trumpet, trombone, saxophone and rhythm section players. Admission is by audition. The ensemble meets weekly and performs each semester for campus and community events.

Chamber Ensembles for woodwinds, brass, and percussion are organized each semester. Admission is by audition. Ensembles vary depending on class size, but commonly include woodwind quintet, clarinet quartet, brass quintet, low brass choir and percussion ensemble.

Registration and Schedule Changes

Registration: Courses are offered on a semester basis with schedules published in Colleague Self-Service in October and March for the following semesters. Registration with advisors is held for continuing students during the fall and spring semesters. Continuing students not registered during registration may register at the beginning of the semester with new students. Continuing students are encouraged to register as early as possible in the registration cycle. No student may attend class unless cleared by the Business Office and officially registered.

Class Add: During the first five days (two days in summer terms) of class a student may make schedule changes with advisor authorization. Normally, no course may be added after these 5 days (2 in summer); however, exceptions may be made with the approval of the instructor and the registrar. Any instructor may refuse to accept a student after the initial registration period if too much subject matter has already been covered. If a student fails to attend a class during the first four days of regular classes, the faculty member may request that the student be dropped from the class roll.

Class Drop: A student is allowed to drop a course, with advisor authorization, during the first 20 days of classes (two weeks for short-term classes; five days for summer session classes). All courses on the student's schedule after that deadline are considered courses attempted and will appear on the student's transcript.

Class Withdrawal: After the last drop date and before the stated deadline in the academic calendar (day following fall or spring breaks in regular terms; after 4-weeks in the Adult Studies 9-week terms), a student is allowed to withdraw from a class with a grade of "W" as long as the student remains full-time (12 semester hours) after the withdrawal. After this stated deadline, a student may not withdraw from class/classes, but must withdraw from the university (see section below). Courses for which a grade of "W" is posted will remain on the transcript but the grade will not be calculated in the grade point average.

Study Abroad

Mars Hill University values study abroad as an important element of a student's international education. Through a variety of programs, students can find ample options to study, work or participate in service learning/volunteering projects in virtually all areas of the world. There are opportunities to study in virtually every part of the world! Recent MHU students have studied in Japan, Mexico, England, the Netherlands, Tanzania, Australia, Hungary, Chile, and Costa Rica. For information about studying abroad, please contact Maria Moreno. (Contact info below.)

The university has affiliations with several organizations that provide both short and long term study abroad opportunities. Students are eligible to study at more than 100 universities on five continents through the ISEP program (www.isep.org). The university also has affiliations with other credit granting schools and programs, including Regents College in London (www.regents.ac.uk). It is also possible to register directly with other American or foreign programs and transfer both elective and required credits back to the university.

For more information about study abroad opportunities, please contact:

Maria Moreno
Cornwell 310
(828) 689-1191
mmoreno@mhu.edu

Theatre

The Theatre Arts Department offers two degree programs:

B.A. in Theatre Arts
B.F.A. in Musical Theatre

Both degrees are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

Four mainstage productions are presented each year including musicals, full-length plays and, in alternate years, an evening of one-act plays. The department also sponsors Showstoppers, a musical theatre ensemble. The Department of Theatre participates in South Eastern Theatre Conference (SETC) and the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival (KC/ACTF). Theatre is a well-established art form on campus, and auditions are open to all students. Any student interested in participation backstage is encouraged to contact the Chair, Sue Fair, at 689-1377. Almost all of the theatrical activities are produced in the university's intimate and versatile Owen Theatre. The Theatre Arts Offices are located on the fourth floor of Spilman Hall and the Theatre Box Office is located in Day Hall, (828) 689-1239.

The Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre (SART) is a professional theatre operating on campus primarily during the summer months, and produces several plays in Owen Theatre each season. There is a strong commitment to presenting original work dramas by or about people from the Appalachian region, and a balanced selection of other musicals, comedies and drama. The SART business phone number is (828) 689-1384.

Adult and Graduate Studies

Undergraduate Adult Studies

Mars Hill University offers accelerated degree and licensure programs for adult students in the evenings and on weekends through the Adult Studies program. Non-traditional times and multiple locations are features of the Adult Studies program which make the university experience possible for working adults, many of whom may have full-time jobs and family responsibilities. Students may begin or continue their education toward a bachelor's degree, licensure in education, or master's degree.

Adult Studies classes are offered on campus, on line, and in Burnsville. Enrollment may be for one course or for several each semester. Some classes may be offered in a short-term format, while others meet the full university semester. Majors offered in Adult Studies include Integrated Education, Business Management, Criminal Justice, Social Work, and R.N. to B.S.N. (registered nurse to bachelor of science in nursing). Licensure programs are offered in Education, Reading Specialist, AIG (Academically Intellectually Gifted), and Special Education. A limited amount of credit may be earned through credit by examinations and internships. These options are the same as for traditional day students.

Adult Studies students should be at least 23 years of age or working during the day. Students should submit an Adult Studies application and all high school and college official transcripts to the Admissions office and pay the \$25 application fee. SAT and ACT scores are not required for Adult Studies undergraduate applicants.

Admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis, usually within two weeks of receipt of the completed application.

Graduate Studies

Master of Education in Integrated Education (M.Ed.)

Specifically designed as a practitioner's degree, for candidates who wish to acquire the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to work in a professional field (K-6 Elementary or K-12 Special Education). As a professional degree, the M.Ed. is intended for candidates that already hold a teaching certificate/licensure in any content area. If you do not hold a certificate/licensure you will need to qualify for a provisional certificate as a conditional admission requirement. The M.Ed. program is research-based in that consideration of educationally relevant research constitutes a major focus of study and students are normally required to take several research-relevant courses. Student teaching is not required as part of this program, however, field work will be required.

Master of Management

The Master of Management (M.M.) program is designed for students who are just completing their undergraduate experience and desire a focused exposure to knowledge, skills, and habits of mind that will support a successful launching of their career. A highlight of the program is a full-time internship experience related to the student's career goals. While the focus of the program is on knowledge and skills related to working in the business arena, the program will also be beneficial to students interested in working for non-profit or governmental organizations. Application to the program is open to students from any major as long as the program prerequisites are met. Classes for the M.M. are offered on the Mars Hill campus. Refer to the university Graduate Catalog for additional information.

Master of Arts in Criminal Justice

The Master of Arts in Criminal Justice (M.A.C.J.) Program is a fully-online graduate program that provides individuals who have a four-year degree from an accredited institution of higher education an opportunity to obtain a graduate degree in criminal justice. The curriculum greatly expands on criminal justice coursework learned at the undergraduate level but also provides a sufficient foundation for people who do not have a degree in criminal justice that will enhance their ability to matriculate to graduation. Coursework will equip students with knowledge of system components, crime

trends, criminological theory, and criminal justice policy, combined with a thorough understanding of the scientific method and the importance of ethics associated with the use of human subjects in the scholarly research enterprise. The M.A.C.J. Program also includes practical and career-based training. Students have various opportunities to customize their educational experience by developing specialization areas, interning at criminal justice agencies, and participating in independent research. The degree will be finalized with a culminating experience via the successful completion of a thesis project, comprehensive exams, or a capstone course that incorporates students' critical analysis of theory and policy to crime and criminal justice phenomena.

The M.A.C.J. Program is designed especially for the working professional and students can opt to complete the 30-credit program online on a part-time (3-6 credit hours/semester) or full-time (9 credit hours/semester) basis. Elective courses are also offered during the summer. Refer to the university's Graduate Catalog for additional information.

Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)

This is the degree most often pursued by people who hold a bachelor's degree outside of education and want hands-on teaching experience to work directly with students. The MAT focuses heavily on advanced coursework in a specific subject to hone your expertise. Coursework for the MAT also focuses on pedagogical theory and implementation. Essentially, the MAT will teach you how to be a teacher: methodology, stylistic approach, etc. The Master of Arts in Teaching consists of hands-on experience that places you in a classroom as a student teacher to practice what you are learning. Prerequisite course(s) may be required depending on the area of study for bachelor's degree held. These prerequisites will be determined via a transcript evaluation.

Bookstore

The MHU Bookstore is located on the corner of Main and College Streets in Day Hall. Fall/spring business hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. The store is open on Saturdays during scheduled university events and is closed on Sundays and official school holidays. Shopping is available online at www.mhbookstore.com.

Return Policies

Cash register receipts must accompany all returns.

General Merchandise: General merchandise may be returned within a 24 hour period. Defective merchandise may be returned within five working days and will be replaced at no charge.

Clothing and Insignia Items: There are no refunds on clothing or insignia purchases. Clothing may be exchanged, size for size within a 48-hour period. Defective merchandise due to manufacturer errors will be replaced at no charge.

Business Office

The Business Office offers services to students and is the location where students conduct any financial transactions, such as picking up work study checks or paying parking fines. The Business Office is located on the second floor of Marshbanks Hall.

Student insurance—All persons (including students) are required to carry health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act. With changes in healthcare law, there are a number of new options for students to obtain insurance including through their parents' providers, through a private company, or via the Marketplace at www.healthcare.gov. Mars Hill University does not offer student insurance through the institution. Please explore your options and obtain insurance prior to your arrival on campus.

Campus Security

Campus Security, or the Department of Safety and Security, is located on the third floor of Wren Student Union. It maintains a full staff of highly-trained security officers who are charged with the responsibility and the authority to enforce the Mars Hill University Traffic Code, the University Student Code of Conduct (where applicable), to report and, in conjunction with the Mars Hill Police Department, to investigate crimes that occur on university property, and to assist all law enforcement agencies with the enforcement of local, state and federal laws.

The mission of Campus Security is to enrich the quality of life at the university by providing a safe and secure environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors, consistent with the values and educational goals of the university. That quality should enhance the pursuit of learning and personal growth and build community partnerships based on mutual respect, cooperation and trust. Campus Security takes an all-hazards approach to manage threats and proactively reduce risk to the students, faculty, staff and visitors. The department has adopted the guiding principles of respect, integrity, service, and excellence.

Clery Report

In accordance with the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act, more commonly known as the Clery Act, contained in section 485 of the Higher Education Act, codified at 20 U.S.C. § 1092, Mars Hill University annually publishes information about crimes, including hate crimes, that occur on campus. The university's annual report can be found at the following web page: www.mhu.edu/campus-life/campus-security.

Reporting Criminal Activity, Accidents, Safety and Security Incidents

In any life-threatening event, the student should first call 911.

It is the responsibility of the student to immediately notify the Department of Safety and Security of any known suspected criminal activity, accidents, or safety and security related incidents. In non-life-threatening events, Safety and Security will determine what level of response is required and will coordinate the response by area police, fire, or EMS as needed. Most calls for service can be handled by the department without assistance from an outside agency. All calls for service will be handled promptly and with the highest level of professionalism.

Federal law mandates the university and Department of Safety and Security maintain accurate and detailed record of crime that occurs on campus. If you are a victim of crime or witness a crime, you should report it to the Department of Safety and Security immediately. Any accident that occurs on campus or campus property should be reported promptly.

Center for Community Engagement (CCE)

The Center for Community Engagement develops deep and meaningful student learning opportunities that incorporate mutually beneficial partnerships to meet needs in the community, region and world. The Center is committed to establishing and sustaining relationships with non-profits and governmental agencies to promote student learning that builds responsible citizenship, character development, and connection to the world of work.

Students who are interested in volunteer experiences should contact the office to receive weekly email updates of service opportunities in our area.

Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Center for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (CDEI) is charged by the trustees and senior leadership of the university to plan and implement diversity, equity and inclusion programs in and around the campus community.

Diversity is recognizing that the institution is made up of a mixture of people who have had varying experiences. Equity is the awareness of diversity and creating opportunities for people to have equal access and participation in opportunities.

Inclusion is intentional, sustained equitable actions by the institution, to create a culture that reflects its diverse community.

MHU demonstrates diversity, equity and inclusion awareness through the efforts of the CDEI and its commitment to respecting and valuing these differences. The CDEI's mission is to create an environment that fosters inclusion and provides opportunities for the diverse students, staff and faculty at MHU to interact with and learn from each other and strive to form a collaborative and supportive educational environment, that treats every person equally with dignity and respect.

The Center for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion is located in Renfro Library, Room 202. Director of the Center for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion is Jonathan McCoy, 828.689.1508, jonathan_mccoy@mhu.edu.

Center for Religious and Spiritual Life

The Center for Religious and Spiritual Life provides opportunities for spiritual and faith development, mission and service, and ministry, along with pastoral care and spiritual coaching services.

Staff University Chaplain: Rev. Stephanie McLeskey, 828.689.1299, smcleskey@mhu.edu

Assistant Chaplain:

Crossroads Services

Crossroads services are weekly community worship services, on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in Broyhill Chapel. These services highlight the intersection of faith and reason through music, prayer, sermons, readings, and other contributions from the community. Students regularly provide worship leadership as speakers, readers, and musicians.

Campus Ministry Organizations

Campus ministries and student religious/spiritual organizations are advised by faculty, staff, or community-based campus ministers with support from the CRSL. These groups provide student-led worship services, discussion groups, Bible study, service opportunities, and fellowship events for the university community. If you would like to be involved, or if you would like to start something new, reach out to get the support you need!

Mission Opportunities

The CRSL works to provide service and mission opportunities in Madison County and further afield. Longer trips typically take place during spring break and in May. These trips are open to any student who would like to travel and participate in service projects and cultural immersion experiences. In recent years, students have served internationally in Guatemala, Haiti, and Honduras, as well as in-country in Atlanta, Nashville, Texas, and Alaska.

Center for Student Success (CSS)

The Center for Student Success is an office specifically designed to assist students in making the most of their academic experience at Mars Hill University. Comprised of multiple functioning areas, CSS integrates the mission of the university through curricular and co-curricular experiences. As students navigate their college experience, the CSS staff works to ensure students are connected to campus resources while establishing life-long relationships in their home away from home. The Center for Student Success is located in Renfro 205.

The Center for Student Success supports students by:

- connecting them to a wide range of campus resources and services.
- creating action plans with students to enhance success in their academic endeavors.
- providing quiet study space and free coffee.
- sharing effective study skills and techniques.

- providing regular feedback through faculty feedback surveys as well as Early Alerts via LionTrax
- organizing supplemental instruction for selected courses.
- offering workshops related to success in college and beyond.
- supporting students who are working to get back into good academic standing.

Early Alerts

In addition to programming, LionTrax is a tool that the Center for Student Success uses to communicate with students and instructors about issues that may be affecting student success.

When an instructor submits a LionTrax Alert, the Center for Student Success will work with advisors, other instructors, coaches, and Student Life staff to reach out to the student. This gives students the opportunity to take some action to increase their chances of success. Students are urged to speak with their instructor, academic advisor, and/or others on campus who may offer assistance. Of course, students are always welcome to visit the CSS office if they have questions or concerns about the LionTrax Alerts they receive.

Whether you are a first-year student still making the transition to college and finding your way around campus or a junior who is suddenly struggling with classes, The Center for Student Success is here for you.

Math Center

See separate section.

Writing Center

See separate section.

Commuter Students

Students who are eligible to commute based on the criteria listed in Off Campus Residence Requirements, must provide the following documentation to the Office of Residence Life before the first class day of the fall semester in August.

1. A notarized letter stating that they are commuting from the legal permanent address of their parents from the following counties: Buncombe, Burke, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, Mitchell, McDowell, Transylvania, Yancey, and Unicoi in Tennessee;
2. A completed commuter application and contract on www.mhu.edu/housingportal. If the contract is not displayed on their home page or on their applications page, then email residence-life@mhu.edu with their ID number, full name and a request for a commuter application.

Commuter students are expected to be good citizens. Commuter students are encouraged to review the MHU Student Handbook Policies. It is strongly encouraged that commuter students review city, county, state and federal regulations.

Commuter Parking

All commuters are required to register any vehicle that will ever be on campus.

Commuter Resources

Commuter students are an important part of the MHU community. These students have a wonderful “home” on the second floor of Wren Student Union in the Blue Lounge. Lockers are provided on the first floor of the Wren Student Union behind the campus mail room. Locks are not provided by MHU and the institution is not responsible for lost or stolen property.

Cothran Center for Career Readiness

The Cothran Center for Career Readiness at Mars Hill University assists students in the career decision-making process, as well as with career development opportunities during and after graduation. The Center aims to provide students with the resources to help make informed choices, develop experience and skills in their fields of interest, and to apply their personal values, preferences, and strengths towards a rewarding career path. We also try to increase students' understanding of the value and marketability of a liberal arts education in the world of work. Building meaningful networks related to job opportunities, internships and a wide variety of for-profit, non-profit, and public organizations is part of this program. Mars Hill University alumni, community partners, and parents can play an important role in the network.

Handshake is an online platform that the university has made available to all students. More than just another jobs board, Handshake can serve as each student's personal career preparation and job search hub. By completing personal profiles and other tasks, recruiters from across the globe will be able to find MHU students through one centralized network.

Other services provided by the Center are mock interviews, resume guidance, career fairs, internship ideas, and resource libraries for job seekers. The Center is located on the second floor of Day Hall, and you are encouraged to stop by and talk with our staff about your career concerns.

Counseling Services

Phillip M. Brantley, M.A., LCMHC, LCASA, NCC, Director of Counseling Services

Noreal F. Armstrong, Ph.D., LCMHCS, NCC, University Counselor

The Mars Hill University Counseling Center is an inclusive, nonjudgmental, and safe space where students can receive emotional support for their mental health experiences. Stress, anxiety, depression, grief, trauma, and alcohol/substance use are common concerns for college students. Counseling services are free and confidential for all MHU students. The counseling center offers the following support services for students: short-term and long-term counseling, consultation sessions, counseling groups, mediation services, campus-wide screenings for mental health and for alcohol/substance use, educational workshops, and referrals to outside providers for evaluation, treatment, and/or medication management.

The counseling center is located in Nash, Room 109. Office hours are 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and by appointment. Appointments can be made through email, by contacting counseling@mhu.edu, or by calling (828) 689-1196. Walk-in appointments are accepted during office hours.

For more information, please visit our webpage at www.mhu.edu/counseling-center.

Dining Services

All campus dining is operated by Chartwells. Items can be purchased with meal plans, equivalencies, cash, debit, or credit, depending on the outlet. Hours, menus, special events, and information for all of the venues are posted on dineoncampus.com/marshall.

- Pittman Dining Hall is an all-you-care-to-eat dining outlet in which guests pay in advance for their meal with either a meal plan, cash, credit, or debit. Salads, sandwiches, hot line items, and a variety of snacks are all available for breakfast, lunch and dinner as dine-in items.
- The Lion's Den provides a variety of food and drink items for dine-in and/or take-out. Items at The Lion's Den are available for purchase by Cosmo Cash, cash, credit, debit, or meal plan equivalency.
- The Hilltop Café is located in Day Hall and provides on-the-go items like sandwiches and salads along with a We Proudly Brew Starbucks counter. Items at the Café are available for purchase by Cosmo Cash, cash, credit, debit, or meal plan equivalency.

Financial Aid

The financial balance due from a student who withdraws will be computed on total charges for tuition, room and campus dining, but not on other charges and fines. Please consult with the Office of Financial Aid as well as with the Business Office when considering withdrawal from the university.

- Withdrawals during weeks one through nine will be pro-rated in accordance with the Department of Education's calculation of a student's attendance based on number of days enrolled. Financial obligation includes all general program fees that are charged 100%. Tuition, room and board are pro-rated based on the Department of Ed calculations.
- Withdrawals during week 10 or above will result in financial obligation of 100%. A student suspended for disciplinary purposes does not receive reductions and is liable for the cost of the entire semester. If a student withdraws, university scholarships will be prorated according to the appropriate schedule. Federal aid is determined by the Return of Title IV Funds guidelines. (See Academic Section for the academic record consequences of withdrawal and the process for official withdrawal from the university.) If the financial aid package exceeds direct costs (tuition, room, board, and course-related fees), a student may receive a refund from the Business Office. Financial aid packages generally can exceed direct costs only if the student secures a loan. Refunds resulting from excess financial aid will not be issued until all financial aid funding has been received by the university. A student officially withdrawing from school should follow a specific withdrawal procedure initiated in the Registrar's Office.

Mailroom

The campus mailroom is located on the first floor of Wren Student Union and provides a mailbox for all faculty, staff, and students. The mailroom offers basic postage and mail services. Please note that Mars Hill University is not liable for any mail lost or damaged in transit through the United States Post Office (USPS).

The campus mailroom is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (except school closings and federal holidays). Students are encouraged to check their boxes on a daily basis.

Keys for the mailboxes are issued at the beginning of fall semester to new students. The key is the property of the university; a fee of \$25.00 is assessed to replace a lost key. All keys must be returned to the Mail Room upon graduation or withdrawal from the university.

United States Post Office mail should be sent to your P.O. Box number. Packages sent via FedEx, DHL, UPS, etc. should be sent to you addressed to 100 Athletic Street, Mars Hill, N.C. 28754.

Individuals must present their MHU ID to pick up any package(s). Package(s) not picked up before closing on the day of notification may not be obtained until the next business day. Security will not allow entry into the mailroom. Any package not picked up within seven business days of notification may be returned to sender.

Math Center

The MHU Math Center, located both online and in Renfro Library – Mindspace 215B, offers free assistance with assignments for math courses. Students may bring assignments, class notes, and partially-completed assignments. Peer tutors will be happy to help students with their questions.

The Penji scheduling system allows students to make a one-on-one appointment with a tutor by signing in with their MHU username and password at web.penjiapp.com. Then the student may select from a list of available hours and also from available tutors.

Students may also drop into the math center, when it's open, to receive assistance without an appointment. Hours of operation will be posted on-line and around campus for students' information. If the library is closed, the door to the right of the main entrance provides access to the math center.

Email kjamerson@mhu.edu or mathcenter@mhu.edu with any questions/concerns with the MHU Math Center.

PAWS Program

PAWS is a co-curricular program that serves to complement the MHU liberal arts curriculum, and is a graduation requirement for traditional undergraduate students. In order to complete the requirement, students must attend 42 events, spread across four different categories, over four years (students who are at MHU for less than four years will have that number prorated). A category will be considered “complete” when a student has attended 7 events in that category. There are also 14 elective events built into the program to allow a student to focus on a particular area, or to continue attending a wide variety of events.

The categories of PAWS events are:

- **Purpose/Calling:** These events focus on life/career/vocational discernment – helping a student imagine what they want their life to look like, and teaching tools and skills to help meet that goal.
- **Arts/Academics:** These events engage students with the academic departments at MHU in ways that are different from the “typical” classroom experience – including theatre productions, political debates, art openings, guest speakers, and a wide variety of other opportunities.
- **Well-being:** These events emphasize physical and mental wellness – helping students to develop positive habits of wellness, and helping them appreciate the value of those habits.
- **Spiritual formation/Character:** These events focus on spiritual and character development – engaging students in reflection of what kind of person they want to be, and how they connect with God/humanity/community.

Students are strongly advised to attend 6 events per semester (one in each category, plus two “electives”), leaving their final semester for catch-up if needed.

Required number of events, based on number of semesters at MHU:

# Semesters at MHU	Total # events required	# Events/category	# Electives
8 or more	42	7	14
7	36	6	12
6	30	5	10
5	24	4	8
4	18	3	6
3	12	2	4
2	6	1	2

Ramsey Center for Appalachian Studies

The Liston B. Ramsey Center for Appalachian Studies supports the regional studies focus of the Mars Hill University curriculum; houses resources for teaching and scholarship; and offers a venue in which students, faculty, staff, and community members come together for a range of programs and events. The Ramsey Center grew out of the Southern Appalachian Center, established in 1972 to support people of the region as they developed programs of social and cultural preservation, renewal, and celebration utilizing the resources of Mars Hill College. In December 2002, the college renamed the Southern Appalachian Center to honor Liston B. Ramsey, the former Speaker of the House of North Carolina. Prior to his death in 2001, Mr. Ramsey named Mars Hill College, his alma mater, as the repository for his papers and the memorabilia from his long and distinguished legislative career. In keeping with Liston Ramsey’s lifelong commitment to western North Carolina and to education, the center named in his honor encourages the study of this region through the extensive archival holdings in the Southern Appalachian Archives and through public programs, including the Bascom Lamar Lunsford “Minstrel of Appalachia” Festival which takes place the first Saturday in October

each year. The Ramsey Center is housed in Renfro Library. Dr. Karen Paar is the Director (689-1262). Leila Weinstein is the Program Coordinator and Director of the Lunsford Festival (689-1571).

Southern Appalachian Archives

The Southern Appalachian Archives holds a rich collection of photographs, documents, recordings, and artifacts related to the region's history and culture. Notable collections include the Bascom Lamar Lunsford Collection of handwritten ballads, instruments, and a scrapbook that captures music and dance traditions of Southern Appalachia; the James G.K. McClure Collection of photographs, correspondence, publications, and scrapbooks that documents the work of the Farmers Federation cooperative organization in western North Carolina; and the Gertrude M. Ruskin Collection of Cherokee artifacts. The Southern Appalachian Archives is also home to photographs, publications, and other materials that pertain to the Baptist Church in western North Carolina and to the history of Mars Hill University. The Southern Appalachian Archives reading room is located in the Ramsey Center on the first floor of Renfro Library. Dr. Karen Paar (689-1262) is the Archivist, and Patrick Cash (689-1581) is the Archives Associate.

Recreation Facilities

Recreation Center

The Recreation Center provides programs and activities to help students develop skills in new situations and develop interpersonal skills such as teamwork and leadership. Those involved with the outdoor component of the Recreation Center host trips that take advantage of the spectacular local venues for rafting, hiking, and climbing.

The Recreation Center includes ping-pong, pool tables, and foosball. Tournaments and other events to help connect students with similar interests are hosted here.

Taylor Fitness Center

The Taylor Fitness Center is located on the first floor of the Wren Student Union and offers students, faculty, and staff a convenient opportunity to maintain a fit and healthy lifestyle through access to cardio and strength building equipment. Employees, spouses, and dependent children 18 years and older may use Taylor Fitness Center, after obtaining an ID card in the Student Life Office. The facility is open daily, except during holidays and university breaks. The responsibility for safe use of the equipment, cleaning after using equipment, and putting away equipment after use is the sole responsibility of the user. Memberships to the Taylor Fitness Center are available for community members at a nominal fee.

Renfro Library

Renfro Library strives to provide all users with a welcoming, comfortable, and safe environment promoting intellectual exploration and learning; access to well-managed and diverse library collections; and helpful, knowledgeable staff. For detailed information on collections, resources, services, and policies, visit the Renfro website www.library.mhu.edu. Library users are expected to maintain behavior that respects the rights of others to study, conduct research, and work in the library. Library users are to act responsibly, appropriately, and respectfully in order to preserve the library's environment, facilities, and collections.

Library users assume responsibility for any materials borrowed for use (including books, reserves, interlibrary loan items, equipment, and study carrels). Misuse of library materials or equipment (including keeping materials beyond their due date) may incur fines and/or restrictions on future library privileges.

Residence Life

Mars Hill University is primarily a residential university. We offer a variety of housing options from traditional residence halls to apartment style housing. Our newest residential facilities are Laurel Residence Hall and Dogwood Residence Hall. Dickson Palmer Unit A and Dickson Palmer Unit C both underwent extensive renovations.

Mission Statement

The Office of Residence Life (HRL) at Mars Hill University (MHU) provides a comfortable, safe, well-maintained and equipped housing facility that fosters an atmosphere conducive to each resident's personal growth and academic success. A student's education is enhanced by providing leadership opportunities, social activities, and quality educational and cultural programs while encouraging responsible citizenship.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Office of Residence Life is to champion knowledge and experiences that promote and encourage ethical citizenship and successful leadership in an ever-changing world.

Community Living Values

- **Accountability:** Support a community where individuals take responsibility for their own actions.
- **Communication:** Engage in a community where open dialogue is encouraged and appreciated. Students are expected to be respectful to others when sharing or receiving information and opinions.
- **Empathy:** Strengthen a community that demonstrates compassion and caring for all things.
- **Inclusion:** Embrace a community where individual differences are acknowledged and accepted.
- **Integrity:** Contribute to a community where ethical decisions are at the root of all actions.
- **Respect:** Interact in a community where courtesy is shown to self, others, and environment.

The environment of a residence hall is largely dependent upon the cooperation, interest, and participation of each student. Individual responsibility and initiative are essential characteristics for the residents to create a positive living environment.

The Office of Residence Life is responsible for all aspects of on-campus living including staffing, operations, programming, training, and policy development. Residents are encouraged to come by the Student Life Office and talk with the professional staff if they have a concern or comment about the residence halls.

Consolidation

Students may not live alone unless they are living in a designated single room and/or paying for a private room. Any student who is living alone and paying the double room rate must make the room available for any other student to move in at any time during the semester. Students who refuse to accept a roommate will automatically be assessed a private room rate from the date they first had the room to themselves. Students cannot create a consolidation situation by moving to an empty room and choosing it as a double. Students with private rooms may be required to accept new roommates at some later date by the Office of Residence Life if space is needed.

Consolidation begins after the first 10 business days of the semester and lasts for two weeks. During consolidation, you will be contacted via email from the Office of Residence Life. In the email you will receive instruction on what options are available for you. The Office of Residence Life will assist students in finding a roommate by providing a list of other students who are in similar situations. However, it is up to the student to actively work to find a new roommate through contacting individuals on the list provided. If a student refuses to select a roommate or refuses to pay for a private room, a roommate will be automatically assigned. If you do not receive an email with information about consolidation, then it is the responsibility of the resident to contact the Office of Residence Life immediately.

Damages and Fines

Students will be assessed for any damage in their assigned room unless another individual takes responsibility for the damage in writing. An incident of damage in the common area of the building/apartment caused by unknown person(s) may result in collective assessment against students residing in the area in which the damage occurred.

Housing Agreement

All students living on campus must sign a housing and food service agreement during the room preference process or admission to MHU. All housing agreements are for the regular academic year beginning the first day of the traditional fall term and ending on the last exam of spring term, not including extended breaks (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring & Summer). By signing the housing agreement, the student agrees to abide by the student handbook. Students who participate in the room preference process who break their housing agreement after the last day in May will be charged a cancellation fee of \$325. All students must complete a medical form and immunization records, have a copy of health insurance cards on file with the Director of Wellness Services, and have completed all of their stops PRIOR to moving into the halls.

The university may terminate a student's housing assignment for any of the following reasons;

1. the student is not registered as a full-time student carrying twelve (12) credits;
2. the student ceases to attend classes;
3. the student fails to meet all terms and conditions stated in the student housing agreement;
4. the student violates university policies and/or if the student's presence will pose danger to other member of the university community or a normal operation of university housing; or
5. by mutual agreement between the student and the Office of Residence Life.

The University reserves all rights in connection with assignment or re assignment of rooms.

Students may break their agreements if they meet the following criteria:

1. official withdrawal from the university
2. ineligibility to continue enrollment due to failure to meet academic standards or other requirements of the university;
3. completion of graduation requirements,
4. failure to register for classes, or other circumstances deemed by the university to be beyond their complete control.

Housing and Residence Life Staff

Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life is responsible for the overall planning, organization, implementation, and supervision of all campus housing services and personnel.

Assistant Director of Housing is instrumental in planning, operation and implementation of student housing to ensure a positive, healthy and safe living and learning environment for the students.

Area Coordinators are live-on staff members assisting in the development of students in the first-year communities and managing the safety and security of the residents. The Area Coordinator is responsible for the general development, administration, and supervision of the student staff in the community.

Resident Assistants (RA) work to establish a safe and accepting environment for his or her residential community by offering support, information, and opportunities for education and entertainment throughout the year.

Meal Plan Requirement

Please see also the Dining Services Section, above.

All students living in campus housing are required to have a meal plan. The meals/bonus bucks do not carry over from one semester/session to the next. Balances on meal plans are non-refundable and non-transferable between semesters or to any other person. Students living on campus have the choice between three different meal plan options. All meal plans are the same in cost, but differ in their features:

- Unlimited – Unlimited access to Pittman + \$175 + 5 meal equivalencies to reset weekly
- Gold 14 – 14 meals weekly at Pittman + \$325 + 3 meal equivalencies
- Blue 10 – 10 meals weekly at Pittman + \$400 + 3 meal equivalencies

Property Insurance

Mars Hill University does not provide insurance to cover personal belongings in the residence hall and cannot accept responsibility for student property that is stolen or damaged. Residents are strongly encouraged to check with their parents' or guardians' homeowners' policies to ascertain the amount and degree of coverage or to purchase rental insurance. Individual policies may be available through a private insurer, but it is the residents' responsibility to acquire their own insurance coverage. It is necessary for all residents to take reasonable precautions in securing and identifying their property.

Residence Housing Software

Students will manage their commuter and on-campus housing information at: www.mhu.edu/housingportal.

- Click on the student page and scroll down to the Residence life Heading.
- Click on "Link to Residence Website."
- Once you are logged onto the MHU residence site your home page will load. There you will be able to see your housing assignment and roommate information.

Residence Requirements and Restrictions Policy

The residence hall community is designed programmatically for traditional-age students. The university therefore restricts housing to traditional age students, defined as students between the ages of 17 and 24. Mars Hill University does not offer housing in the residence halls for married couples.

Residence Requirements for On-Campus Status

- Traditional age students are defined as students between the ages of 17 and 24.
The university does not offer housing in the residence halls for families or spouses of students.
Priority will be given to students who are 17 years old upon entry and under 21 who fall under the residency requirement.
- Any student outside of the specified age range or with Adult Studies status may appeal this policy and request special approval from the Office of Residence Life and, if approved, be housed based on availability.
- Military personnel who exceed this age range due to service may also apply for housing and, if approved, be housed based on availability.
- Students 21 and over will be given priority for apartments whenever possible.
- Continuing students who fall outside of this range who are currently housed on-campus may continue to apply for housing.
- All full-time traditional-aged students, currently enrolled with at least 12 credit hours, are required to live in university housing and participate in a university meal plan, unless they meet one of the previously-stated criteria or are have earned more than 60 credit hours.

Residence Requirements for Off Campus Status

Any student meeting one of the following criteria may be excluded from the on-campus residency requirement.

- Student must reside with a parent or legal guardian at their legal permanent address in one of the following counties: Buncombe, Burke, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, Mitchell, McDowell, Transylvania, Yancey, and Unicoi in Tennessee;
- Student must be legally married and be able to produce a valid marriage certificate; Student must be a single parent or legal guardian with custody of a child under the age of 18 and be able to produce documentation demonstrating this responsibility (through a court order, power of attorney, etc.);
- Student must be a veteran of more than 180 consecutive days on active military duty;
- Student must be 21 years of age or older by the first day of Fall semester classes;
- Student must have lived on campus for six consecutive semesters.
- Student must be enrolled in less than 12 credit hours for a semester and considered a part-time student.

Students are required to pay a \$250 advanced tuition payment in their first year before they will be placed into a housing assignment. Living in a residence hall offers a significant contribution to the development of residents as they learn from individuals of varied backgrounds, experiences, and personal philosophies. Harmonious living, broadened horizons, and increased human understanding are desirable results of the residential experience.

Appeal Process for the Off-Campus Residence Requirement

The majority of students attending MHU will live on campus, and those who do not wish to do so must either meet one of the criteria as outlined in Off Campus Residence Requirement or submit a written appeal to move off campus. Please note that any appeal submitted is merely a request, and students should not make plans to live off campus until the approval of the appeal is granted. All students who are approved to live off campus may have their financial aid readjusted. In general, this may mean that the student may see a decrease in financial aid (conditions will vary by student and all students are encouraged to talk to their financial aid counselor in the Financial Aid Office before submitting an appeal).

Students wishing to submit an appeal will need to contact the Office of Residence Life for instructions for the appeals process. The submitted appeal will then be reviewed by the Residential Contract Appeal Committee (RCAC). The committee will have 10 business days to review the appeal. At that time the committee will:

1. grant the appeal,
2. deny the appeal, OR
3. request more information.

A written notification will be sent to the student's MHU email account with the committee's decision.

Restrictions Due to Student Conduct

Student conduct and housing violations may be considered when permitting a student to live in premium housing. Students living in premium areas found responsible for significant conduct violations may be relocated to an available space in another residence hall.

Room Assignments for Current Students

Room preference process occurs each spring for currently enrolled students. The process rewards students for their involvement in residence life. Requests for a special building, room and/or roommate will be honored whenever possible, but cannot be guaranteed for all housing preferences. Prior to preferencing a room, students must:

1. be registered with at least 12 credit hours for the Fall semester,
2. have their FAFSA completed, submitted and received in the MHU Financial Aid Office

Housing assignments are made without regard to race, creed, color, religion, military veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation or national origin. Continuing students will be able to make changes in their housing assignment until May 27. Individuals involved in amorous relationships cannot share the same room and/or apartment in university housing.

Students who participate in the room preference process and then would like to cancel their housing have until May 27th to do so without any penalty. Any housing canceled after May 27 will incur a \$325 cancellation fee that will be placed on their account. This includes students who are transferring, not returning, or would like to commute once approved.

Room Assignments for New Students

New students begin the room preference process by paying the advanced tuition payment with the Admissions Office and completing the New Student Housing Application on www.mhu.edu/housingportal. Students cannot be placed in a housing assignment until the advanced tuition payment has been paid and a housing application has been submitted. Room assignments and roommate matching for new students will begin in late May and assignments will be ready for viewing on the portal near the beginning of July. It is strongly recommended that the housing application and advanced tuition payment be received before May 1 for priority within the assignment process.

Assignments are based on the available spaces and the information submitted by the student on the roommate matching profile. Housing assignments are made without regard to race, creed, color, religion, military veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, or national origin. Assignments will be made on a first-come, first-served basis according to the date the advanced tuition deposit was received. When the assignment process begins, we do not guarantee assignments to particular spaces/buildings.

New students desiring to be roommates with each other must request each other on their housing application, and pay the advance tuition fee before the room assignment can be made. Roommate requests must be mutual and will not be made solely on the request of one individual. Every effort will be made to honor roommate requests and housing preferences; however, the university does not guarantee a particular residence hall, room, or roommate.

Roommates

Living with others is an important part of the Mars Hill University experience that requires flexibility and respect in order to be successful. As members of the university community, residents have a unique opportunity to meet and interact daily with a wide variety of both old and new friends and acquaintances. For most residents, the relationship with a roommate is an important aspect of their university experience. Roommates are encouraged to sit down and speak with each other when an issue arises. This is a healthy way to address issues and avoid future conflicts. Roommates do not have to be best buddies. A good roommate is someone that you can live with in a respectful environment. Here are some hints for becoming a good roommate:

1. Communicate-Roommates should talk about habits, preferences, moods, and values at the beginning of the semester. Verbally express your thoughts and concerns in a positive and proactive way. It is not wise to let frustrations build up if conflict arises or to use texting/email/social networking (including Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat , etc.) as a main form of communication. Furthermore, if you have not been in contact with your roommate in a 48-hour time period and this is not consistent behavior, contact the Office of Safety and Security or the Office of Residence Life to report.
2. Establish room/apartment/suite or bathroom guidelines- Establish guidelines regarding the use of each other's belongings, room cleaning, visitation, bed times, noise, etc. Ask first and then discuss both sides before going ahead with an action; then live with this for a few weeks. Sit back down and review the rules you all have set up and see if they are working or need some tweaking. First-year students are encouraged to complete a roommate agreement during the Orientation Weekend.
3. Listen- Sharing is great, but in order to share effectively both parties need to stop and listen to what each other is saying. It is difficult to communicate when you are not allowed to share your side. Stop and listen.

Each student has the right to the following:

1. To live in a clean environment;
2. To have personal privacy in one's room;
3. To sleep without undue disturbances;
4. To read and study without interference, unreasonable noise, and other distractions;
5. To host guests during appropriate visitation hours, with the understanding that guests will honor other residents' rights;
6. To have free access to one's room and hall facilities;
7. To expect respect for one's belongings and personal property;
8. To be free from intimidation, physical harm, emotional harm, and illegal substances;
9. To assume that there will be reasonable cooperation in media/phone use in the room.

Continuing students are encouraged to complete a roommate agreement form for their room/apartment to assist with issues when they move in. New and transfer students are encouraged to complete a roommate agreement during the Orientation Weekend. Students are encouraged to work out their differences and come up with a solution that is amenable to all. Students can find assistance with roommate issues and mediation through the resident assistants, other Residence Life staff and Counseling Center staff. Other resources are available upon request.

Room Changes

Room changes are handled by the Office of Residence Life in the Wren Student Union on the third floor during the designated room change period. The room change period begins after the first 10 business days of the semester and continues for two weeks. This allows Residence Life staff members to identify empty spaces and give students the opportunity to adjust to campus living. A student interested in making a room change will need to come to the Office of Residence Life and speak with a staff member. A student must be approved by the Office of Residence Life with a signed room change form before moving. If a student wishes to change pricing tiers, the staff member will review the options and costs with the student. The student will then take a "Housing Advising Sheet" to the Financial Aid Office to meet with a counselor to discuss the costs and how it will affect the student's budget. The student's Financial Aid Counselor must approve any pricing increases before the student will be approved to move to a higher pricing tier. The student will then bring back the signed "Housing Advising Sheet" to the Office of Residence Life, who will then be able to review any openings with the student and help them to determine a new assignment.

The fine for unauthorized room change is \$100.00. Residents may only move to an empty room if they are moving with a roommate or are able to pay the private room rate. A room change is not complete until the students have checked out of their old room assignment, signed the "Room Condition Inventory," or RCI, returned the old key to their old residence hall staff member, checked into the new room, signed the new RCI and received the new key. Students have 48 hours to check out of their old assignment and move to the new assignment once approved. Housing charges may be pro-rated after the room change is complete.

Room Types

1. **Double Rooms:** A double room is a room that will house two students. The room will be furnished with two sets of furniture and two students will live in the room.
2. **Private Rooms:** A private room is a double room that only one student occupies. The room will be furnished with two sets of furniture. Private rooms will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, wherever there is space available. Students without roommates can change their room assignment to a private room for the semester by coming to the Office of Residence Life and making the request in writing, if space allows. Private rooms are charged at a rate of 1.5 times the double room rate and must be approved by Financial Aid.
3. **Single Rooms:** A single room is a room that houses only one student. The room will be furnished with one set of furniture and these rooms are usually smaller than most double rooms.

Roommate No-show

Residents must check into their assigned rooms by 5:00 p.m. of the first day of classes at the beginning of each semester or they will be considered “no shows.” The room reservation will be canceled and the student will be charged a cancellation fee of \$325 unless the Office of Residence Life has been notified, in writing, and approved of the late arrival in advance. If a student occupies a room alone due to a roommate not returning to school, that student will be asked if they would like to pay the upcharge for a single room. See Consolidation.

Work Requests

Residents who are aware of maintenance problems in the residence halls are encouraged to fill out on-line maintenance request forms which can be obtained by logging on to the student section of MyMHU. This is the best way to submit a maintenance request. Please make sure you specify the problem in a detailed description and give the correct location. Students should submit their requests before 1:00 p.m., if possible. This allows the request to be processed and given to the maintenance department to address quickly. The maintenance department will do their best to address all work requests in a timely manner.

Students requesting repairs or maintenance in their room using the online system are giving written consent for staff to enter their room during the school day to complete the repair/ maintenance. If your submitted request has not been repaired in a reasonable amount of time (24 hours Monday – Friday; 48 hours Saturday-Sunday), please contact the Office of Residence Life to follow up on your request at (828) 689-1253.

Rural Heritage Museum

The Rural Heritage Museum has been housed in Montague Hall since 1975. The building was dedicated in 1918 as the university’s first library. It collects, preserves, exhibits, and interprets artifacts relevant to the history and culture of western North Carolina and the Southern Appalachian region. After being closed for a period of fundraising and renovations, the Museum held a grand Re-opening in September, 2013. Open daily (except Mondays) from 1-5 p.m. and by appointment. Free admission.

Spirit Rock

Students and student organizations are encouraged to paint and/or decorate the spirit rock outside of Wren Student Union on Athletic Street. Painting and decorations should be in good taste. Members of the MHU community can request that the rock be changed if they feel content is not in good taste. Requests should be directed to the Office of Campus Engagement and Leadership on the third floor of Wren Student Union.

Student Activities

Outdoors

One of the best things about Mars Hill University is the natural beauty that surrounds the campus. In order to preserve the natural beauty of our campus, please leave our natural resources outside for all to enjoy. In the winter, all snow is to remain outside of all buildings. Snowball fights are fun but should be conducted between willing participants outside of buildings and away from roadways. Contact the Office of Student Life on the third floor of Wren Student Union for outdoor equipment for camping, sledding, rock-climbing, etc.

Wildlife is part of our rural setting. Wildlife can be seen on campus at various times of the day and night. Please respect the wildlife and allow it space and room to continue on its way. Do not try to befriend wildlife or bring any wild animal into a campus building. Animals that can be seen in our area are: deer, fox, raccoons, opossums, ground hogs, snakes, frogs, toads, turkeys, bears, skunks, birds, squirrels, owls, and more. If you come across a wild animal that seems

dangerous, is not acting right, or appears to be injured, call Campus Security at (828) 206-1230 to report the animal, the behavior and location.

Student Organizations

The Office of Campus Engagement and Leadership provides students with diverse opportunities to expand their understanding of leadership through various programs and experiences. The office is a central location for a student's campus engagement at Mars Hill University. The office serves as a conduit for student programs, student organizations, student recreation and Wren Student Union services.

Involvement in student organizations is a great way for students to get connected to the campus, build leadership skills, enhance or broaden skills, meet people, and have fun. For information on student organizations visit the Office of Student Life on the third floor of Wren Student Union or visit the university's website. Additionally, students interested in starting a new club or organization, should contact the Office of Campus Engagement and Leadership (emileyburriss1@mhu.edu).

Policies outlined in the student handbook apply to all approved or petitioning organizations whether they are:

- Departmentally Affiliated - Organizations that promote the attainment of academic and professional excellence and establish a liaison between a particular department and the university community.
- Fraternities and Sororities - Greek letter organizations whose purpose or goal is to facilitate a brotherhood or sisterhood through a common purpose that supports university values.
- Honor Societies - Organizations for students who demonstrate a high level of academic achievement.
- Interest - Organizations whose stated purpose supports a common interest.
- Religious - Organizations which provide a means for students with a religious affiliation to interact with others.
- Professional - Organizations who help develop a student's academic and/or career interest.
- Service - Organizations that exist to serve other non-profit or charitable organizations.

Recognized student organizations are provided with multiple advantages such as:

- Voting representation in Student Government Association (SGA) and/or Inter Greek Council (IGC)
- Permission to post signs, posters and banners on campus with approval from the Student Life Office
- Use of the MHU name in association with the organization's name
- Use of the MHU facilities for programs and meetings
- Inclusion in the MHU calendars and listings

Campus Activities Board (CAB)

During their time at MHU, students are provided with an array of opportunities for education and entertainment. Under the advisement of the Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership CAB students plan, implement, execute, and evaluate diverse programs to broaden horizons. Events include, but are not limited to concerts, trips, lectures, films, and cultural programs. CAB also supports and co-sponsors events with other offices, clubs and organizations, and varsity athletics. The organization strives to unify the campus, instill a sense of school pride, and inspire students to become an active part of their community and make the most of their university experience! For more information, contact Emiley Burriss (emileyburriss1@mhu.edu) or visit the university's website.

CAB membership is open to all students. The Board has multiple appointed positions and room for any student willing to volunteer. Students may contact the Office of Campus Engagement and Leadership (emileyburriss1@mhu.edu) for more information or attend any of the weekly meetings.

Fraternities and Sororities

Greek-letter organizations are part of the vibrant student life program at the university. These organizations are actively involved in a wide variety of service projects and social activities. Organizations have a selection process for membership.

Student Government Association (SGA)

SGA promotes student self-governance and student unity and is the primary organization that advocates for all students' needs, concerns, and general welfare. All SGA meetings are open to the MHU community and held each Thursday during the fall and spring semesters at 11 a.m. in Belk Auditorium. SGA does not meet on the third Thursday of the month. For more information contact SGA (SGA@mhu.edu).

Honor Societies

Honor societies exist to recognize students who have made academic or social achievements throughout their time at the university. Honor societies are not exempt from the annual renewal or new student organization processes, although these organizations are exempt from the minimum requirement for membership. The university will not recognize an honor society that has failed to appropriately renew or apply for recognition.

Hill Raisers

Hill Raisers is the spirit organization of Mars Hill University. The group seeks to promote Lion pride and spirit around the campus and throughout the community. This rambunctious group will be found at many of the athletic games showcasing school spirit and love for the university.

Inter-Greek Council

The Inter-Greek Council (IGC) is the general governing body for Greek organizations and focuses on Greek unity, recruitment and standards. For more information contact Emiley Burriss (emileyburriss1@mhu.edu).

Greek Grade-Point Average (GPA) Requirement and University Requirements

1. First-year students may be part of the recruitment/in-take process as long as they have a 2.75 high school cumulative GPA.
2. Transfer, continuing and returning students may be part of the recruitment/in-take process as long as they have a 2.5 college cumulative GPA with 12 earned credit hours. Otherwise the student is considered a first-year student.
3. Any member initiated must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA. Students who do not maintain the appropriate minimum GPA will be placed on probation for one academic semester. At the end of the probationary period, the student's GPA will be verified and the student will either be cleared from probation or suspended from IGC (including individual chapters) until the minimum GPA is achieved.

Each Greek-letter organization's membership must maintain the established GPA guidelines to remain in good standing. It is the responsibility of the organizations to forward a membership roster of new and continuing members to the advisor of IGC to verify GPAs each semester.

Membership into a Fraternity or Sorority, Recruitment Guidelines, and In-Take Period

1. The formal recruiting period, recruitment, will begin no sooner than the week following mid-term evaluations. The new member process or in-take period shall not be less than 4 weeks, but no longer than 6 weeks.
2. All IGC represented organizations must provide the advisor of IGC an "Academic Success Plan" for the recruitment/in-take process before the process begins. The plan must outline steps taken by the organization to ensure academic success for potential new members. The plan must be approved by IGC and the IGC Advisor.
3. Greek-letter organizations must turn in materials related to the recruitment/in-take process as outlined in the IGC Constitution.
4. Any potential new member must be free of a major violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
5. Recruitment/In-Take and the new member process are drug and alcohol free periods of education.

6. Specific rules and regulations set forth by IGC in regard to recruitment/in-take should be followed by all active members of Greek-letter organizations, as well as, potential new members. For a detailed list of rules for potential new members please contact Emiley Burriss (emileyburriss1@mhu.edu).

Responsibilities of Approved and Petitioning Student Organizations

Advisors

Student organizations should select advisors that have sincere interest in their respective organization. Only full-time faculty/staff are eligible to be advisors unless otherwise determined by the university. Faculty/staff can only be advisors to a maximum of three student organizations.

Banners

Banners are an excellent opportunity to showcase organizations. Banners are property of the organization. If a banner is removed from the display area without probable cause or authority, the Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership reserves the right to discontinue the banner display opportunity for the current semester.

Campus Reservations

Student organizations are required to reserve campus space (e.g., classrooms, etc.) for all meetings and events. All space reservations should be submitted via email to the Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership two weeks in advance of the event. No student organization is guaranteed a space, but a good faith effort will be made to find/approve a space. Spaces are generally first-come, first-served.

Cause for Review

The Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership, Assistant Dean of Students, Provost, or President may initiate a call for review of the status of an organization following complaints or violations of laws or university policies. In addition, a review will be initiated upon receipt of documentation presented to the Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership with signatures of fifteen students or a faculty or staff member alleging violations. The Student Conduct Office will conduct the review and make recommendations to the Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership.

Constitutions and Bylaws

From time-to-time student organizations will update their constitutions and bylaws. Any changes must be approved by the Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership and the Student Life Committee.]

Events open to the Campus Community or General Public

A student organization that sponsors social events held on-campus must be registered through the Office of Campus Engagement. A faculty or staff member must be present for all student organization sponsored events for the entire event if the event is open to the general public or classified as a “dance” or “party.”

Fundraising or Solicitation

Campus fund-raising activities sponsored by organizations must be requested in writing, signed by the organization advisor and approved by the Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership two weeks before the event. Fundraising raffles or any form of gambling is prohibited.

Hazing

Under no circumstances will hazing be permitted at MHU. Any suspected violation must be reported to the university administration and will be investigated. Hazing is broadly defined as any activity expected of someone joining a group or to maintain status within a group that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional or physical harm regardless of willingness of the individuals to participate. Refer to the university’s Safe Academic & Work Environment Policies (adopted February 27, 2012) for more information.

Membership

In order to maintain healthy organizations, recognized and petitioning student groups are required to maintain a minimum of five active members. Any organizations with difficulty maintaining membership will meet with their advisor or a member of the Student Life staff to create a plan of sustainability addressing, but not limited to, organizational recruitment, retention, leadership and purpose. Organizations who did not maintain membership will be placed on probation for one semester. If membership requirements are not met during the period of probation the organization will be suspended and will not be recognized by the university.

Minimum Grade Point Average (GPA)

Students affiliated with a student organization must maintain a 2.00 cumulative GPA, unless otherwise noted (e.g., Greek-letter organizations). Organizational officers should maintain a 2.5 GPA. Organizations are responsible for enforcing the GPA requirements by verifying members' GPA each academic semester.

Each member of the organization will be required to sign a waiver to release GPA to the President and the advisor of record of the organization and the Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership can assist in verifying member GPA's. Any member that fails to maintain their required GPA will be placed on probation for one semester; failure to maintain minimum GPA at the end of the probationary period can result the loss of rights and privileges associated with organizational membership.

Off-Campus Financial Accounts

Student organizations are allowed to have off-campus financial accounts under the following guidelines: two students and the organization advisor of record must be the account owners; two signatures are required for check purchases and no debit card(s). Finally, bank statements are to be submitted to the Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership each year for the time period of June 1 to May 31.

Organizations can work with the Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership to obtain an on-campus account with the business office. Established business office procedures are expected to be followed at all times. Failure to abide by this policy can lead to organizational probation and removal of approved organization status.

Organization Meetings

All student organizations must attend the annual opening meeting held in late August or early September. All meeting should be open to the MHU community unless the organization is a closed society (i.e., Greek organizations).

Organizational Handbooks

Student organization leadership is expected to be knowledgeable of the policies and procedures established in the student handbook, information published in organizational handbook(s) and by University offices.

Procedure for Approval

1. A group of students who wish to establish an approved organization must submit an application for official recognition to the Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership according to the following guidelines:
 - a. Minimum of five students in good academic standing with the university;
 - b. Full-time faculty/staff member who agrees to advise the organization unless otherwise stated in the employee's job description. ;
2. The application must stipulate:
 - a. Name of the proposed organization;
 - b. Rational for requesting approved status;
 - c. Primary purpose/function of the group;
 - d. Relationship of the proposed organization to the mission of the university, including evidence of consistency with the guiding principles of the mission;

- e. External affiliations (to national organizations or other groups);
 - f. Interested students with MHU ID number and faculty/staff member;
 - g. Membership requirements (open or selected student membership, GPA, etc);
 - h. A description of the initiation or induction ceremonies.
3. The Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership will respond to the application by:
 - a. Giving permission for the group to proceed with development of a formal request for approval, such permission being valid only for one academic year;
 - b. Requesting additional information, with a deadline for resubmission of the request, or
 - c. Denying the application of the group. (In the event that a request is denied, the group may appeal the decision, in writing, within ten calendar days to the VPSL.)
 4. A group with permission to develop a formal request shall append a copy of the proposed constitution and bylaws of the organization to the preliminary request and submit the documents to the Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership for transmission to SGA or IGC for recommendation. SGA or IGC will discuss the request for recognition of an organization at a regular meeting and delay a vote until the next regular meeting. A two-thirds vote is required by either SGA and/or IGC for recommendation for organization approval.
 5. After SGA and/or IGC recommendation is received by the Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership it is then submitted to the VPSL or designee.
 6. The VPSL or designee will forward the committee's recommendation to the university President and Provost.
 7. The university President and Provost grant approval for establishment of an organization. An organization that has been granted approval will be immediately recognized by the university.
 8. Any proposed group that does not receive approval cannot reapply for a full calendar year.
 9. Once the constitution has been approved by the SGA/IGC, VPSL, Provost and the President, an organization is an official member of the MHU community. The organizational president and advisor will be notified via email by the Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership.

Public Speech/Assembly

MHU reserves the right to regulate the time, place, and manner of assembly and speech to ensure that the educational mission of the university is not disrupted.

Roster

Approved campus organizations must maintain an up-to-date roster form. This information will be kept confidential. This roster must be updated after any changes are made. The Coordinator for Campus Engagement and Leadership will contact student organizations with the roster template each semester.

Registration

An approved student organization is required to register/renew on a yearly basis to assure that the organization remains active and to update university records. An organization that neglects to submit documents for registration by week three of the fall semester will be considered inactive until registration is complete and will not be permitted to function as a student organization.

Organizations/students will be contacted at the beginning of the academic year via email by the Office of Campus Engagement and Leadership. Organizational leadership will be required to submit the following information:

1. Membership rosters for the current academic semester year;
2. A copy of the organization's constitution and bylaws;
3. Name of the full-time faculty or staff advisor(s);
4. Signed agreement; and,
5. Other materials deemed necessary by the Office of Campus Engagement.

Process for Annual Registration

Students are encouraged to create an organization if they have an interest. Groups will only be approved if they meet the following criteria.

1. The group is consistent with the mission and values of the university both in ideals and practice;
2. The group will provide added value to the educational experience;
3. The group is not redundant;
4. The group meets significant need of the campus population;
5. The group can be sustained should the advisor or organization founders no longer be involved; and
6. The group will provide an opportunity to bring the university community together.

Student Health

The Mars Hill University Wellness Center (also known as the Infirmary), located in Nash Hall is the health facility for the campus community. The Wellness Center staff provides primary care for full-time students. The Wellness Center is part of the Student Life Division and works closely with this office in order to assist in each student's physical and emotional development during his/her college experience.

A physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner employed by the Hot Springs Health Program assesses sick and injured students at the Center each week. Please consult posted hours for appointment availability. Students are encouraged to schedule these visits as a limited number of students can be seen at this time. It is recommended that walk-ins arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to appointment time, as late arrivals may not have the opportunity to see the provider. Physician services at the Wellness Center are at no additional cost to the student. This service is only offered to full-time, traditional students.

Students who need medical assistance outside these posted hours are strongly encouraged to seek the nurses' care at the Wellness Center and may be treated according to physician standing orders. The nurse may opt to schedule an appointment at the Mars Hill Medical Center (closest office to campus that is part of the Hot Spring Health Program) for physician assessment. The student or his/her parent will be billed for any unpaid balance.

Student ID Cards

Students are issued a Mars Hill University ID at the start of his/her academic career. Students are required to have his/her card at all times. Lost, stolen or damaged cards are the student's responsibility. A \$15.00 fee will be assessed to the student's MHU account to replace a lost card. Students are required to have their IDs on their person at all times and be able to produce it at the request of any member of the university community.

Student Support Services

Student Support Services is a TRiO program for students who (1) are first generation, (2) qualify financially, and/or (3) have disabilities. This support system enhances academic skills and increases persistence and graduation rates. The program can provide tutoring for a difficult course, help reduce test anxiety, suggest wise time management strategies, offer academic advising, and provide career and personal counseling, among other services. This program provides trained staff members and carefully selected peer tutors to work with students who qualify for services. Interested students who are not certain of their eligibility for the program or who wish to learn more about the services and activities should call (828) 689-1138 or come by Student Support Services in Renfro 205. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Services are tailored to individual needs and are free to eligible students. The program is 100% funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Students with Disabilities

The mission of the Mars Hill University Office of Disability Services is to ensure fair access to university programs and facilities for qualified students with any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities in accordance with federal regulations. Services for students with disabilities are intended to remove barriers by providing reasonable accommodations such as academic modifications or accessible housing. Reasonable accommodations that do not fundamentally alter program requirements are provided when deemed necessary and are determined on a case-by-case basis through an interactive process between the student and the Disability Services Coordinator.

Students requesting housing accommodations on the basis of a declared disability are required, under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to be registered with the Disabilities Services in writing before an accommodation can be approved. Students must renew their disability request each year to the Disability Services Coordinator before room preference time in order for the accommodation to be honored.

The Office of Disability Services is located in Renfro Library, room 309 and is open August through May, Monday-Wednesday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. or by appointment. Limited office hours are kept during June and July; however, email and phone messages are checked regularly. Appointments may be arranged by contacting Judith Harris, Disability Services Coordinator, at (828) 689-1410 or judith_harris@mhu.edu

For current information regarding information, policies, and procedures regarding requesting accommodations and services through the Office of Disability Services, please refer to the university website at www.mhu.edu/disability-services.

Summer School

Summer School is divided into two five-week terms and includes both short- and full-term courses. In addition to online offerings, seated classes meet two days per week from 6:00 - 9:55 p.m. on the main campus or at the Asheville Center. Limited day classes are offered.

Summer School courses are open to all Mars Hill University students, as well as visiting students from other institutions. Courses are geared for both traditional and adult populations, allowing students to continue their education through the summer months. Once registration opens, currently enrolled students can self-register for summer courses via the university's self-service portal. New students must register through the Admissions office. Students from other institutions (both new and returning) must complete the visiting student application before registering with the Admissions office. Visiting students should work with their home institution, as well as the university registrar's office, to ensure that all credits will transfer.

For questions about summer school logistics, please contact the Admissions office at (828) 689-1201. The summer schedule is typically published in late March.

Summer School Housing

Summer school housing is open to MHU students working toward the completion of their academic program during the second summer session. This includes taking classes and/or completing internships. Housing is not available to students who are simply working in the area and need a place to live for summer. Please remember that summer term housing rooms are limited and will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Summer housing applications are available for summer school beginning in mid-April. Students may email residence-life@mhu.edu to request a summer school housing application.

Students who complete a housing application prior to summer school will be able to specify roommate preference. Students waiting to complete the application upon arrival for summer terms will be placed at the discretion of the Residence Life Staff.

All students living on campus for summer are required to have a meal plan and the meals/bonus bucks do not carry over from one term to the next. Students are expected to abide by the same rules and regulations during the summer as the traditional academic year and will be held to the same level of accountability.

Technology/Internet Access

The Office of Information Technology / Information Technology Services (ITS) is committed to providing the necessary resources and support to carry out the education, research, and public service missions of the university.

What the ITS Department Provides

- Official mhu.edu network account and email address are provided during the registration process. The email address assigned to you by the university is the only email address we will use when contacting you by email. Email and postal mail are the only official communication channels of the university.
- Wired and wireless high speed network connectivity are available in all residence hall rooms. Use the MHUResidence network to connect using the current password. Visitors may utilize the open MHUCommunity network that is limited in bandwidth and does not require a password.
- High speed wireless access is available in all buildings on campus. Please connect to the mhillwireless network using the current password for all academic and administrative buildings. That account provides access to campus information, email, the library catalog, research databases, and the Internet
- Free printing for up to 500 pages per semester is available on university-owned printers. Additional charges may be applied for excessive printing. Students may use any printer on campus with a badge scanner. Printers are located throughout campus with open units in Day Hall, Renfro Library, the Mindspace area in Renfro (24/7 availability in the Mindspace area), Ammons, and many other locations.
- Classlink is the portal for access to all MHU applications and services. To find it, click on ClassLink in the Links & Tools at the bottom of the MHU website.
- MHU Mobile is the mobile app for the university. It is available through the App store (I-phone) and Play Store (Android). This app is integrated with maps, Moodle, the MHU directory, and more to provide quick access to assignments, events, information, and locations across campus.
- Access to Microsoft Office 365 applications and 1TB of online storage space is available for students. Access to Google G-Suite for Education and Google apps.
- Audio visual and other IT equipment is available for check out to students for class assignments and events. Video/audio editing and transfers are available as well as large format printing, laminating, and scanning. Students should expect to pay for the cost of any materials used in production.

What You Must Do

- Abide by established procedures in using the network.
- The university password policy requires that students do not share their passwords or access to any software systems with anyone at any time.
- Passwords must be updated when notified by the password management system. New passwords must have 14 characters and contain upper and lower case alpha, numeric, and special characters.
- All students must set up and maintain multi-factor authentication (MFA) to protect themselves and the university from malicious attacks.
- Students are asked to be vigilant for phishing, scams, and other forms of cyberattacks that can compromise your account and the university systems. If you believe you have been a victim of a cyberattack contact the MHU ITS helpdesk for further support.
- Regroup is our emergency contact and notification system. Ensure your contact information is up to date at all times. The system is tested at the beginning of each semester. If you do not receive a test message via text, then your information is not current and should be updated.

- Students may keep disk space reserved for valid university uses by deleting unwanted files and programs, and removing their MHU email addresses from list serves and other automatic mailing services.
- All students and campus community members must obey United States and international copyright laws and agreements when using the network. Users may not use the network to copy or transfer any software from any source without the legal right or license to do so.
- Students are required to purchase and install anti-virus software with full license (not trial version) before connecting a computer system to the network. They are responsible for updating virus definitions regularly.

Technology Information for Residential Students

Residence hall students may not install any devices that disrupt network connectivity. Devices such as a hub, switch, router, cellular “hot-spot” or wireless access points that allow multiple computers on the same network port can cause connectivity problems across the entire MHU network and are not permitted. You must disable wireless on printers and directly connect to a computer via cable. Any unauthorized access points/routers/printers found that are not the property of MHU will be confiscated by Campus Security and violators may be charged a fine of up to \$100. Questions or problems with connectivity may be directed to the ITS Help Desk at (828) 689-1444 or helpdesk@mhu.edu.

The Information Technology Services staff respects individual privacy and will not enter or inspect user files without cause; however, complaints or abuse of computer and network resources are taken seriously. The ITS Department has the right to monitor network traffic, inspect email accounts, and access any file stored on MHU-owned equipment. The ITS Department will also grant access to law enforcement officials as necessary. Complaints about possible abuse may be sent to the ITS Help Desk at (828) 689-1444.

Students who do not adhere to these rules and regulations may have their accounts suspended or terminated and their network privileges revoked. Serious acts of abuse may result in further disciplinary action by the university including reimbursement to the university for computing and personnel charges incurred. Violations that are an infraction of any local, state, and/or federal law(s) will be turned over to the appropriate authorities.

ITS Department is committed to providing the necessary bandwidth to carry out the education, research, and public service missions of the university. While entertainment devices, such as gaming consoles, smart TVs, video streaming systems are allowed on the MHU network, the ITS Department does not guarantee these will function. Also, it is not feasible to permit the indefinite and disproportionate use of the entire network bandwidth by a relatively small percentage of the campus community. This may require ITS to implement bandwidth limitations or take further steps. ITS reserves the right to temporarily terminate a network connection in cases where someone is seriously degrading network performance. Repeated offenses may result in permanent termination of network access.

Questions about the MHU computer network, or rules and regulations regarding its use may be directed to the ITS Help Desk, (828) 689-1444. helpdesk@mhu.edu Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Textbooks

Textbooks are provided to students as part of tuition and fees through the textbook rental program. Students may pick up their textbooks during the specific dates and times set aside for textbook distribution. Students are responsible for returning textbooks to the bookstore at the end of each semester according to published deadlines.

Transportation Service

Transportation to the campus by plane or bus is best routed through Asheville. Commercial airline service is available at Asheville Airport, and Greyhound/Trailways bus services operate into Asheville. The University does not transport students from the airport or the bus terminal. Arrangements for transportation to or from the airport and bus station should be made by way of taxi or other means. If a student has a medical appointment, arrangements can be made

through the Madison County Transportation Authority (MCTA) for a minimal fee to transport the student to these appointments. The MCTA requires advance notice. MCTA phone number is (828) 649-2219 and their website is www.madisoncountync.gov/transportation-authority.html.

Vending

Vending services are provided on campus by the Auxiliary Services Department and machines are located in many of the campus buildings. Any problems, including request for refunds, should be reported to the Office of Auxiliary Services at (828) 689-1167 during business hours. Students who are charged with vandalizing vending machines will be subject to the Student Code of Conduct process.

Weizenblatt Art Gallery

The gallery is located in Moore Fine Arts Building, with exhibitions of art by MHU students and professional artists. The gallery hosts several new exhibition every academic year, along with artists' lectures and receptions.

Wren Student Union Services

Wren Student Union is the community center for the university. A number of the services and conveniences that members of the university community enjoy in their daily lives on campus are located there, including: the Office of Student Life, the Office of Safety and Security, the Lion's Den snack bar, Belk Auditorium, Taylor Fitness Center, the Recreation Center, the campus mailroom, offices for a number of student organizations, and several meeting rooms and lounges.

Writing Center

The MHU Writing Center supports writing at all levels (beginner, intermediate, advanced), in all disciplines, and at all stages of the writing process, from generating ideas to revision. The Writing Center's goal is to help students become better writers. While tutors do NOT write papers for students, they DO provide individualized tutoring in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. For more information, see the web page at www.mhu.edu/academics/writing-center. Contact Writing Center Director Felice Lopez-Bell at flopez@mhu.edu.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

Student Code of Responsibility

Students at Mars Hill University are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the values of the university and brings credit to themselves, individually, and as members of a family, a community, and the university. The actions of one can affect many within a community, positively or negatively. Whether in or out of class, on or off campus, as an individual or as a member of a group, students should consider honor, integrity, and respect for self and others as guiding principles in their words and actions throughout their daily lives.

Being a responsible member of this community should compel students to consider not only their actions but also the actions of others and the results of those actions on the community. Being part of MHU means that each individual on campus is called to be more than a passive bystander, but an active and engaged member of the community life. As members of this community, students are asked to intervene if they see someone being mistreated; to ask for assistance for themselves and others in solving concerns; and to report issues that have an impact on themselves or other community members. Keeping MHU safe and enjoyable is the responsibility of every member of the community.

The Code of Conduct below addresses categories of behaviors, the process, and the procedures for those occasions when individuals intentionally or unintentionally do not uphold these responsibilities.

Student Code of Conduct

Application of the Mars Hill University Student Code of Conduct

The Student Conduct philosophy at MHU is rooted in restorative justice practices. Unlike a punitive, punishment-focused approach, restorative justice encourages self-reflection, and places a strong emphasis on repairing the harm that was committed. Therefore, students who are asked to participate should be prepared to engage in a dialogue with their student conduct hearing officer. Students will have the opportunity to share about their perspective of the incident that necessitated the meeting. Together, the student(s) and the hearing officer will engage in a thoughtful and directed conversation about the incident, as well as ways students can attempt to repair any harm created as a result of their actions. Sanctions will then be discussed by the hearing officer. Students will have a chance to take part in the sanctioning process as they begin to reflect on ways to reach some sort of restoration. Ultimately, the hearing officer will provide sanctions to the student(s). The sanctions are meant to be restorative and meaningful for the students(s) involved.

Restorative Accountability Circles

Restorative Accountability Circles (RAC) are designed to help students who enter the student conduct process reflect on and learn from the choices they made. Some, not all, violations of student conduct will be heard through a Restorative Accountability Circle. Unlike punitive justice, restorative justice seeks to focus its attention on the process of restoring the harm that was committed and challenging students to reflect on how they might work to restore the harm they committed. Through utilizing an equitable and holistic approach to accountability, RACs seek to hold students accountable by providing the student space to recognize, reflect, and restore.

Guiding Principles

- Each student shall be treated with respect and dignity through the process
- Each student has the ability to learn and grow
- Sanctions shall be equitable and consistent with Student Conduct violations.

The Mars Hill University Student Code of Conduct shall apply to conduct that occurs on university premises, at university-sponsored activities, and to off-campus conduct that adversely affects the university community and/or the pursuit of its

objectives. Each student shall be responsible for his/her conduct from the time of application for admission through the actual awarding of a degree, even though conduct may occur before classes begin or after classes end, as well as during the academic year and during periods between terms of actual enrollment. The Student Code of Conduct shall also apply to the conduct of student groups and student organizations. The Student Code of Conduct shall apply to a student's conduct even if the student withdraws from school while a disciplinary matter is pending. The Vice President for Student Life or designee shall decide whether the Student Code of Conduct shall be applied to conduct occurring off campus, in his/her sole discretion.

Student conduct records are considered educational records and are protected by the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act of 1974. Academic advisors, coaches, or organization advisors may be alerted to the fact that a student has been found responsible for a violation.

Purpose

The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct at Mars Hill University is to support the institutional mission with a discipline process that upholds established standards of honor in a community of learners. This is done by holding each other accountable through a restorative and redemptive process rather than a merely punitive approach to accountability. This is an administrative procedure and is separate from any outside process, such as any legal action.

ARTICLE I: Definitions

1. The term "University" means Mars Hill University (MHU).
2. The term "student" includes
 - a. Persons taking courses at the university, either full-time or part-time, pursuing undergraduate, graduate, or professional studies.
 - b. Persons who withdraw after allegedly violating the Student Code of Conduct who are not officially enrolled for a particular term, but who have a continuing relationship with the university or
 - c. Persons who have been notified of their acceptance for admission with a deposit on file (paid or waived).
3. The term "faculty member" means any person hired by the university to conduct classroom or teaching activities or who is otherwise considered by the university to be a member of its faculty.
4. The term "University official" includes any student, faculty, or staff member employed by the university, performing assigned administrative or professional responsibilities.
5. The term "member of the university community" includes any person who is a student, faculty member, University official, or any other person employed by the university. A person's status in a particular situation shall be determined by the President of the university.
6. The term "University premises" includes all land, buildings, facilities, and other property in the possession of or owned, used, or controlled by the university (including adjacent streets and sidewalks).
7. The term "student organization" means any number of persons who have complied with the formal requirements for University recognition.
8. The Assistant Dean of Students is that person designated by the university President to be responsible for the administration of the Student Code of Conduct.
9. The term "Student Conduct Administrator" means the Assistant Dean of Students, or another University official designated by the Assistant Dean of Students, authorized to informally resolve matters involving allegations of violation(s) of the Student Code of Conduct and is authorized to determine and impose sanctions upon any student when a violation of the Student Code of Conduct has occurred.
10. The term "shall" is used in the imperative sense.
11. The term "may" is used in the permissive sense.
12. The term "policy" means the written regulations of the university as found in, but not limited to, the Student Handbook, the university web page, and the Academic Catalog or any other official University publication.
13. The term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests

or other academic material belonging to a member of the university faculty, staff, or student (4) engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion (5) providing unauthorized assistance.

14. The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.
15. The term “Grievant” means any person who submits a charge alleging that a student violated this Student Code of Conduct or other university policies. When a student believes that s/he has been a victim of another student’s misconduct, the student who believes s/he has been a victim will have the same rights under this Student Code of Conduct as are provided to the Respondent, even if another member of the university community submitted the charge itself.
16. The term “Respondent” means any student accused of violating this Student Code of Conduct or other university policy.
17. The term “Charge” means a complaint, report or allegation of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
18. The term “Consent” means knowing, voluntary, and clear permission by word or action to engage in mutually agreed upon activity, such as sexual contact or intercourse. Each party must make certain that the other has consented before engaging in sexual activity, since individuals may experience the same interaction in different ways. Either party can withdraw consent at any time by expressing in words or actions that they no longer want the act to continue. If either party withdraws consent, the other person must stop the activity immediately.
19. The term “Advisor” means a person who may assist a grievant or respondent during a conduct proceeding. An advisor must be a member of the Mars Hill University full time faculty, staff, or student body. In cases involving stalking, sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence or any other gender-based misconduct, both respondent and grievant may use an advisor of choice. An advisor of choice may be a student, an employee of the university, or an outsider. The advisor’s role is to advise the Grievant or the Respondent, not to represent him or her. Advisors may not speak on behalf of the individuals they advise nor may they answer any questions put to the individuals. An advisor who interferes with an interview or hearing may be dismissed by the Title IX Coordinator or person in charge and barred from participating in future interviews or hearings.

ARTICLE II: Prohibited Code of Conduct

A. Conduct – University Guidelines and Regulations

Students are required to engage in responsible social conduct that reflects creditably upon the university community and to model good citizenship in any community. Any student found to have committed or to have attempted to commit any of the following is subject to the disciplinary sanctions outlined in Article IV:

1. Acts of dishonesty, including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty.
 - b. Furnishing false information to any University official, faculty member, or office.
 - c. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any University document, record, or instrument of identification.
 - d. Loaning or using another person’s student Identification (ID) card and/or electronic log-in credentials.
 - e. Bribery, or procuring another person by incentive, coercion, or intimidation to violate University policy.
2. Interference of the normal operations of the university including but not limited to:
 - a. Disruption or obstruction of teaching and learning, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings.
 - b. Other University activities, including its public service functions on or off campus, or of
 - c. Other authorized non-University activities when the conduct occurs on University premises.

- d. Participating in an on-campus or off-campus demonstration, riot, or activity that disrupts the normal operations of the university.
 - e. Obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- 3. Damage to, or destruction, or other misuse of University property or personal property of another person. This includes but is not limited to the damage or destruction of plants or shrubs, university cable, internet, and phone services, and computers.
- 4. Various forms of abuse or harassment, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Physical abuse
 - b. Verbal abuse
 - c. Threats, intimidation, harassment, coercion, and/or other conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person or being.
- 5. Theft:
 - a. Attempted or actual theft of property of the university.
 - b. Attempted or actual theft of property of a member of the university community.
 - c. Attempted or actual theft of other personal or public property, on or off campus.
- 6. Hazing, as defined in the university's Safe Academic and Work Environment Policies.
- 7. Failure to comply with directions of University officials or law enforcement officers acting in performance of their duties and/or failure to identify oneself properly/produce University identification card when requested to do so.
- 8. Unauthorized access to University buildings:
 - a. Propping of door(s) and window(s) by any method to allow unauthorized entry.
 - b. Tampering with locking mechanisms.
 - c. Unauthorized possession, duplication, and/or use of keys or access cards.
 - d. Any other unauthorized entry to any university room, building, or space.
- 9. Violation of any other University policy, rule, or regulation published in hard copy or available electronically on the university website, including residence hall policies
- 10. Violation of any federal, state or local law
(students who have been charged with any felony and/or committed a violent offense, may be removed from campus until the charges have been adjudicated both criminally and through the university conduct process. Violation of law can include, but is not limited to, subsequent criminal charges.)
- 11. Use, possession, manufacturing, sale, or distribution of controlled substances or misuse of prescription medication
 - a. sharing prescriptions, or other controlled substances except as expressly permitted by law.
 - b. Possession of controlled substances or paraphernalia (including, but not limited to: marijuana, edibles, etc...)
 - c. Distribution of controlled substances or paraphernalia (including, but not limited to: marijuana, edibles, etc...)
- 12. Possession, consumption, or distribution of alcohol, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Underage possession, consumption, or distribution of alcohol
 - b. Of-age possession, consumption, or distribution of alcohol
 - c. Public display of alcohol intoxication
 - d. Participation in drinking games that encourage binge drinking, including, but not limited to: drinking games, beer pong, flip cup, etc. (Note that drinking games may not be played, regardless of whether or not alcohol is involved)
 - e. Possession of drinking paraphernalia, including, but not limited to: empty alcohol containers, beer pong tables, funnels, etc.
- 13. Assisting, condoning, or failing to report a violation in the Student Code of Conduct, including, but not limited to: being present and/or neglecting to take preventative or corrective action.

14. Possession of firearms, explosives, other weapons, or dangerous chemicals on University premises. Use of any such item, even if legally possessed, in a manner that harms, threatens or causes fear to others.
15. Gambling, including but not limited, to playing of cards or any other game of skill or chance for money or items of value is prohibited.
16. Conduct that is disorderly, lewd, or indecent. Breach of peace; or procuring another person to breach the peace on University premises or at University functions.
17. Computer theft or other abuse of electronic facilities and resources, as described in the "Technology and Media Policy."
18. Abuse of the Student Conduct System, including but not limited to attempting to influence impartiality, discouraging participation and retaliation
19. Failing to abide by fire safety procedures, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Failing to evacuate for a fire alarm or at the request of an authorized emergency personnel
 - b. Tampering with, or disabling of a fire safety equipment such as, but not limited to: smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, emergency security phones. (Discovery of smoke detectors in residence hall living spaces that have been tampered with and/or covered, will result in a room search by Safety and Security and Residence Life professional staff members.)
20. Any unauthorized use of electronic or other devices to make an audio or video record of any person while on University premises without his/her prior knowledge, or without his/her effective consent when such a recording is intended or likely to cause injury or distress. This includes, but is not limited to, surreptitiously taking pictures of another person in a gym, locker room, or restroom.
21. Providing false, or misleading information to any University official
22. Residence Hall Policies & Procedures
 - a. Unauthorized pets
 - b. Smoking or vaping in, or within 50 feet of the residence halls
 - c. Possession of candles or incense
 - d. Unauthorized access to spaces, including, but not limited to: roofs, balconies, outside ledges, etc.
 - e. Violation of quiet hours or 24 hour courtesy hours
 - f. Possession of restricted electrical appliances (see Residence Life Policies and Guidelines for more information)
 - g. Guest or visitation violation (residents are responsible for guests' actions)
 - h. Hall sports
 - i. Failing to maintain a space that meets health and safety cleanliness expectations (ex: cleanliness, not obstructing egress, etc.)

B. Conduct - Violation of Law and Criminal Actions

1. Should a violation of law also run counter to the university's Code of Conduct, proceedings under this Student Code of Conduct may proceed against a Respondent who has been subjected to criminal prosecution.
2. When a student is charged by federal, state, or local authorities with a violation of law,
 - a. The University will not request or agree to special consideration for that individual because of their status as a student.
 - b. If the alleged offense is also being processed under the Student Code of Conduct, the university may advise off-campus authorities of the existence of the Student Code of Conduct and of how such matters are typically handled within the university community.
 - c. The University will attempt to cooperate with law enforcement and other agencies in the enforcement of criminal law on campus and in the conditions imposed by criminal courts for the rehabilitation of student violators (provided that the conditions do not conflict with campus rules or sanctions).

- d. Individual students and other members of the university community, acting in their personal capacities, remain free to interact with governmental representatives as they deem appropriate.

ARTICLE III: Charge Procedures

A. Bill of Student Rights

The guiding principle of university regulation is that of student responsibility. It is a firm belief of Mars Hill University that its students should be guaranteed certain rights. Those rights are as follows:

1. **Rights of a student charged with a violation of the Student Code of Conduct**
 - a. Right to be informed of the student conduct process and to be treated fairly according to published processes.
 - b. Right to a fair and timely hearing. Student conduct meetings will be scheduled within 14 days of the received report.
 - c. Right to be present or not to be present for a hearing and not have absence construed as responsibility.
 - d. Right to be silent and not have silence construed as responsibility.
 - e. Right to be presumed innocent until proven otherwise.
 - f. Right to know, upon request, the evidence to be presented in any hearing.
 - g. Right to have witnesses present evidence at a hearing.
 - h. Right to ask reasonable questions of any witness appearing at a hearing.
 - i. Right to an Advisor or Advisor of Choice for Title IX violations (i.e., a current student, faculty, or staff member of the university who was not involved in the incident in question).
 - j. Right to be present during the period in which evidence is submitted.
 - k. Right to be given notice in writing of any complaint or charge(s) of violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
 - l. Right to appeal a decision within 48 hours of receipt of outcome letter
2. **Rights of a person bringing allegations under the Student Code of Conduct**
 - a. Right to file criminal charges or seek civil action in a court, in addition to any action taken under the Student Code of Conduct.
 - b. Right to be informed of the final results of a disciplinary proceeding and Right to appeal any disciplinary decision in cases of sexual discrimination, sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, or sexual violence. See the *Sexual Misconduct and Interpersonal Violence Policy and Procedure*.
 - c. Right to have witnesses testify and to present evidence at a hearing. . *Note that friends and/or family members or anyone not directly related to the violation in question may not be present at the student conduct meeting.
 - d. Right to ask reasonable questions of any witness appearing at a hearing.
 - e. Right, in cases involving stalking, sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence or any other gender-based misconduct, to use an advisor of choice. An advisor of choice may be a student, an employee of the university, or an outsider. The advisor's role is to advise the Grievant or the Respondent, not to represent him or her. Advisors may not speak on behalf of the individuals they advise nor may they answer any questions put to the individuals. An advisor who interferes with an interview or hearing may be dismissed by the Title IX Coordinator or person in charge and barred from participating in future interviews or hearings.
 - f. Right to be present during the period in which evidence is submitted.
 - g. Right to appeal a decision when the case involves an allegation of sexual misconduct.

3. Reporting Misconduct

- a. Anyone may report a violation of the Code of Conduct by contacting the Assistant Dean of Students at (828) 689-1744 or by emailing: residence-life@mhu.edu. Normally, the person reporting the violation will be asked to submit a written report. The report should be a brief written statement citing the section of the code allegedly violated and providing a summary of the facts deemed to constitute a violation. Reports should be submitted as soon as possible after the event takes place. The university reserves the right to take action against an individual for violating the Code of Conduct regardless of how much time has passed since the incident.
- b. Anonymous reports may be made by calling Campus Security at (828) 689-1230 or through utilizing the anonymous tip line on the MHU website.

4. Immunity for Good Samaritans

MHU encourages students to offer assistance to other students in need, both on and off campus. The welfare of students in our community is of paramount importance. Sometimes students are hesitant to offer assistance to other students for fear that they themselves may be charged with policy violations (for example, a student who has been drinking underage might hesitate to contact an RA or campus police in getting help for someone who may be suffering from alcohol or other drug poisoning, or a student might be hesitant to provide important information about a sexual assault incident). Students who seek assistance for another student in need will receive immunity from policy violations related to the incident. This immunity from disciplinary action applies to both the “Good Samaritan” and the student needing assistance.

Five students have been drinking alcohol in a residence hall room and one student gets so sick that they can't stop vomiting and are having a hard time breathing. It is more important to get help for that student, so we ask that 911 be called immediately and that help be sought from an RA and Campus Security. It is more important to get help immediately rather than hide the alcohol and get the room cleaned up. All students in that room would NOT be held responsible for Student Conduct violations by calling for help. Students may need to tell their story and talk about the situation with appropriate staff or outside agencies along the way to get help for a friend, but they would not receive any Student Conduct sanctions for calling for help.

5. Sources of Information

Information about a student's misconduct may come from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, reports from faculty, staff, students, departments (e.g., Residence Life or campus police), law enforcement agencies, or community members. Other sources of information may include, but are not limited to electronic communications, photographs, social media, and audio or video recordings.

6. Social Media Privacy

The university complies with all local, state, and federal laws governing social media privacy. Although the law prohibits the university from asking students, prospective students, or student groups to disclose a user name or password for accessing personal social media, requesting access to personal social media, or divulging any personal social media to or in the presence of a university employee or representative, the university may lawfully require disclosure, access or view personal social media if necessary to investigate and take disciplinary action against any student, prospective student, or student group utilizing social media in ways that are unlawful, violate the Code of Conduct, or pose a threat to the safety of the campus community.

7. Jurisdiction of the Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct applies to conduct that occurs on university premises, at university sponsored activities, and to off-campus conduct that adversely affects the university community and/or the pursuit of its objectives. Each student is responsible for his/her conduct from the time of application for admission through the actual awarding of a degree, even though conduct may occur before classes begin or after classes end, as well as during the academic year and during periods between terms of actual enrollment. The code applies to a student's conduct even if the student withdraws from school while a disciplinary matter is pending. The Assistant Dean of Students will decide whether the code will be applied to conduct occurring off campus, on a case by case basis, in his or her sole discretion.

B. Procedures

1. **Sharing of Alleged Violations.** Any member of the university community may inform the Student Conduct Office of violations of University policy.. Information regarding violations to the Student Code of Conduct will be investigated by the Student Conduct Office.

2. **Notice of Alleged Violations.** All notices of alleged violations shall be presented by the Student Conduct Hearing Officer to the Respondent. This will be in written form within five business days of receipt by the Student Conduct Administrator
3. **Title IX Grievances.** Any charge presented to the Student Conduct Hearing Officer that involves or appears to involve allegations of a Title IX grievance (i.e. sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, etc.) shall be reported by the Student Conduct Hearing Officer to the university's Title IX Coordinator and shall be investigated in accordance with the university's Title IX Grievance Procedures. Charges involving allegations of Title IX grievance shall not be informally resolved by the Student Conduct Hearing Officer.
4. **Informal Investigation and Student Conduct Hearings.**
 - a. Incident reports written by University officials will be reviewed weekly. Should alleged violations be noted in the incident reports, a Student Conduct Hearing Officer will inform alleged student(s) of the violations the student(s) is alleged. A Student conduct meeting request will be sent to the student(s) email with a date and time of the meeting. The meeting will be scheduled around the student(s) academic schedule only.
 - b. Students who are alleged of violations will be given an opportunity to learn about the report that was written and provide their perspective about the matter. Should students not appear for their Student Conduct Hearing, the case will be heard in absentia. The Student Conduct Hearing Officer will then determine responsibility utilizing the preponderance of evidence standard to determine accountability
 - c. Sanctions will then be assessed to students who are found responsible using the sanction guide found in section C.
 - d. Students will then receive a Student Conduct Outcome Letter within one week following the hearing that outlines the policy(ies) for which they were found responsible, as well as any sanctions assessed.
 - e. Students can appeal their case within 48 hours of their Student Conduct Outcome Letter.
5. **Notice of Decision.** Students will receive a Student Conduct Outcome Letter within one week following their Student Conduct Hearing
6. **Failure to Attend Hearing.** . Students who do not appear for their Student Conduct Hearings will be contacted in an attempt to reschedule. Should another meeting be scheduled and the student not attend, a meeting will be held in absentia, and the student will be notified of the outcome within one week of the hearing.
7. **Summer and University Breaks.** If a student violated the MHU Code of Conduct during the summer or during a time when classes are not in session, the Assistant Dean of Students or designee will serve as the hearing officer.

C. Sanctions

Violation of university policies for personal conduct may result in the imposition of one or more of the sanctions listed below. Sanctions that may be imposed are not limited to those listed. In certain limited situations, university officials may impose a sanction but suspend or postpone its actual implementation. Failure to comply with the sanction(s) imposed by a Student Conduct Hearing Officer may result in further disciplinary action, including but not limited to:, a registration hold, placement on or extension of university probation, or suspension.

Sanctions affecting the conduct of students are based on general principles of fair treatment. While attempting to be consistent in its disciplinary decisions, the university also seeks to be fair and sensitive to the facts and circumstances of each individual case. Disciplinary sanctions include:

- A. Warning. Oral or written notice to the student that the student is violating or has violated the Student Code of Conduct and that continuation or repetition of misconduct may result in a more severe sanction
- B. University Probation. A status which indicates that a student's relationship with MHU is tenuous. Probation is for a designated period of time and includes the probability of more severe disciplinary sanctions if the student is found in violation of any university regulations. Probation may also result in the loss of privileges, depending

on the policies of various university departments and organizations. For example, a student becomes ineligible to hold some leadership positions when placed on probation (see “Expectations for Student Leaders” below for more information).

- C. **Loss of Privileges**. Denial of specified privilege(s) for a designated period of time. Such loss may include, but is not limited to, financial assistance, eligibility to represent the university officially on athletic teams or performing groups, participation in the housing lottery, or use of specific university facilities, computer systems, equipment, or services.
- D. **Fines**. Payment of charges for violation of regulations which will be added to a student’s account
- E. **Restitution**. Compensation for loss, damage, or injury. This may take the form of appropriate service and/or monetary or material replacement. Failure to pay such charges may result in additional sanctions (including, but not limited to, denial of re-enrollment or refusal to release official transcripts and records).
- F. **Educational Sanctions**. Mandatory work hours, reading/writing assignment, drug or alcohol assessment/treatment, seminar attendance, or other discretionary sanctions as deemed appropriate (e.g. restorative circles).
- G. **Residence Hall Suspension**—Separation of the student from the residence halls for a definite period of time, after which the student is eligible to return. Conditions for readmission may be specified. Violation of Residence Hall Suspension will be treated as a criminal trespass.
- H. **Residence Hall Expulsion**—Permanent separation of the student from the residence halls. Violation of Residence Hall Expulsion will be treated as a criminal trespass.
- I. **University Suspension**. Separation of the student from the university for a definite period of time, after which the student is eligible to return. Conditions for readmission may be specified.
- J. **University Expulsion**. Separation of the student from the university for a definite period of time, after which the student must re-apply for admission
- J. **Dismissal**. Permanent separation of the student from MHU . The student is dismissed from the university and is permanently ineligible to re-enroll at the university at any time in the future.
- K. **Withheld Degree**. Withholding or delaying receipt of a student’s degree until the completion of the process set forth in this Student Conduct Code of Conduct, including the completion of all sanctions imposed, if any.
- L. **Revocation of Degree**. A degree awarded from the university is revoked. This may occur due to fraud, misrepresentation, or other violation of university standards in obtaining the degree, or for other serious violations committed by a student prior to graduation.

When students are dismissed, expelled, or suspended for disciplinary reasons, there will be no refund of tuition or room and board charges for the semester and all financial assistance for subsequent semesters will be reviewed and is subject to cancellation.

When students are dismissed, expelled, or suspended for disciplinary reasons, they are not allowed to continue any academic work and will receive all F’s for the term. The student’s academic transcript will also be noted that they have been temporarily or permanently dismissed and it is up to the student to notify any other institutions to the nature of their dismissal.

1. **Expectations for Student Organizations**

Student groups and organizations may be charged with violations of the Student Code of Conduct. A student group or organization may be held collectively responsible when violations of this code occur either during an event sponsored by the organization or when four or more members are in attendance at the event in question. Sanctions that may be imposed upon groups or organizations include but are not limited to deactivation, warning, reprimand, probation, fines, loss of privileges, restitution, and other educational sanctions. Deactivation includes loss of all privileges, including university recognition, for a specified period of time.

3. **Expectations for Student Leaders**

As role models to other students and ambassadors for MHU, student leaders are expected to embody the institution’s highest ideals, values, and aspirations, and to uphold its community standards. Therefore, students placed on university probation may lose privileges, including their ability to apply, campaign, or hold leadership

positions for the time they are on probation. Additional follow-up from their respective leadership positions may occur as well.

4. **Student Group and Student Organization Sanctions**

The following sanctions may be imposed upon student groups or student organizations:

- a. Any sanctions listed above.
- b. Loss of selected rights and privileges for a specified period of time.
- c. Deactivation or revocation of charter.
- d. Loss of all privileges, including University recognition, for a specified period of time.
- e. Communication with the group's national organization, if applicable, by an administrator, to inform them of the disciplinary sanctions.

5. **Cumulative Sanctions**

More than one of the sanctions listed above may be imposed for any single violation by a student, student group or student organization.

6. **Disciplinary and Academic Record**

Other than University suspension, or revocation or withholding of a degree, disciplinary sanctions shall not be made part of the student's permanent academic record, but shall become part of the student's disciplinary record. Upon graduation, the student's disciplinary record will be held for four years. The student's academic record is permanent. In situations involving both a Respondent(s) (or student group or student organization) and a student Grievant, the records of the process and of the sanctions imposed, if any, shall be considered to be the education records of both the Respondent(s) and the Grievant.

7. **Forfeiture of Financial Assistance**

Every student who has accepted a scholarship, loan, fellowship, grant-in-aid, or any other financial assistance by the university or the state is deemed to have agreed to observe the rules and regulations of the university. The university shall review the record of each recipient of financial assistance who has been placed on university disciplinary probation, is suspended, expelled, or dismissed from the university, or arrested and convicted as a result of a violation of university policy. In such cases students who have accordingly violated the student Code of Conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook may forfeit their financial assistance.

D. Interim Measures

In certain circumstances, the Assistant Dean of Students, or a designee, may impose a University or residence hall suspension or take other measures prior to an informal investigation by the Student Conduct Administrator.

1. Interim measures may be imposed as needed:
 - a. to ensure the safety and well-being of members of the university community or preservation of University property.
 - b. to ensure the student's own physical or emotional safety and well-being.
 - c. to prevent any ongoing threat of disruption of, or interference with, the normal operations of the university by the student, if necessary.
2. During the period of time of interim measures, the Assistant Dean of Students or designee may determine that a student may be denied access to the campus (including classes), access to the residence halls, and or access for all other University activities or privileges for which the student might otherwise be eligible.
3. The interim measures (including interim suspension) do not replace the regular process. The student will be notified in written form of interim measures and the reasons for the action. The notice should include the time, date, and place of a subsequent hearing at which the student may show cause why their continued presence on the university campus does not constitute a threat. This meeting to show cause may be separate from the student conduct hearing.

E. Appeals

1. **Filing of Appeal.** A decision and/or a sanction reached may be appealed by the Respondent or Grievant within 48 hours of the notice of the decision. Such appeals shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the Student Conduct Hearing Officer or designee via instructions on the Student Code of Conduct Outcome Letter.
2. **Grounds for Appeal**

Mars Hill University has implemented procedures for student appeals with the intent of assuring fundamental fairness. Students who believe they were not treated fairly in the disciplinary process can submit a written appeal to the Assistant Dean of Students or the Vice President of Student Life. The appeal letter must be submitted within 48 hours of the issuance of the sanction via email to the Assistant Dean of Students. The written appeal must specify grounds that would justify consideration. General dissatisfaction with the outcome of the decision or an appeal for mercy is not an appropriate basis for an appeal. The written appeal must specifically address at least one of the following criteria:

 - A. Insufficient information to support the decision
 - B. New information, sufficient to alter a decision, or other relevant facts not brought out in the original hearing, because such information and/or facts were not known to the person appealing at the time of the original hearing
 - C. Procedural irregularity that undermined the student's ability to present a defense
 - D. Inappropriateness of the sanction for the violation of the Code of Conduct. The Vice President of Student Life or designee may, but is not required to, convene an ad hoc appeal committee to assist in making a recommendation regarding the appeal. The vice president shall not be bound by the committee's recommendation, and may affirm, reverse, or modify the sanction. The Vice President of Student Life may also return the case to the Student Conduct Hearing Officer for further consideration. The vice president's decision shall be final and effective immediately.
3. **Timing and Notice of Outcome.** A response to the appeal shall be provided in a timely manner, which shall serve as the final outcome.

ARTICLE V: Interpretation and Revision

Any question of interpretation or application of the Student Code of Conduct shall be referred to the Assistant Dean of Students or designee for final determination.

The Student Code of Conduct shall be reviewed at least every summer under the direction of the Assistant Dean of Students and Vice President of Student Life

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Policies

Academic Integrity

Mars Hill University is committed to the fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage. [From *The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity*. (3rd ed.). 2021. www.academicintegrity.org/the-fundamental-values-of-academic-integrity]

The university's Honor Code calls each member of the campus community to uphold these core values in the work that is done and the lives that are led here. This community honors and expects honest work, fair and respectful treatment of all members of the community, and trust, which is the touchstone of each member's work with others. When members of the community break this code, it is necessary as an academic institution to repair what has been damaged and to follow clear guidelines that support and promote the fundamental values of academic integrity.

University Honor Code

We, the students of Mars Hill University, pledge ourselves to uphold integrity, honesty, and academic responsibility in and out of the classroom.

University Honor Pledge

On my honor, I have neither given nor received any academic aid or information that would violate the Honor Code of Mars Hill University.

Responsibilities for Students and Faculty

Academic Responsibilities of Students in and out of the Classroom

1. Know that all coursework submitted by a student is a representation of that student's knowledge and understanding of the material. In other words, "your work represents you."

Violations of this responsibility include:

- use of unauthorized materials in any classroom assignment, including quizzes, tests, or examinations.
- unauthorized collaboration in any classroom assignment, including quizzes, tests, or examinations.
- plagiarism, which includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.
- use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments.
- the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to university faculty, staff, or another student.
- the reuse of any portion of work submitted for credit in a different class without the express permission of the instructor.

2. Know that collaborating and assisting other students is encouraged unless it keeps another student from learning.

Violations of this responsibility include:

- Providing unauthorized collaboration or assistance on any classroom assignment, including quizzes, tests, or examinations.
 - Allowing another student to copy your work.
3. Know that one student's actions in the classroom can influence the ability of other students to learn.

Violations of this responsibility include:

- Engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion.

Academic Integrity Responsibilities for Faculty and Teaching Staff

1. Uphold the MHU Honor Code and affirm the university's policies and procedures of academic integrity as a core institutional value.
2. Teach students how to properly use all source materials effectively and honestly.
3. Develop students' roles and responsibility for academic integrity.
4. Clarify all expectations for students by:
 - designing educational experiences that teach academic honesty,
 - clarifying expectations for student collaboration and individual assignments, and
 - providing continual guidance throughout the course.
5. Develop fair assessments that promote significant learning opportunities.
6. Reduce opportunities to engage in academic dishonesty by having clear standards, adequate classroom management, and strong testing security.
7. Respond to academic dishonesty when it occurs.

For questions regarding the process and procedures for academic integrity violations, please consult the university's Academic Integrity Guidebook.

Academic Success and Learning Materials Policy

To support every student's academic success, Mars Hill University includes the cost of all textbooks, workbooks, and software licenses required by the instructor for each course within tuition and fees. (Other materials not distributed by textbook publishers, such as art supplies, music scores, and nursing equipment, are not included in the program.) Materials will be available for pick-up at the beginning of each term, and reusable materials, such as textbooks, must be returned at the end of each term. Students who wish to keep their textbooks may choose to purchase them at that time at a reduced cost.

Students should visit the bookstore in Day Hall for other educational supplies. Questions about the textbook program or the Mars Hill University bookstore may be directed to Karla Chandler at kchandler@mhu.edu or by calling (828) 689-1412.

Confidentiality of Student Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, also known as FERPA or the "Buckley Amendment," establishes requirements for how institutions of higher education (IHEs) maintain and disclose students' education records. In primary and secondary schools, FERPA rights belong to the parents or guardians of a minor student, but when a student reaches the age of 18 or enrolls in college, he or she becomes an "eligible student" under the law, and all rights transfer to the student. Therefore, all Mars Hill students are eligible students, and all FERPA rights belong to them, regardless of age.

FERPA lays out four basic rights for college students: the right to access their education records, the right to request amendment of their records, the right to control disclosure of their records, and the right to file a complaint against an institution that does not comply with FERPA. Each student has the right to disclose his

or her education records, but, with limited exceptions, the institution cannot disclose those records to others without the student's written consent. Mars Hill University's Consent to Disclose Education Records form, available in the Registrar's Office, must be completed, signed, and dated by the student before education records can be released to other parties. The form specifies the education record or records to be released and who is to be granted access. (Note: While students participating in financial aid programs often sign a release to allow parents or guardians access to their financial information, this release does not include other education records, including grades or disciplinary violations.)

To access an education record, the student must contact the office responsible for maintaining that record (or, when the responsible office is unclear to the student, the Registrar's Office). The responsible office will provide access to the record or provide a copy of the record within 45 days and may impose a fee to defray the cost of making a copy and/or sending it to the student. If the student finds a record to contain information that is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of his or her rights to privacy, the student may write to the

office responsible for maintaining that record (or the Registrar's Office) to request that the record should be amended. If the university does not amend the record as requested, the student may request a hearing before the Provost (or his or her designee) to review the request. If the record is not amended following a hearing, the student may place a statement in the record commenting on the contested information.

Under FERPA, an IHE may release education records without the consent of students in the following circumstances:

- School officials with legitimate educational interests (see below)
- Directory information (see below)
- Another IHE at which the student intends to enroll
- Health and safety emergencies
- Parents of dependent children per Internal Revenue Service filings
- Specific legal situations
- Other authorities

Details regarding these exceptions are codified in 20 USC § 1232g and 34 CFR Part 99.

Mars Hill University defines a "school official" as a person employed by the university in an administrative, supervisory, academic, or support staff position; a person employed by a consultant, contractor, or other outside party with whom the university has contracted for institutional services (e.g., an attorney, an auditor, an employee of the National Student Clearinghouse); a member of the Board of Trustees; or a student serving on an appeals committee or employed to support an institutional official. Further, Mars Hill University defines a "legitimate educational interest" as the need to review an education record in order to fulfill a professional responsibility.

Mars Hill University defines "directory information" as information not generally considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. It includes a student's name, home town, ID number, institutional email address, institutional mailbox number, institutional telephone extension, photograph, date of birth, place of birth, field(s) of study, participation in institution-sponsored activities including intercollegiate athletics, weight, height, job title, recognitions such as Dean's List, dates of attendance, degrees awarded or licensure programs completed, year classification, credit hours earned, enrollment status. A student may refuse to allow the release of directory information by contacting the Registrar's Office in writing. Requests to restrict directory information may take up to two weeks to process and stay in effect indefinitely unless the student requests otherwise.

Dropping Classes

Dropping Courses

A student is allowed to drop a course, with advisor authorization, during the first 20 days of classes (two weeks for Adult Studies short-term classes; five days for summer session classes) with no grade entry on the transcript. All courses on the student's schedule after the 20th day of class are considered courses attempted and will appear on the student's transcript. After the 20th day of class and before the stated deadline in the academic calendar (typically the day following

fall or spring break), a student is allowed to withdraw from a class with a grade of “W” as long as the student maintains full-time status (12 semester hours) after the withdrawal. After this stated deadline, a student may not withdraw from class/classes, but must withdraw from the university (see section below). Courses for which a grade of “W” is posted will remain on the transcript, but the grade will not be calculated in the grade point average.

Withdrawal from the university

To withdraw from the university, a student must obtain the appropriate withdrawal form from the Registrar’s Office and follow the specific withdrawal procedures. Withdrawal from the university after the stated deadline (typically the day following fall or spring break) will result in grades of “F” for all classes, unless the withdrawal is for medical or psychiatric reasons or for extraordinary extenuating circumstances which are approved by the chief academic officer for grades of “W”. No withdrawals, including medical or psychiatric, are allowed in the last two weeks of regular classes.

Administrative Withdrawals

A student who fails to attend classes for two consecutive weeks may be administratively withdrawn from all classes. Grades will be entered on the student’s transcript according to withdrawal guidelines.

Health Withdrawals

The demands of university life require that a student be able to function at his or her very best. A Health Withdrawal, a special type of withdrawal, provides an opportunity for a student with a serious physical or mental health condition(s) to withdraw from the institution without academic penalty in order to make his/her health a priority. In addition to the regular withdrawal form, a student seeking a Health Withdrawal must submit the university’s Health Withdrawal Documentation Form documenting the student’s condition by a physician, physician’s assistant, nurse practitioner, or a licensed mental health professional who has treated the student within the last 30 days. The Health Withdrawal Form is available in the university Wellness Center.

The university must receive the documentation on the Health Withdrawal Form within 15 business days of the initiation of the withdrawal. The Director of Medical Services and/or the Director of Counseling will review the information provided on the form to determine if the request meets the criteria for a Health Withdrawal. As with other types of withdrawals, a student is not permitted to withdraw from the institution in the last two weeks of a semester preceding exams and is responsible for financial obligations according to the published refund schedule and financial obligation policy.

In addition to the regular reapplication process, students returning after Health Withdrawals must provide documentation via the Readmission after a Health Withdrawal Form (available on website) that the health condition(s) causing them to withdraw have been/are being treated and that they are able to return to the rigors of university life. This process is intended to assist students as they transition back into the institution and to connect them to resources that will support success.

Other Withdrawals

Withdrawals for extenuating circumstances must be approved by the Chief Academic Officer. Adult students’ withdrawals must also be approved by the Dean of their respective program.

Refund Policy for Withdrawing from University

The financial balance due from a student who withdraws will be computed on total charges for tuition, room and campus dining, but not on other charges and fines. Please consult with the Office of Financial Aid as well as with the Business Office when considering withdrawal from the university.

- Withdrawals during weeks one through nine will be pro-rated based on the Department of Education’s calculation of a student’s attendance based on number of days enrolled. Financial obligation includes all general program fees that are charged 100%. Tuition, room and board are pro-rated based on the Department of Ed calculations.

- Withdrawals during week 10 or above will result in financial obligation of 100%. A student suspended for disciplinary purposes does not receive reductions and is liable for the cost of the entire semester. If a student withdraws, university scholarships will be prorated according to the appropriate schedule. Federal aid is determined by the Return of Title IV Funds guidelines. (See Academic Section for the academic record consequences of withdrawal and the process for official withdrawal from the university.) If the financial aid package exceeds direct costs (tuition, room, board, and course-related fees), a student may receive a refund from the Business Office. Financial aid packages generally can exceed direct costs only if the student secures a loan. Refunds resulting from excess financial aid will not be issued until all financial aid funding has been received by the university. A student officially withdrawing from school should follow a specific withdrawal procedure initiated in the Registrar's Office.

Academic Probation and Suspension

Mars Hill University students must demonstrate their ability to perform satisfactorily both by grade point average and by hours earned. To remain enrolled in good academic standing, a student must have maintained the following cumulative grade point average and earned the minimum hours listed at the end of any semester:

Qualitative Standards

Freshmen	(0-27 hours earned)	1.50
Sophomores	(28-59 hours earned)	1.80
Juniors and above	(60+ hours earned)	2.00

Quantitative Standards

Semester Attempted Hours	Min. Hours Earned
Full-time	12 hours
$\frac{3}{4}$ -time	9 hours
$\frac{1}{2}$ -time	6 hours

A student earning a term grade point average of 0.0 in his or her first semester at Mars Hill University will be placed on immediate academic suspension. Other students who do not meet the minimum requirement will be placed on academic probation for the following semester. A student who fails to meet the requirements during the probationary semester will be placed on academic suspension.

Students placed on academic suspension at the end of the spring semester may use the summer session to meet the minimum grade point average to be reinstated for the fall semester; those placed on academic probation may use the summer session to improve their grade point average and remove probation before the fall semester begins.

Any student placed on suspension will be notified using official university communication (email and physical mail to the home address on file). A suspended student may appeal their suspension by completing a suspension appeal application and submitting it for review by the Admissions, Academic Standards, and Financial Aid committee. Instructions for submitting a suspension appeal are included in the notification of suspension from the university. Applications that are received after the deadline will not be considered. Students who have been academically suspended may apply for readmission through the Admissions Office after one semester, during which the student must have attended another institution to raise his or her grade point average to the required standard.

Any student placed on suspension will be notified using official university communication (email and physical mail to the home address on file). A suspended student may appeal their suspension by completing a suspension appeal application and submitting it for review by the Admissions, Academic Standards, and Financial Aid committee. Instructions for submitting a suspension appeal are included in the notification of suspension from the university. Applications that are received after the deadline will not be considered.

Academic Suspension Check-Out

Students who are placed on academic suspension must appeal their suspension within 10 weekdays or vacate their residential housing assignment, to include a proper check out with a residence life staff member. This appeal must be in writing or via email to the chair of the Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee. Any student who does not appeal by the date specified by the Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee, or whose appeal is denied, must vacate their housing assignment by noon on the date specified by the committee. For each day that the housing assignment is not vacated, a \$50.00 fee is assessed. After 5 work days, the housing assignment will be emptied out at an additional expense of \$200.00. All items removed from the housing assignment will be donated to a local charity.

Academic Appeals Procedure

The following section clarifies rights and responsibilities of the faculty and students in the academic areas of campus life. Statements of grievance and appeals of decisions should adhere to standards of fairness, civility, and responsible citizenship and must not infringe upon the rights of either students or instructors.

Only academic matters come under these guidelines. Personnel matters are handled by the appropriate administrators, and student conduct issues are covered by Student Code of Conduct procedures.

Basis for Appeals

When a student believes that a decision of an academic nature has been made unfairly or improperly, they may appeal that decision. An appeal should be initiated only when the student considers the case serious and when the student has, or has access to, substantial supporting evidence. The following are categories of decisions that may be appealed:

1. **Grading:** To appeal a grade, a student must have verifiable evidence that the grade is inconsistent with the work done in the course or that an instructor failed to take into account valid and verifiable extenuating circumstances that interfered with the student's opportunity to complete and submit required course assignments in a timely manner.
2. **Breaches of Academic Integrity:** A student who has been accused of plagiarizing, cheating, or otherwise engaging in academic dishonesty by an instructor and whose work in the instructor's course had been graded accordingly may appeal the instructor's decision.
3. **Transfer Credit:** A student who believes credits transferred from another institution have not been properly evaluated may request that they be reevaluated. To do so, the student must provide copies of the other institution's appropriate academic catalog(s) and course syllabi.

Procedure for Appeal

To appeal a decision of an academic nature, a student must proceed through the following steps:

1. The student must make an appointment to meet with the instructor (or Registrar, in the case of transfer credit appeals) to discuss the decision being appealed. Whenever possible, this meeting must take place in person.
2. If the student is not satisfied after having met with the instructor, the student may appeal the instructor's decision to the instructor's supervisor, typically either the department chair or the division dean. The supervisor will convene a meeting of the student, the instructor, and him- or herself, will hear the reason for the appeal and examine the evidence, and will issue a ruling in writing to both parties.
3. If the supervisor's ruling is considered unacceptable, either party may lodge a formal appeal of the ruling in writing to the chief academic officer, who will refer the matter either to the Committee on Admissions, Academic Standards, and Financial Aid or to a special Board of Academic Appeal, at his or her discretion. A meeting of the committee or board will take place within two weeks of submission of the formal appeal, during which both the student and the instructor will provide relevant evidence. Within one week of this meeting, the chair of the committee or board will issue a decision about the appeal, which is final and binding.

Repeat Course Policy

Even though grades of D, D+, D- are considered passing grades and may be used to meet requirements, students may repeat courses for which they have earned that grade. The grade and hours for each attempt will be recorded but the grade and hours for the last attempt will be used to calculate earned hours and the grade point average (GPA). Students may not repeat courses for which they have received a grade of C- or higher.

Animal Policies

Conflicting Disabilities

Individuals on the university campus may have allergic reactions to animals that are substantial enough to qualify as a disability. In such cases, the university will consider the needs of both persons in meeting its obligations to reasonably accommodate all disabilities and to resolve the problem as efficiently and expeditiously as possible. Students requesting allergy accommodations should contact the MHU Office of Disability Services and employees requesting accommodations should contact Human Resources.

Emotional Support Animals

Emotional support animals will be permitted in university housing when the emotional support animal is necessary for the resident (with a documented disability) to have equal access to housing and is approved in advance by the Office of Disability Services. Approved emotional support animals are not permitted on any other part of campus outside their housing unit or room. For consideration of an emotional support animal, the student must have a documented emotional disability registered with the MHU Office of Disability Services in advance of the request. The request for accommodation must be made no later than 30 days before their requested arrival on campus to process their request. The request must include the following:

- a. Documentation stating that student is under the regular care of a licensed mental health professional (LMHP), where they can evidence, they have been seeing the same LMHP regularly for a minimum of one year.
- b. Credentials of their LMHP
- c. A properly formatted prescription letter that states that the student is under the care of a LMHP which must state the link between the presence of the emotional support animal and a documented disability
- d. Proof that the emotional support animal is properly licensed.
- e. Evidence of current vaccinations for the emotional support pet as applicable. The animal must be at least six months of age and spayed/neutered.
- f. An agreement, signed by all roommates or suitemates, and allowing the requested animal to reside in the residence. If one or more roommates or suitemates do not approve, or that potential allergies may cause issues for other residents, the owner and animal may be reassigned to a different location.

A request may be denied if the emotional support animal presents an undue financial or administrative burden on the university, poses a substantial and direct threat to personal or public safety or constitutes a fundamental alteration of the nature of the service or program of the university.

The owner of an emotional support animal approved as an accommodation in university housing must:

- g. Assure that the emotional support animal does not unduly interfere with the routine activities of the residence hall or cause difficulties with other residents.
- h. Assume full financial responsibility for damage or injury caused by the emotional support animal, including but not limited to replacement of furniture, carpet, windows and wall covering. Expenses related to property damage will be charged at the time of repair or move-out.
- i. Assume full financial responsibility for any expense incurred for cleaning above and beyond a standard cleaning, and for any costs related to pest control or pest mitigation.

- j. Assume full financial responsibility for the cost of care, arrangements and responsibility for the well-being of the emotional support animal. Emotional support animals may not be left in the care of another resident. Approved emotional support animals must be removed by the student when a student will be away from the residence hall for more than an extended time. Due to feeding and care, MHU will assume that an extended time is a maximum of 8 hours unless the student demonstrates how their pet can be without care for longer periods of time.
- k. Assume full responsibility for cleaning up after an emotional support animal, including disposal of all animal waste in accordance with guidelines established by the Office of Residence Life.
- l. Assume responsibility for immunizations common to the emotional support animal.
- m. Assume responsibility for containment of the emotional support animal within the privately assigned residential area (room, suite, apartment, or house) at all times, except when transported outside the private residential area in an animal carrier or controlled by leash or harness. Animals other than dogs on a leash are not allowed on campus grounds.

Pets

A “pet” is an animal kept for ordinary use and companionship. A pet is not considered a service or emotional support animal.

Residential students may keep fish in aquariums of 10 gallons or less in campus housing. No other aquatic animals other than fish are allowed (such as turtles, frogs, crabs, snakes, or other aquarium-bound animals). Owners are responsible for the proper care and cleaning of the aquarium and are responsible for any damage caused by the aquarium. Students will lose the ability to keep fish if there are complaints of odors or issues arising from their pets. Students are not allowed to have other pets in campus housing, in any campus buildings, or on any campus property. The first time fine for having a pet in campus housing or a campus building is \$100. Failure to remove pets immediately will result in further disciplinary action and additional damage costs.

Policy Regarding Animals on Campus

This policy is intended to protect the public from potentially hazardous health conditions and to prevent environmental pollution caused by animal waste.

Mars Hill University students, faculty, and staff as well as members of the Mars Hill community are welcome to walk their dogs on campus provided that the pet is leashed and that, for health reasons, owners or keepers pick up and remove all waste from university property. This guideline covers waste left anywhere on campus, including sidewalks, streets, pathways, lawns, and athletic fields. When walking animal(s) on campus, dog owners or keepers should carry a bag or some other means to remove and properly dispose of the waste. While on campus, dog owners or keepers are responsible for any damage, accidents, and bites caused by their pets.

Animals, except for Trained Service Animals, are not permitted at athletic practice or competition venues or in any university building, academic buildings, and administration buildings. Animals may not be tied up unattended. Only Trained Service Animals and approved Emotional Support Animals are allowed in campus housing.

The owner or keeper of any animal that is not a Trained Service Animal (defined as trained to do work or to perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability) must adhere to the above guidelines regarding animals on campus.

The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship does not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

If you have questions regarding Trained Service Animals or Emotional Support Animals, please contact the Office of Disability Services.

Service Animals

Service animals are defined as animals that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The work or task that the animal performs must be directly related to the individual's disability. Service animals are working animals, not pets. Examples of service animal tasks include, but are not limited to, guiding a person with blindness, alerting people who are deaf, or pulling a wheelchair.

Service animals are allowed anywhere on campus when accompanied by an individual with a disability who indicates the service animal is trained to provide, and does provide, a specific service to them that is directly related to their disability.

In general, individuals who are accompanied by a service animal must not be asked to identify the nature or extent of their disability. In regard to a service animal, MHU faculty and staff will not inquire about the qualifications of a service animal when it is readily apparent that the animal is trained to do work or to perform a task for an individual with a disability (e.g., the dog is observed guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision, pulling a person's wheelchair, or providing assistance with stability or balance to a person with an observable mobility disability.) MHU faculty and staff will not require documentation of a service animal's certification, training or license as a service animal.

If it is not readily apparent that an animal is performing work or a task on behalf of an individual with a disability, please do not approach the individual or the animal. Refer the matter to the Dean of Students who will work with the individual and the Office of Disability Services to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal.

Service animal owners/handlers are responsible for any damage or injury caused by their animals and must take appropriate precautions to prevent property damage and/or injury to others while on campus. Service animals must always be under the control of the owner/ handler and, to the extent possible, the service animal should be unobtrusive to other individuals and the learning, living, and working environment.

Cost of care, arrangements, and responsibility for the well-being of a service animal are the sole responsibility of the owner/handler including keeping the animal free from fleas and ticks or other pests that may cause infestation. Cleaning up after a service animal is the sole responsibility of the owner/handler. If the owner/handler is not physically able to clean up after a service animal, the owner/handler must hire another individual who can meet this requirement.

Removal of Service and Emotional Support Animals

Service and emotional support animals may be removed by the MHU

Security/Police or the Dean of Students. They will work with the owner/handler to determine reasonable alternative opportunities to participate in the university service, program or activity without having the service or emotional support animal on university premises. Service and emotional support animals may be removed for the following reasons:

- a. **Out of control service animal:** An owner/handler may be directed to remove a service or emotional support animal that is out of control when the owner/handler does not or cannot take effective action to control the animal. If the improper animal behavior occurs repeatedly, the owner/handler may be prohibited from bringing the service animal into any university facility or emotional support animals may be excluded from university living areas until the owner/handler can demonstrate that she or he has taken significant steps to mitigate the behavior.
- b. **Non-Housebroken Service Animal:** An owner/handler may be directed to remove an animal that is not housebroken.
- c. **Direct Threat:** An owner/handler may be directed to remove an animal that the Dean of Students determines to be a substantial and direct threat to the health and safety of individuals. A direct threat may be based upon the poor health of the animal, a substantial lack of cleanliness of the animal, or the presence of an animal in a sensitive area such as certain laboratories or mechanical or industrial areas. Instances of abuse of a service/emotional support animal will be referred to the Dean of Students.

Any violation of the rules may result in immediate removal of the animal from the university and may be reviewed through the student judicial process. The owner will be afforded all rights of due process and appeal as outlined in that process. Should the approved animal be removed from the premises for any reason, the owner is expected to fulfill his/her housing obligations for the remainder of the housing contract.

Bias Incident Reporting

“Respect MHU”

Mars Hill University is committed to fostering a safe and welcoming experience for all members of and visitors to the MHU campus community. The work of creating and maintaining an inclusive environment requires the efforts of the entire university, and we recognize that each member of the community holds some responsibility to foster an environment in which its members can thrive without fear of hate or bias. The creation of Respect MHU allows for the community to work together to report and address incidents of bias and hate on campus, thereby enhancing and contributing to the authentic pursuit of knowledge and truth that lies at the heart of our institutional identity and purpose.

Respect MHU is a structure that allows campus community members who have been the targets or witnesses of a hate or bias incident to bring these incidents to the attention of university administration in an easily accessible and understandable manner. Respect MHU is a systematic approach to promoting a safe and welcoming campus community for all students, employees, and visitors at Mars Hill University. Respect MHU builds community by:

- Creating a process whereby members of the campus community can report acts of bias and hate,
- Establishing a Bias Incident Report Team (BIRT) of MHU employees to respond to incidents of bias and hate and recommend potential next steps, and
- Working collaboratively across campus to reduce bias incidents and promote a more healthy multicultural learning and living environment.

Reporting process:

University employees, students, vendors, and visitors, who perceive that they have experienced a bias incident or hate crime, as well as those who witness one, are urged to report the incident immediately. For immediate assistance or for an emergency, please contact the campus security at extension 1230 from an on-campus phone, or (828) 689-1230 from off-campus or a cell phone. Persons reporting an incident may self-identify or remain anonymous by any of the following means. Anonymous reporting, however, will impact the university’s ability to respond or pursue appropriate action against the alleged perpetrator.

- Online Reporting: www.mhu.edu/bias-incident
- Email: respectmhu@mhu.edu

Also, you can report an incident by email, phone, or in-person to:

- Director of the Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (CDEI): Jonathan McCoy, (828) 689-1508, jonathan_mccoy@mhu.edu
- University Chaplain: Rev. Stephanie McLeskey, (828) 689-1299, smcleskey@mhu.edu
- Title IX Coordinator: Jennie Matthews, (828) 689-1197, jmatthews@mhu.edu
- Director of Safety & Security: Kevin West, (828) 689-1585, kwest@mhu.edu
- Assistant Dean of Students: Zachary Cammack, (828) 689-1744, zachary_cammack@mhu.edu
- Director of Counseling Services: Phillip Brantley, (828) 689-1196, phillip_brantley@mhu.edu
- Director of Disability Services: Judith Harris, (828) 689-1410, judith_harris@mhu.edu • Director of Medical Services: Renee Sprinkle, (828) 689-1243, renee_sprinkle@mhu.edu

Response:

Respect MHU and members of the Bias Incident Response Team (BIRT) will respond immediately to the needs of the affected party or parties by contacting the appropriate departments and offices necessary to implement an appropriate intervention. Those offices will notify members of the campus community as appropriate and/or as required by federal law.

The BIRT is composed of faculty and staff members. It is not an investigating and/or sanctioning body. Its role is one of advocacy/support of the person filing a report. The BIRT may make a recommendation on a coordinated campus response if deemed appropriate. Such responses (as outlined in student and employee handbooks) may include, but are not limited to:

- Identification of and referral of affected individuals and communities and/or alleged perpetrator to appropriate support resources and services on or off campus,
- Disciplinary action, if necessary, to be administered according to the Student Conduct Code, Residence Life Guidelines, University Guidelines, and/or any local, state, or federal laws and regulations.
- Educational awareness programs for the full university community, or for some part of the community involved in the incident.

Threatening Symbols Policy

The display of any symbols representative of organizations and ideologies associated with white supremacy groups or any other hate group or organization that seeks to promote fear and violence (as identified by the MHU committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) is prohibited on campus, including residence hall rooms, on vehicles registered to park on campus, or anywhere else on university property. This policy includes, but is not limited to, the confederate flag, any variation of the flag originally employed as the battle flag of the Confederate Army of the Potomac, and swastikas and other Nazi symbols. Exceptions will be made for academic and educational purposes only.

Campus Security

Abandoned Property

This serves as legal notice regarding personal property left in the residence halls after a student has departed or their housing contact has ended. Residents who vacate rooms/apartments for any reason and leave personal belongings behind have 48 hours to claim their property. Any property left after that point will be collected and disposed of. The 48-hour period begins with the date the room is vacated or the agreement has ended. The student will be assessed charges associated with storing of the property during the 48 hours, as well as costs for the removal of personal belongings, damage, and cleaning charges for their assigned areas. Mars Hill University is not responsible for any items that are damaged or stolen.

Bicycles and Conveyances

Bicycles may be stored either in student rooms or outside the buildings at designated bicycle racks; they should not be left in the common areas, hallways, or stairwells. Bicycles should not be parked so as to block or prohibit the use of walkways, hall entrances, or fire exits. Please make sure that your bicycle is secured when not in use. We recommend using a U-Lock for securing your bicycle. Bicycles can be registered with Campus Security.

Unauthorized Conveyances

No rollerblades, roller-skates, scooters, golf carts, or like conveyances with or without motors are permitted to be used by students on Mars Hill University property. Exceptions are those vehicles used by Facilities Management, Athletic Department, Post Office, Admissions, administrative personnel, Campus Security, or any conveyance specifically approved by the Director of Safety and Security. Any conveyance used by the physically impaired (with a doctor's consent) may be used inside or outside any buildings on campus. Bicycles may be used for transportation but are not allowed to impede entrances or exits. The ordinances/violations contained herein do not supersede those of the State of North Carolina as noted in the North Carolina General Statutes.

Building Security

To prevent unauthorized access to residence halls by people who are uninvited or unwelcome, all residence hall entrance doors are locked 24 hours a day. All students are required to use their Student ID to gain access to their assigned building. Tampering with or propping doors is strictly prohibited because of the security risk that it poses. Please report unusual people or other circumstances at once to the building staff or Campus Security. Due to the extra security concern that ID cards entail, special rules apply: guests will not be issued university ID cards, anyone found loaning a key/ID card will face sanctions for breaching university security policy, and tampering with or propping of any outside entrance door is strictly prohibited and violators will be written up and face sanctions according to the Student Code of Conduct.

Search Policy

Residence halls and residence hall rooms may be entered for inspection by approved Mars Hill University officials at any reasonable time for:

- Safety and maintenance checks.
- Maintenance on university property within a residence hall room.
- Reasonable belief by staff that university policies are being violated or reasonable suspicion that illegal and criminal activities are taking place inside.
- Emergency conditions such as fire or threatening weather.
- Closing or locking doors or windows prior to the closing of the building.

A resident's room may be searched under normal circumstances, with reasonable suspicion, by a university official who has received authorization from the occupying student, the Director of Safety and Security, the Assistant Dean of Students, and/or the VPSL. The search may include, but is not limited to, opening drawers and refrigerators, examining furnishings and personal effects, and searching an adjoining bath/suite. In a crisis/ emergency situation, other university officials may enter student rooms with no search warrant or notice given for emergencies such as:

- Incident to and following a lawful arrest;
- For and in the pursuit of a fleeing dangerous criminal suspect;
- Under urgent necessity (i.e. persistent loud screaming);
- As necessary to prevent loss of or destruction of an item to be seized;
- While searching for missing University property.

In any room inspection/search, illegal drugs, alcohol or other items which violate university policy or civil law may be confiscated by those conducting the search and disciplinary action may result. If there is reasonable suspicion to believe a violation of local, state or federal law has occurred, the matter will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency for further action.

An attempt will be made to notify students whose room is being searched. Students will have approximately 10 minutes to return to the room. Otherwise, the room search will take place in the student's absence. All searches will have a minimum of two university officials present during the search process.

Access to Rooms, Apartments, or Houses

When university staff reasonably fear harm to life, safety, health, property, or have a reasonable suspicion related to a policy violation, resident rooms, apartments, or houses may be entered by an official university representative without prior notice. Residents are expected to open the doors to their rooms for a Security Officer, Student Life professional staff member, Resident Assistant, or facilities personnel. If the resident does not open the door for a properly-identified member of the staff, that staff member may unlock the door and enter.

Throughout the year, university staff have the right, without advance notice, to announce and enter resident rooms, apartments, or houses for routine maintenance and inspection. When they have entered resident rooms and find items

that violate state laws, federal laws, local laws, or campus policies the items (including but not limited to firearms, fireworks, weapons, drugs, etc.) will be confiscated by Campus Security and student(s) will be notified of the confiscation and next steps in the Student Conduct process.

Vehicle Searches

Upon reasonable suspicion of violation of university policy or local, state or federal law, the Department of Safety and Security reserves the right to search vehicles parked on campus property.

The university also reserves the right to inspect vehicles located on university property. Vehicles may be searched only by university personnel given authorization by the Vice President for Student Life or the Director of Safety and Security.

Drug-Alcohol Free Campus and Workplace Policies

Mars Hill University is committed to providing an appropriate environment for the intellectual, personal, and spiritual growth of its students. The administration believes that illegal drugs—among any segment of the university population—conflict seriously with this institutional goal; therefore, the university strives to maintain a drug-free campus and workplace environment as mandated by the provisions of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988.

These policies were not created with a spirit of judgment as all students should be in a safe environment where they can learn about the personal and social consequences associated with the effects of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.

Standards of Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions

Mars Hill University strictly prohibits the use or possession of alcohol and/or illegal drugs on the university campus for both students and employees.

Mars Hill University provides the following sanctions for the use of drug-alcohol on the university campus. These sanctions are stated in the Mars Hill University Student Handbook and the Mars Hill University Faculty & Staff Handbooks, as appropriate.

The selling, transfer, possession, use or collection of alcoholic beverages or containers on the campus is prohibited. This includes off-campus parties sponsored by campus organizations. Students found responsible through the Student Conduct process will be subject to a range of sanctions, up to and including suspension. The severity of the offense and the student's prior conduct will be considered in the outcome. For employees, drinking on the job or reporting to work under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs is grounds for reprimand or discharge.

Furthermore, the university has a policy against the manufacture, sale, transfer, possession, or use of illegal and/or controlled substances. Students found responsible for drug violations through the Student Conduct process will be subject to a range of sanctions, up to and including suspension or expulsion. The severity of the offense and the student's prior conduct will be considered in the outcome. Such violations by employees are grounds for immediate disciplinary action, which could include reprimand, suspension without pay, or discharge.

These policies are outlined for the university population in the Student Handbook, and the Employee Handbook. Violations of these policies will result in prompt disciplinary action.

A Mars Hill University employee must notify the Human Resources Office in writing of their conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction. Failure to do so will result in immediate discharge.

Drug/Alcohol Treatment

Mars Hill University has a multi-faceted approach to substance abuse. For students, the university initially focuses on counseling, changing behavior, and substance abuse education, and emphasizes responsibility to the community and community standards. The Mars Hill University Counseling Center will provide referral resources for drug and alcohol treatment facilities for both students and employees upon request. For employees, the university's health insurance plan covers Substance Abuse Services.

The University also provides alcohol and other drug education through an online education program for all new students. Additional substance abuse education may be provided for the campus population through health fairs sponsored by the university, or via presentations by Student Life staff, or by faculty.

Health Risks

The abuse of alcohol causes symptoms ranging from decreased inhibitions, muscle incoordination and slowing of reaction time to chronic disorders, such as cirrhosis, anorexia, mental deterioration with memory loss, tremors, uncontrollable fears progressing to hallucination, convulsions, and sometimes death.

Marijuana inhibits short-term memory, slows reaction time, and irritates the throat and lungs. It has twice the amount of "tar" as cigarette smoke. Frequent use has been linked to lung cancer, bronchitis, and emphysema. It has also been linked to low sperm count and irregular menses. Heavy use can also depress the immune system.

Cocaine can cause depression, intense anxiety, confusion, uncontrolled tremors, weight loss, and seizures. It also can cause destruction of the membranes and cartilages in the nasal cavity. It can lead to cardiac irregularities, heart attacks and cardiac arrest. Other secondary problems associated with the use of cocaine are hepatitis, meningitis, and AIDS. These are usually caused by using contaminated needles to inject cocaine.

LSD and PCP are hallucinogens that can cause hyper excitability, hypertension, emotional instability, prolonged psychotic states, personality disorders, increased homicidal and suicidal risks, and death.

Narcotics (i.e. Morphine, Demerol, and Methadone) cause addiction in a very short time. These drugs depress the central nervous system. They can cause coma, convulsions, and death. Barbiturates and tranquilizers are also depressants and can cause similar problems. The combination of these drugs with alcohol can potentiate their effect and can often cause death.

Stimulants (i.e. amphetamines) can cause addiction, nervousness, exhaustion, depression, confusion, personality changes, convulsions, coma, and death.

Inhalants (i.e. glue, aerosols, and gasoline) can result in sudden death by doing damage to the brain and central nervous system. Prior to this, there may be nausea, vomiting, asphyxiation, and comatose state. Revised August 2018.

Local, State, and Federal Law

1. The North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Laws make it unlawful for any person under twenty-one (21) years of age to purchase, possess, or consume; or for anyone to aid or abet such a person in purchasing, possessing, and consuming any alcoholic beverage. (General Statute 18B- 302)
2. Any person who is over the lawful age to purchase and who aids or abets another person who is underage in purchase or possession shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$2000 or imprisonment for not more than two years, or both.
3. It shall be unlawful for any person to obtain alcoholic beverages when under the lawful age by using or attempting to use a fraudulent or altered driver's license or any other type of false identification.
4. It shall be unlawful for any person to permit the use of their license or any other identification document by any person who purchases or attempts to purchase alcoholic beverages while under the lawful age.
5. A driver may not consume any alcoholic beverage while driving. No person may transport in the passenger area any alcoholic beverage in any container other than the manufacturer's unopened original container.

Using and Trafficking in Illegal Drugs

North Carolina Controlled Substances Act 90-89 deals with the use and trafficking in illegal drugs by schedule from I to VI.

1. It is illegal to possess or manufacture an illicit drug or controlled substance with the intent to sell or deliver it to another.
2. It is illegal to sell or buy any item which is represented to be an illicit drug or controlled substance.

Punishment is based on the type (schedule) of substance and the quantity. The prescribed sentences are, class H felon, minimum 5 years, maximum 10 years and class I felon, maximum 5 years and/or fine.

90-95 Violations, penalties:

- a. Except as authorized by this Article, it is unlawful for any person:
 - (1) To manufacture, sell or deliver, or possess with intent to manufacture, sell or deliver a controlled substance;
 - (2) To create, sell or deliver, or possess with intent to sell or deliver, a counterfeit controlled substance;
 - (3) To possess a controlled substance.
- b. With certain exceptions, any person who violates G. S. 90-95 with respect to:
 - (1) A controlled substance classified in Schedule I or II shall be punished as a Class H felon.
 - (2) A controlled substance classified in Schedule III, IV, V, or VI shall be punished as a Class I felon, but the transfer of less than 5 grams of marijuana for no remuneration shall not constitute a delivery in violation of G. S. 90-96 (a) (1).

Cases involving controlled substances will be reported to the Mars Hill Police Department.

Residence Life Policies and Guidelines

Like any living community, the residence halls have standards of behavior designed to create a positive living environment. Mars Hill's Student Code of Conduct as well as state and federal laws apply to all students who live in university owned and operated housing. Additional policies and guidelines have also been established specifically for Mars Hill University housing. These policies are designed to ensure that each resident is respectful of their obligation to a communal living situation.

There are three guiding principles or community interests that residential policies and guidelines are designed to support.

1. Health and Safety - maintaining the physical, mental, and emotional health or safety of either the group or individual.
2. Healthy Living and Learning Environment - respecting the needs and rights of others living in the community and avoiding behavior that does not contribute to the educational purpose of Mars Hill University or the Residence Life program.
3. Property Loss and Damage - care and protection of community and personal property.

The guidelines listed below are not intended to be a comprehensive description of Mars Hill's housing regulations. Instead, it is written to explain the most common situations under each of the three compelling community interests. Any action, whether listed below or not, that goes against any of these three principles is not acceptable behavior in university housing. Each resident is responsible for asking himself or herself if a behavior falls under one of these principles and then regulating their behavior accordingly. Residence Life staff may confront residents about any action if the staff member believes this action may go against any of the above mentioned principles.

Alcohol [See Drug-Alcohol Free Campus and Workplace Policies]

MHU is committed to maintaining an academic and social environment conducive to the intellectual and personal development, safety, and welfare of all members of the university community. The paraphernalia, possession,

consumption, and selling of alcohol on campus is strictly prohibited. “Possession” for the purposes of this policy also includes being on campus in a state of intoxication. The possession of empty alcohol containers and shot glasses are also prohibited. Offenders will be subjected to the campus Student Code of Conduct, legal prosecution or both. The University adheres to and enforces all federal and state legislation governing alcohol/drugs.

Building Security

To prevent unauthorized access to residence halls by people who are uninvited or unwelcome, all residence hall entrance doors are locked 24 hours a day. All students are required to use their Student ID to gain access to their assigned building. Tampering with or propping doors is strictly prohibited because of the security risk that it poses. Please report unusual people or other circumstances at once to the building staff or Campus Security. Due to the extra security concern that ID cards entail, special rules apply: guests will not be issued university ID cards, anyone found loaning a key/ID card will face sanctions for breaching university security policy, and tampering with or propping of any outside entrance door is strictly prohibited and violators will be written up and face sanctions according to the Student Code of Conduct.

Check-In/Check-out and Hall Closing

Residents must check in with a staff member prior to moving into their rooms. At this time, the student will receive their room key and sign the Room Condition Inventory (RCI) form on MHU-Residence (www.mhu.edu/housingportal). If there are any discrepancies between the actual condition of the resident’s room and the Room Condition Inventory form, they should see a staff member and have that person document the discrepancies.

Students will be required to check out of their rooms at the end of the academic year, 24 hours after their last exam or by the published closing date and time and/or at anytime they vacate the room (i.e., room change or withdrawal). Each student is responsible for following the proper check-out procedures listed below before leaving campus. Locks are re-keyed immediately when a key is lost or not turned in; therefore, a key that is turned in late is of no value.

Failure to follow this checkout procedure will result in a minimum fine of \$75.00. Additional damages to room(s), a lock change for missing key, and cleaning fees will be billed to the resident(s). Students are expected to arrange for transportation ahead of time. Upon completion of final exams in the fall, spring, or summer, students are required to vacate their residence halls within 24 hours after their last exams or by the published closing time and date. Students failing to vacate on time will be charged \$60 per day until they depart. Students are not to return until the halls officially reopen. Closing and reopening times will be announced in advance of each closing.

Personal property may not be left in rooms over the summer. Any personal items left will be disposed of within 48 hours of the student vacating the room. All appeals for early arrival or leaving late from breaks must be made via MyMHU, Student Page, Residence Life Heading, “Break Appeal Form.” This is only an appeal; once the appeal is received it will be sent before the Break Appeal committee for consideration. The Break Appeal Committee will then send a reply with their decision. This process can take up to a week to complete. Please watch the daily announcements for appeal deadlines.

Check-Out with Academic Suspension or Probation

If you are currently on academic probation, please pay very close attention to this mandate. It is your responsibility to check your “Self Service” account at the end of each semester to make sure that you are not academically suspended. Suspensions are generally posted by December 15 and May 15 respectively.

Students who are placed on academic suspension in the fall semester must appeal their suspension within 10 business days. They are encouraged to vacate the room, including a proper check out with a Residence Life staff person. This will eliminate the need to make other arrangements should your appeal be denied. The room will be held for any students who has submitted an appeal, even if they have checked out. Students must communicate this appeal in writing using the Academic Suspension Appeal form found on MyMHU. Deadlines for appeals will be included with the communication regarding the student’s academic suspension. Any student who has not appealed by January 2, or whose appeal is denied, must vacate the room by noon on January 3. For each day that the room is not vacated, a \$60.00 fee is assessed.

After five business days, the room will be emptied of personal belongings for an additional expense of \$200.00 and all items from the room will be disposed of. See Abandoned Property for more details.

Fall and Easter Break Check-In/Check-Out

Campus housing closes for fall break on Friday at 5:00 p.m. and reopens the following Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.

Campus housing closes for Easter break on the Thursday before Easter at 5:00 p.m. and reopens on Easter Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Check-Out Requirements

Students must:

1. Unplug all of their personal electrical items in the room except personal refrigerators.
2. Sign out with the RA on the floor.

Check-In Requirements

Students must:

1. Sign in with the RA on the floor upon returning to their building.

Thanksgiving and Spring Break Check-In/ Check-Out

Campus housing closes for Thanksgiving Break on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving at 5:00p.m. and reopens the Sunday after Thanksgiving at 12:00 p.m..

Campus housing closes for spring break on Friday at 5:00 p.m. and reopens nine days later, on Sunday at 12:00 p.m..

Check-Out Requirements

Students must:

1. Set up check out times with their RAs at least 24 hours before the time they are scheduled to leave.
2. Unplug all of their personal electrical items in the room except personal refrigerators.
3. Check out with the RA at the scheduled time.

Check-In Requirements

Students must:

1. Sign in with the RA on the floor upon returning to their buildings.

Christmas Break Check-In/Check-Out

Campus housing closes for Christmas Break on the Wednesday that exams end at 12:00 p.m., and reopens on the Sunday before classes begin, at 12:00 p.m.. Students who are not graduating must leave within 24 hours of their last exam, or by Tuesday (the day before exams end) at 6 p.m., whichever comes first.

Check-Out Requirements

Students must:

1. Set up a check out time with the RA that is within 24 hours after their last exam.
2. Unplug all personal electrical items in the room including personal refrigerator. Place a folded bath towel at the bottom of the unit with the door propped open to defrost the refrigerator. Remove all food items from refrigerator.
3. Check out with the RA at their appointed time and turn in their room/apartment keys. Failure to check out with staff before leaving for Christmas break will result in a \$100.00 fine.

Check-In Requirements

Students must:

1. Sign in with RA staff members in their buildings during the posted check-in times to receive keys that they turned in at the beginning of break.

Not Returning or End of Spring Semester Check-In/Check-Out

For non-graduating students, campus housing closes for spring semester on the Wednesday before graduation at 12:00 p.m..

Graduating students may stay until the end of graduation ceremonies.

Check-Out Requirements

Students must:

1. Set up check out time with the RA that is within 24 hours after their last exam, unless graduating or participating in graduation or a Mars Hill University activity.
2. Remove all personal items from their assigned room(s).
3. Clean their assigned room(s).
4. Check out with the RA at the appointed times signed up for, sign their Room Condition Inventory (RCI), and turn in their room keys to the RA at that time. Failure to set up an appointment and check out in person will result in a \$75.00 fee for non-compliance as well as charges for any damages/missing item(s), a lock change for a missing key and/or cleaning fees. Students who are not returning to Mars Hill University will need to turn in their student IDs to the staff member checking them out.
5. Students may use the “Express check out envelopes” to check out of their room. Students must complete the front of the envelope before turning it in. Staff will then complete the RCI check out of the student’s room and assess any damages. Students cannot appeal any charges if they use the express check out process and are therefore strongly encouraged to check out in person with the RA.

Summer School Check-In/Check-Out

There is no on-campus housing for Summer Term 1. Summer Term 2 (subject to change) housing opens TBA

Check-In Requirements

Students must:

1. Report to check-in point as directed by staff and complete RCI with staff member.
2. Receive key, sign RCI, and begin to move in.

Check-Out Requirements

Students must:

1. Set up a check-out time with the summer Residence Life staff that is within 24 hours after their last exam, or before the closing date, whichever is first.
2. Remove all of their personal items from their room(s).
3. Clean their room(s).
4. Check out with a staff member at their appointed time, sign their RCIs, and turn their room keys in to them before they leave. Failure to set up an appointment and check out in person will result in a \$75.00 fee for non-compliance as well as charges for any damages/missing item(s), a lock change for a missing key and/or cleaning fees.

Christmas Tree requirements

Students may have an artificial pre-lit Christmas tree that is UL listed *and 2 to 4 feet tall, fire retardant and non allergenic. No live trees will be permitted in any residential facility.

(*Underwriters Laboratory - UL Listing is a safety certification program. See www.ul.com for more information.)

Cleaning

Residents are expected to take reasonable care in maintaining the cleanliness of their rooms, apartments, and suite bathrooms. In addition, students are expected not to litter in public areas (inside or out) of the buildings or parking areas. Room Health and Safety inspections will be conducted each month to ensure student rooms are being maintained. These inspections will be unannounced. Students are expected to take their trash out at least once a week, keep the floor free of items so that an individual can walk around safely in the room without tripping over items on the floor, wash clothes/towels/sheets at least every 2 weeks, wash dishes daily, sweep/dust/mop weekly, clean toilets/showers/sinks weekly. Although every building has housekeeping staff, residents should not expect these staff to do more than regular maintenance of the common areas. Failure to meet these guidelines may result in residential life disciplinary action and/or relocation. The housekeeping staff will deep clean bathrooms in suites and kitchens in apartments when it is deemed an emergency by the housing staff. This extra cleaning charge will be billed to all suite members assigned to the unit.

Closed Areas

Roofs, balconies, attics, and outside ledges of residence halls are closed to all students; fire escapes may only be used for egress in the event of a fire or similar emergency. Students are strictly prohibited from hanging or throwing items from windows and/or balconies, including trash.

Common Area Furniture

The university provided furniture is not to be removed from its assigned room. Lounge furniture is for the use of all students assigned to that area and is not to be removed from the lounge areas. All furniture must be kept inside of its assigned room at all times. A fine will be assessed if such furniture is found in a student's room or placed outside of a building, balcony or porch area for any reason. Any subsequent personal misuse of lounge furniture may result in sanctions.

Drugs [See Drug-Alcohol Free Campus and Workplace Policies]

The use and/or possession and/or distribution for the use of illegal/controlled drugs are governed by local, state and federal laws and are strictly prohibited. All cases or evidence of paraphernalia, use, possession, cultivation, distribution, or sale of drugs will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies as well as be subjected to university and housing disciplinary action.

Electrical Appliances

Many of the residential buildings were built before or during the 1960's and are not equipped to handle the electrical requirements of many modern appliances. Air conditioning units, ceiling fans, dishwashers, cube freezers, full size refrigerators or microwaves that use more than 700 watts are therefore not allowed. Small microwaves (max 700 watts) and mini-refrigerators no larger than 1.2 to 2.0 amps or 4.0 cubic feet are permitted. Extension cords of any size are not allowed and will be confiscated if found. Students can use one Multiple Outlet Power Strip which is U/L Listed for 15 amps/120 volts per outlet. The power strip must have an on/off button with a heavy-duty cord and built-in circuit breaker in the unit. Decorative light bulbs cannot be used to replace university provided light bulbs in lighting units. Holiday lights, string lights, decorative string lights, etc. are not to be used in/on any residential facility.

An increase in the number of fires in residence halls across the country requires us to be restrictive on cooking appliances allowed in or around our residential facilities. The following list includes but is not limited to items that are not allowed in any residential facility: cooking appliances with open heating elements/surfaces such as toasters, toaster ovens, George Foreman grills, electric frying pans/woks, hot plates, live Christmas trees, space heaters, halogen lamps, hot tubs, extension cords, sun lamps, cooking appliances with contained heating elements such as percolators and hot pots are permitted. We will allow coffee pots with open heating elements if they are equipped with working automatic shut off timer.

Fire Safety

Fire safety equipment should only be used in cases of emergency. Misuse of fire and/or safety equipment is strictly prohibited. This includes fire escapes, doors and signs, firefighting equipment and alarms. Tampering or altering smoke detectors in any way, including removing the batteries or covering the alarm/detector at all, is also strictly prohibited. Violations will result in disciplinary action, restitution for any damages caused by the act, and/or removal of the resident from the residence halls.

Discovery of smoke detectors in residence hall living spaces that have been tampered with and/or covered, will result in a room search by Campus Security and Residence Life professional staff members.

Violations may also be referred to city or state agencies for action.

Fire and Building Evacuation

Fire is a serious threat to life, health, and property. Because of this, all students and their guests are expected to follow the building evacuation guidelines whenever an alarm is sounded. Evacuation plans are posted on all floors. Fire drills are conducted twice a semester in each building. The first drill will be announced and the second drill will be unannounced. The drill will be a complete exercise of the fire evacuation plan. It is mandatory to evacuate a university building when a fire alarm sounds.

In case of building evacuation, residents should:

1. Wear shoes and coat
2. Leave your room, shut and lock the door behind you
3. Proceed outside to your designated meeting area (See Meeting points listed below)
4. Check in with your Residence Life staff members at the meeting point
5. Remain at the meeting point until further instructions are given by Residence Life staff members. Students will not be allowed to reenter the building until it has been cleared by the Fire Department.

In case of fire, residents should:

1. Sound an alarm for the building by activating a pull station
2. Leave the building
3. Call 911 OR
4. Advise Campus Security, an RA or the AC that a fire condition exists. Be specific, if possible.

Meeting Points for Residence Hall Fire/Building Evacuation

1. Bailey Mountain, Brown, Gibson, Jarvis House, Laurel, Myers, and Turner Residence Halls: meet in the parking lot behind Moore Auditorium.
2. Edna Moore, Huffman and Stroup Residence Halls: meet at the picnic area in front of Spilman Hall.
3. Fox Residence Hall and Carter Humphrey House: meet on the steps in front of Chambers Gym.
4. Azalea, Dogwood, Dickson-Palmer Apartment Units A, B, and C: meet at the Pavilion on the Intramural Sports Field behind Broyhill Chapel.

Explosives/Flammable Materials

Explosives, including firecrackers or any other fireworks, lighter fluid, charcoal, incense, candles, and other highly flammable material are not allowed in the residence halls or on campus. This includes storing of motorized vehicles such as motorcycles or motor scooters inside residential buildings.

Firearms and Weapons

State law and Mars Hill University prohibit the possession of weapons of any kind on campus or in a vehicle. Any weapon found in a student's possession will be confiscated and turned over to the appropriate authorities. The student who was in possession of the weapon(s) will be subject to disciplinary action and/or sanction under state law. Weapons include, but are not limited to: guns, pellet guns, paint ball guns, blow dart guns, air soft guns, bows and arrows, machetes, ninja stars, knives with blades over four inches, and explosives (as defined in N.C.G.S. 14-269.2).

Flying Objects

To prevent personal injury or property damage, throwing anything from building windows or inside of a residential building is strictly prohibited. Throwing, causing to fall, or allowing any object or substance to fall out of a window of any university housing facility is prohibited and is subject to sanctions and possible disciplinary action. Box fans must not be put in residence hall room windows without the window screen first being securely in place. Repeated violations of this requirement will result in a fine of \$25 per room/per day. Violations of this policy may also be referred to the Student Conduct Office for action.

Furniture

Students share in the responsibility of maintaining all residence hall facilities. Room furnishings are required to remain inside the assigned room at all times. All residents are required to return the room furniture to its designated position as placed at the beginning of the year. Check with housing staff for a diagram of original room set up. Lounge/common area furniture is intended for the use of all students and cannot be moved to individual rooms/apartments or away from its assigned location. Students may bring other furniture at their discretion but must fit it in and around existing room furniture.

All students are required to remove personal furniture upon check-out. Failure to comply will result in a removal fee. Water furnishings such as waterbeds or hot tubs are not permitted in or around any housing unit. In addition to disciplinary action, students may be billed for any missing or damaged furniture at the replacement cost of the item, including shipping. Balconies in the Dickson Palmer area are considered to be an outdoor location and students living in these areas should supply their own outdoor furniture for these areas.

Gambling

Gambling for money or for stakes representing money is prohibited on the Mars Hill University campus and in all residential facilities. Students engaging in gambling behaviors will be subject to disciplinary action(s).

Guests (Including Overnight)

See Visitation

Heating/Cooling Units

In order for heating and/or cooling units to work properly, it is essential that nothing is placed on the unit, or in front of the vents so as to block them. This could cause the residence hall room to heat and/or cool improperly and could damage the unit. Do not hang or attach anything from or to heating and/or cooling ductwork, units, or vents as this could damage the system. Heating and/or cooling units are not seats and should not be used as such. Using a unit as seat/benches can cause damage to the unit.

Horseplay

To prevent property damage and the potential for personal injury, playing ball, throwing objects, water guns/balloons, skateboarding, bike riding, wrestling, “horseplay,” etc. are not permitted inside of campus housing.

Keys

All residents are strongly urged to keep their rooms locked whenever they are not present or sleeping. The university is not responsible for lost or stolen personal property. You are responsible for the key(s) issued to you. If you lose your room key(s), contact the Office of Residence Life immediately and we will have the room re-keyed at a charge of \$50. This is required to keep rooms secure. All students living on campus are issued room keys and a Student ID programmed to open the exterior door of their assigned building. Due to the extra security concern that these keys/ID entail, special rules apply. Guests will not be issued keys or university ID cards. Residents assume full responsibility for the use of the key until it is returned to Residence Life staff at the time of their checkout of the room. Anyone found loaning a key/ID card will face sanctions for breaching university security. Tampering with or propping of any outside entrance door is strictly prohibited and violators will be fined.

Laundry

High efficiency washing and drying machines are provided in each residential community. These machines are owned, operated and maintained by a private company on behalf of the university. Each machine is operated coin-free for unlimited usage. The university is not responsible for damaged items due to the misuse of machines. Only students who are assigned to a building may use the laundry services of that building. Students should wash a full load at a time in order to allow the machine to clean the clothes properly. Issues with a machine not working properly, should be submitted as an on-line maintenance request immediately, including the number on the machine and a description of the issue. If a washer stops and does not release the lock, Campus Security may be contacted for assistance. Students breaking the door to retrieve clothes will be responsible for the repair costs of the machine. High efficiency washing machines use only two tablespoons of regular laundry detergent. Many companies are now making pods and detergent infused laundry sheets. These are recommended for use as they contain the correct amount of detergent per use. If using pods or infused laundry sheets, students should place them into the washer drum first, with clothes added on top for proper cleaning.

Lockouts

A student who locks himself out of his room, should first check to see if the RA is in the building and can assist them in unlocking their door. If the RA is not present and it is during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00p.m. Monday to Friday, the student should come to the Student Life Office on the third floor of the Wren Student Union to check out a spare room key for the room. The student will have 48 hours to return the spare key to the Student Life Office. If the spare key is not returned to the Student Life Office by this time a lock change will be requested and the student will be charged for the cost of the lock change.

After regular business hours, a student who is locked out should check to see if the RA is in the building and can assist in unlocking the door. If the RA is not present then the student should contact Campus Security at (828) 206-1230. The student’s university ID must be presented to the security officer either upon arrival or entrance into the room. Each student may contact security up to three (3) times per semester. After that, a charge of \$5.00 will be assessed to the student’s account for each time afterward.

Lofts

Beds are provided in all student rooms but, personal are not permitted. Lofts will only be allowed in buildings where the university provides them. Dogwood and Laurel Residence Halls have lofts for all of their beds.

Noise

Noise is any sound, human or otherwise, that is disturbing to a resident. This includes loud voices, stereos, video games and musical instruments. Generally speaking, the sound level should be confined to an individual's room only and not be heard by others who are trying to study or sleep. Additionally, specific quiet hours from 11:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. exist for all residents throughout the week. 24-hour quiet hours are in effect beginning the last weeknight before the first day of exams. Students are expected to be courteous, and upon request or complaint, lower the noise level of their activity. The need for quiet supersedes noise at all times.

Open Flames

Fire is a serious threat to life, health, and property. Because this is such a serious issue, total compliance to the open flame policy is expected. Due to the risk of starting a fire, the burning of any candle(s), incense, use of open flames, or use of open element cooking equipment is strictly prohibited. Candles and incense are not allowed at all in any residential building. Outside grills are not permitted inside the building or within ten feet of any structure including decks and porches.

Painting

Students may not paint their residence hall rooms or apartments for any reason. Students who wish to paint banners must do so in the common areas. When painting a banner or sign, a plastic barrier must be placed between the floor/table and the item being painted. An old shower curtain works well as a barrier. Any paint that is not cleaned up after will result in a sanction against the individual or group. No aerosol paints may be used inside university housing.

Party Games

Use, possession, manufacturing, or distribution of alcoholic beverages or containers on the university campus or at university-sponsored events is prohibited. This includes off-campus parties sponsored by campus or student organizations. Possession of alcohol paraphernalia is also prohibited by university policy. Drinking games, simulated drinking games, or games created to facilitate mass consumption of alcohol are also prohibited. These include water pong, flip cups and quarters, and other variants. Possession of drinking game paraphernalia, including; pong tables, funnels, etc., is also prohibited.”

Pets

Because of health reasons such as sanitation, allergy concerns, and consideration for others, pets are not allowed in the residence halls at any time, including a pet that is with friends or family members. Pets are not allowed in any building on campus. Fish in a tank no larger than 10 gallons are the single exception to this policy (just remember to make arrangements when you leave for all breaks). Service and emotional assistance animals are not considered pets, but an accommodation for a specific need. Students who require the use of a service animal or emotional support animal must receive approval from the Office of Disability Services, which must communicate approval to the Department of Residence Life prior to the animal being brought on campus.

The possession of an unapproved animal in campus housing will be considered a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Any student found in possession of an unapproved animal in campus housing will be immediately charged a \$100 fine. This fine will be charged to the student account. If multiple students are responsible for housing one unapproved animal, each student will be fined \$100. The responsible student/s will be notified of the violation and the fine and will be given 24 hours to remove the animal from campus property. A staff member will follow up the next day to ensure that the animal has been removed. If the student/s fail to remove the animal within 24 hours, the responsible student/s will be charged an additional \$100 fine to their account. Students will be charged \$100 each day that a unapproved animal is held in campus housing. If an unapproved animal, which has been removed from campus, is later

found in the possession of other students in campus housing, the student/s in current possession and all students found in prior possession of the unapproved animal will be charged the \$100 per day fine.

Physical Violence

Residents have the right to live in a secure and safe environment, free from the threat of physical harm, malicious aggravation, or personal affront. Physical violence will be considered an act against the entire residence hall community. Intimidation and coercion of any type will not be tolerated. Students who feel they have been threatened with physical violence should contact Campus Security or the Office of Residence Life immediately.

Postings

Approved fliers, banners, handouts, posters, etc. may be placed in appropriate places throughout the campus to inform the campus community of upcoming events or services. All fliers and/or posters must be approved by Student Life and have an approval stamp.

No printed material may be on, attached to, or written on any structure or natural feature of the university facilities such as the sides, doors, windows of buildings, the surface of light posts, sculptures, waste receptacles, trees, rocks, benches, free-standing signs or statues. No printed materials may be placed on vehicles except by members of the Campus Security staff for official notices. Improperly posted items will be removed with the possibility of charges from the Office of Student Conduct.

Fliers and banners may be posted up to two weeks (14 days) before the event. Persons posting notices are responsible for removing them once the message is outdated. Notices should be removed no later than 48 hours after the notice becomes outdated.

No commercial or non-profit material may be posted unless it is affiliated with a university organization or department. Any department or organization that endorses a commercial or non-profit posting must have the notice approved, prior to posting, by the Office of Student Life.

University staff may remove any sign, poster, or banner deemed to be inappropriate or offensive or found to violate the posting policy.

Posting Information in the Residence Halls

Students or organizations who wish to have fliers posted in the residence hall should bring them to the Office of Student Life, Wren 309 for approval and distribution to Resident Assistants for posting.

Room Decorations

Posters, curtains, plants, bedspreads and a throw rug can help a student personalize their space and make their room seem more like home. All materials need to be treated with a fire-retardant. Students are asked to void doing things that might damage walls or woodwork. For example, transparent tape and two sided foam tape is almost impossible to clean off. Masking tape can be used with care but may pull paint off walls.

Students may not post anything on the outside of room doors or cover room doors with paper or other materials. Carefully review the manufacturer's suggestions for removing these products. Painters Blue tape, Plastic-tak or hold-it putty is highly recommended because of their easy removal properties. No duct tape, two-sided tape, or scotch tape may be used in any of the facilities on the wall, doors, and/ or furniture. Decorative light bulbs cannot be used to replace university provided light bulbs in lighting fixtures.

No permanent fixtures may be attached to the walls or furniture; this includes but is not limited to nails, hooks and screws. Personal decorations may not cover or interfere with any fire safety device. No decorations may be attached to or hung from the ceiling or overhead pipes.

Sales and Solicitation

Unless cleared with the Director of Housing and Residence Life, door-to-door solicitation or sales is not permitted in any of the campus housing areas.

Security Tips for Residential Living

The MHU community is scenic, friendly, and traditionally noted as being a “safe” community in which to learn and live. Unfortunately, crime occurs everywhere and MHU is not exempt. Living away from home places the responsibility for protecting belongings and attending to safety measures in the hands of each student.

Students should:

1. Lock their room/apartment! An unlocked door invites theft and compromises residents’ safety.
2. Carry and use their ID card.
3. Refrain from letting people “piggy back” into the building. Holding the doors for others allows unescorted visitors to undermine residents’ safety.
4. Report lost keys or key cards immediately to Office of Residence Life at residence-life@mhu.edu and Campus Security at (828) 206-1230.
5. Plan for safety. Students should plan to travel in pairs and determine how they will get home before they go out.
6. Let others know their plans.
7. Identify and record valuables. Students are advised to purchase renter’s insurance, engrave valuables with the engraver from Campus Security, record serial numbers for valuable items. Those numbers may then be stored in a safe place and with Campus Security on the “Registration of Valuables” form.
8. Park in a well-lit area and refrain from leaving valuables in the car.
9. Walk in groups after sundown. Students who find themselves alone may call Campus Police at (828) 206-1230 for an escort. A small flashlight may be helpful if walking after dark is necessary.
10. Trust their instincts and report suspicious activity to Campus Police at (828) 206-1230.
11. Call 911 if there is an emergency or use an Emergency Blue Box located on campus for a direct connection to Campus Security.
12. Report security hazards to Campus Security at (828) 206-1230 or at <http://www.mhu.edu/campus-life/campus-security> for online reporting. Broken locks, windows, and lighting are an invitation to theft.

Smoke Free Environment

All university owned buildings are smoke free. Smoking includes but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, hookahs, e-cigarettes, vaporizer pens, black and milds, Bibis, etc. Smoking is not permitted within 50 feet of any entrance, window or air handling unit of a university residential building. Please dispose of butts /ashes/trash in the appropriate receptacles placed outside of the buildings and residences. Possession of or burning incense or candles are not permitted within any living unit on campus.

If there is evidence of smoking taking place inside any assigned room/apartment, the student(s) assigned to the area will be responsible for the cost of painting the entire room/apartment and the replacement costs of all the soft furnishings. Evidence of smoking taking place inside the room/apartment of any student living in Azalea, Bailey Mountain, Brown, Dickson Palmer (any unit), Dogwood, Laurel or Turner will be required to move immediately or may be removed from housing.

Student ID Card

Students are advised to refrain from punching a hole into their student ID. Punching a hole(s) into the Student ID can damage the card causing it not to work with the entry door system in the residence halls. Students who lose their student ID may go to the Student Life Office to have the ID replaced. A replacement ID cost will be charged to the student's account.

Lost keys will incur a \$100 fee and lost cards a fee of \$15. These fees will be added to the student's account."

Students who would like to have a hole punched in their ID card may come by the Student Life Office in the Wren Student Union during regular business hours and a professional staff member will be able to punch a hole in the ID card in an appropriate area.

Technology

What Is Not Allowed

Students are prohibited from:

- Using the Network in any way which violates the standards of conduct established in the Student Handbook, the University Catalog, or any other official publication.
- Attempting to bypass security measures, to access files without permission, to discover the password of another person, or to enter the Network under any identity other than your own.
- Attempting to damage the Network or degrade its performance through the introduction of a computer virus or any other action, or attempt to interfere with or impede the use of the Network by others.
- Installing any Peer-2-Peer (P2P) or other file sharing applications. Students may not attempt to bypass firewall access lists that block these applications or the ports used by P2P file sharing applications.
- Sending threatening, harassing, or obscene messages to any person on or off campus, send or forward chain letters, nor use the Network to engage in libelous or slanderous accusations.
- Using the Network to view or store obscene materials.
- Using the Network to engage in any illegal or criminal activities. Students must obey the laws of the United States, the state of North Carolina, and Madison County in all transactions.
- Engaging in any commercial pursuit, such as online advertising or sales, beyond the scope of university activities.
- Holding the university liable for any loss or connectivity outage relating to the Network, whether due to system failure or other causes.
- Configuring computer systems to share data/resources with other users unless written permission is granted from the ITS Department. Students may not install any server class software or services including, but not limited to, print and file sharing, DNS, SMTP, DHCP, Web and FTP server services.

Telephones

The phones at the entrance of residence halls are programmed to call Campus Safety & Security. They should not be used to call other numbers or users. They are programmed this way for students to obtain help when needed.

Trash Removal

All trash should be placed in the university provided trashcans in the designated trash area of each building. All cardboard boxes must be broken down and placed by designated trash areas or taken to the parking lot behind Moore Auditorium and placed in the green recycling trailer. Students are expected to take their trash out once a week or more often if they have food items in them. Trash and open food items left in rooms/apartments are calling cards for rodents and insects to come in. Trash areas are in the following areas:

1. Azalea, Bailey Unit A, Unit B, Unit C, Myers: Green trash bins are by the sidewalk near the building
2. Brown, Gibson, and Turner: Green trash bin is between Brown and Gibson by the parking lot
3. Edna Moore and Stroup: Trash cans are on the first floor of Stroup between the lower lounge and Edna Moore
4. Fox: Trash room is at the end of Fox nearest the Belk practice field on the outside of the building
5. Huffman: Trash room is on the second floor next to the Laundry room
6. Dogwood: Trash room is on second floor next to the lounge
7. Jarvis: Trash cans are on the front porch
8. Laurel: Trash room is on first and third floors next to the lounge

Toilets and Toilet Paper

Toilets are set up to handle human waste and toilet paper. All other items need to be disposed of in trash receptacles. Flushable wipes pose a particular hazard. Flushable wipes do not break down efficiently and will clog pipes. This is the case whether you are living in a new building or an older building. Please note that toilet paper will only be provided in residence halls with communal bathrooms. All other suites, and apartments will be required to provide their own.

Vandalism

Damaging, defacing, or destroying school or private property is unacceptable behavior. Students who accidentally damage property will be expected to make restitution for the damage, but malicious acts will be also be considered Student Code of Conduct infractions and will incur additional fines. If MHU staff members cannot determine the person(s) responsible for the damage(s), the entire building community will be responsible for the restitution for the damage(s).

Visitation

Visitors from another building and/or non MHU students are able to visit during the following hours:

Sunday–Thursday: 12:00 p.m.–12:00 a.m.

Friday–Saturday: 12:00 p.m.–2:00 a.m.

Visitors will be allowed to visit other students until quiet hours begin at 11 p.m. After 11 p.m., visitors must visit in common areas.

Approved overnight guests of the host may stay in the host's room (with permission of roommate or suite/apartment mates and assuming there is no conflict and/or displacement of the roommate) for a maximum of two consecutive nights provided the guest is of the same sex as the host student. If the visitor is of the opposite sex of the host then the host will need to find an alternative place for them to stay. The alternative host will need to come in with the host before permission will be granted, to complete paperwork.

Hosts are responsible for their guests' behavior, the items guests bring into campus housing with them, compliance with guidelines, damage, vandalism, and clean-up of residence hall areas. Any host's failure to their responsibilities will result in sanctions for any damage, and possible disciplinary action. MHU students are responsible for the behavior and conduct of their guests and must escort them at all times on campus.

Visitors may visit up until 11 p.m. each night. Each student may have overnight visitors stay the night for two consecutive nights not to exceed six total nights each semester. Please note that COVID guidelines may affect these. It is important to review any interim guidance on visitation from university communications.

Students who have overnight visitors must inform the Resident Assistant. Host students will need to access a guest parking pass for their guest by contacting Security.

Weapons on University Property

Mars Hill University prohibits firearms on campus. Additionally, other weapons (as identified by North Carolina statute N.C. Statute 14-269.2) are also prohibited. Possession of a firearm on education property is a felony. It is a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any BB gun, stun gun, air rifle, air pistol, bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors and razor blades (except solely for personal shaving), fireworks, or any sharp-pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction, and maintenance, on educational property. Any weapons violation will be prosecuted.

Safe Academic & Work Environment Policies

Purpose of Policies

Mars Hill University is committed to providing all administration, faculty, staff, and students a safe work and academic environment that is conducive to intellectual and personal development. Mars Hill University expects all administration, faculty, staff, and students to behave and to conduct themselves in such a way that promotes a safe, respectful, and productive campus that is free from violence, harassment, hazing, or bullying in any form. The University will not condone or tolerate actions by any member of the administration, faculty, staff, or student, that disrespects the basic human dignities of other individuals at the university.

Scope of Policies

The following policies apply to the actions and behavior of all students, (including, but not limited to part-time, full-time, temporary, etc.) that occurs on or off campus, regardless of whether they have disabilities, are international or undocumented, and regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Similar policies exist and apply to the actions and behavior of faculty, staff, and administrators. The policies are extended to the conduct of all vendors, contractors and third parties on campus. Regardless of whether an allegation involves another student or student organization, a member of the faculty, staff, or administration, or a third party vendor or contractor on campus, students should report an alleged violation of these policies in accordance with the reporting provisions below.

MHU Diversity Statement

Mars Hill University is committed to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment. Dimensions of diversity can include race, age, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, intellectual and physical ability, sexual orientation, income, faith and non-faith perspectives, socio-economic class, political ideology, education, primary language, family status, military experience, cognitive style, and communication style. The intersection of these experiences and characteristics in individuals makes them valued members of the MHU community.

MHU shows this commitment by respecting and valuing these differences. All students enrolled at MHU are expected to do the same by being considerate of others and striving to form a collaborative and supportive educational environment that treats every person with dignity and respect. MHU is working to create an environment that fosters inclusion, where students have the opportunity to allow their various identities to inform their conversations. At the same time, they are not expected to represent or speak for an entire group of people who share aspects of an identity.

Anti-Bullying Policy

North Carolina Law

North Carolina law prohibits cyber-bullying of either fellow students or of school employees (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-458.1 and 14-458.2).

General Policy

Mars Hill University has a zero tolerance policy for bullying on its campus. No student, student organization, or athletic team, shall permit, plan, direct, encourage, participate, assist, engage, aid, condone, or tolerate bullying. Any student, student organization, or athletic team that engages in bullying in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Policy Definitions

For purposes of this policy, bullying is defined as: unwelcome or unreasonable behavior that is intended to demean, intimidate or humiliate another individual or group of individuals. Bullying is typically persistent action that is part of an ongoing pattern of behavior, but can also be a single isolated incident. However, isolated instances of teasing or arguments between two individuals are not necessarily bullying.

The term bullying includes, but is not limited to:

- Cyber-bullying: Use of any electronic communication (emails, blogs, internet chat rooms, Facebook or other social media sites, text messages) or device (computers, cell phones, digital cameras or video cameras) to harass, intimidate, or bully another individual.
- Mobbing: Bullying by a group rather than by an individual.
- Physical Abuse: Pushing, kicking, hitting, punching, slapping, or any other form of violence. Such behavior is also a violation of N.C. Law.
- Verbal Abuse: Name-calling, teasing, threatening, use of offensive or abusive language, or other verbal insult or assault.
- Indirect Abuse: Spreading rumors or innuendo, unreasonably harsh and offensive criticism, belittling, tormenting, or social isolation.

Anti-Hazing Policy

North Carolina Law

It is against the law for any student in attendance at any university, college, or school in the State of North Carolina to engage or participate in hazing, or to assist or aid another student in hazing (N.C. General Statutes § 14-35). Hazing is defined in N.C. Gen. Statute § 14-35 as “... to subject another student to physical injury as part of an initiation, or as a prerequisite to membership, into any organized school group, including any society, athletic team, fraternity or sorority, or other similar group.” (2014) A violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-35 is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

General Policy

Mars Hill University has a zero tolerance policy for hazing on its campus. In accordance with North Carolina law, no student, student organization, or athletic team, shall permit, plan, direct, encourage, participate, assist, engage, aid, condone, or tolerate hazing. Any student, student organization, or athletic team that engages in hazing, or in an act that is disrespectful of the basic human dignities of other students or members of the administration, faculty, or staff in violation of this policy or in violation of North Carolina law, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Policy Definitions

For purposes of this policy, hazing is defined as: any action that is in violation of N.C. Gen. Statute § 14-35, or any action that otherwise, either indirectly or directly, jeopardizes another individual's psychological, emotional, or physical wellbeing; any acts which inflict physical or mental harm or anxiety upon an individual as a condition of acceptance into or affiliation with a student organization, athletic team, any other organization, or for any other manipulative purpose.

The term hazing includes, but is not limited to: activities designed to emphasize the power imbalance between new members and other members of a group or team, activities designed to harass or create emotional or physical discomfort or harm to an individual.

Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to:

- physical abuse, paddling, whipping, beating,;
- yelling, cursing or swearing at an individual;
- sexual assault;
- sleep deprivation;
- extreme calisthenics;
- forcing or expecting an individual to: wear embarrassing clothing or to refrain from basic personal hygiene;
- participating in tattooing, piercing, shaving or branding of any kind;
- drinking alcohol or using drugs;
- consuming any inappropriate or harmful substance or concoctions;
- subjecting themselves to the servitude or ridicule of other members, or to any other form of public embarrassment.

Consent to Hazing Irrelevant

The actual or apparent permission or consent of the individual or individuals subjected to hazing does not change or lessen Mars Hill University's zero tolerance policy, and is irrelevant when determining disciplinary action.

Anti-Violence & Anti-Harassment Policy

General Policy

Mars Hill University has a zero tolerance policy for violence or harassment. All students are prohibited from engaging in threatening behaviors, violence, or harassment against another person at the university. Any student that engages in violence, threatening behavior or harassment in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Policy Definitions

For purposes of this policy, violence or threatening behavior, generally means conduct that is intimidating, injury producing, abusive or hostile against another person at the university. This includes but is not limited to all students, administration, faculty and staff) or against their property. This does not include acts of self-defense or acts in the defense of others. Such conduct would include, but would not be limited to:

- Intimidation or unwarranted behavior that is intended to scare or coerce;
- Stalking or harassing in person, in writing, by phone or in any electronic format, or following and spying that causes reasonable fear of physical violence;
- Threatening or expressing the intent to cause physical or mental harm to persons or to property;
- Physically attacking or otherwise causing unwanted or harmful physical conduct to any individual, including hitting, shoving, throwing objects, spitting, or fighting;

- Intentional damage to, or destruction of, the property of the university or the property of a member of the administration, faculty, staff, or student;
- Possession, use or threat of use, of any weapon (firearms, other weapons or any dangerous devices are prohibited on campus, unless the faculty or staff member has prior written approval from the Director of Campus Safety & Security or the weapon is held in compliance with North Carolina law, and used by law enforcement officers as part of their job duties or as part of any training in connection with their job duties); and
- Any unlawful conduct as defined in the Workplace Violence Prevention Act (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 95-260).

For purposes of this policy, harassment generally means conduct or speech that is unwelcome or unsolicited and is based upon race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, disability, sex, familial status, sexual orientation or reprisal, creating a hostile work and/or academic environment. A hostile work and/or academic environment is one that both the person who is the object of the harassment finds to be, and a reasonable person in similar circumstances would find to be, hostile or abusive. Harassment is typically persistent action that is part of an ongoing pattern of behavior, but can also be a single isolated incident. Isolated instances of joking, teasing, or arguments between two individuals are not necessarily harassment. The context and circumstances surrounding any instance of alleged harassment will be considered when investigating claims of harassment.

Allegations of sexual violence or sexual harassment are not covered by this policy, but are instead governed by the Sexual Misconduct Policy and Title IX Grievance Procedures below.

Doors and Windows Policy

Mars Hill University encourages cooperation, socialization, and collegial interaction amongst the administration, faculty, and staff. The University also encourages appropriate academic, advisory, and mentoring relationships between administration, faculty, staff and students. In an effort to reduce risk, it is the policy of Mars Hill University that faculty and staff will keep all windows to their offices, classrooms, or other work spaces unobstructed such that a third party can look into the office, classroom, or workspace at any time. In addition, it is the policy of Mars Hill University that if a member of the faculty or staff is meeting one-on-one with a student in an office, classroom or work space that does not have a window, the door shall remain open at all times.

In addition, flags may not be seen covering residence hall windows from the exterior of the buildings.

Peaceful Assembly Policy

Students at Mars Hill University are both citizens and members of their campus community. As members of the Mars Hill community, students enjoy freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and peaceful expression. As members of the academic community, they are responsible to obligations that come to them by virtue of this membership. The university is committed to free and open inquiry into matters of social, political, and economic concern and encourages meaningful discussion of all views on such issues.

The following regulations are intended to enumerate the essential provisions necessary to reconcile freedom of assembly with responsibility in any campus meeting conducted for the purpose of expressing opinions of the participants.

1. Student gatherings may be conducted in areas which are generally available to the public (such as the Lower Quad), provided such gatherings:
 - a. Are conducted in an orderly and peaceful manner
 - b. In no way obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic
 - c. Do not interfere with classes, scheduled meetings, events, and ceremonies or with other essential processes of the university
 - d. If inside a building, are held in an assigned meeting room
2. Only meetings which have been approved in advance by the proper office (see following guidelines) may be held:

- a. Within university buildings
 - b. Within university stadia
 - c. Adjacent to residential or academic facilities of the campus
3. Meetings which would impose an unusual demand upon staff or facilities must have approval regardless of where they are held on campus.

Guidelines for Planning a Peaceful Assembly

Only Mars Hill University students or student organizations can organize peaceful assemblies on campus. Those who are interested in planning a peaceful assembly on campus must first file a request with the Vice President of Student Life (VPSL) and/or Dean of Students (DOS) by utilizing the form found in the Department of Safety and Security. The VPSL and/or DOS will meet with the Director of Safety and Security and review the request for approval. The event must be presented in writing and detail all aspects of the activity if the assembly will utilize a campus facility. It is important to note that if/when a student or student organization plans an activity that quickly responds to a current event, students or student organizations must still follow this policy. The institution will make best efforts to accelerate its review; however, such accelerated reviews will occur on a case-by-case basis in a manner that is consistent with this policy.

Whenever appropriate, the Department of Safety and Security will designate clearly marked areas for protest or demonstrations.

Examples of a peaceful assembly include (please note that this is not an exhaustive list):

- Demonstration - A large group of people, usually gathering for a political cause. It usually includes a group march, ending with a rally or a speaker. A demonstration is similar to a protest in that they both can use the same or similar methods to achieve goals. However, demonstrations tend to be more spontaneous, whereas protests tend to be more organized.
- March - A walk by a group of people to a place in order to express support or an objection to any event, situation, or policy.
- Protest - A way to express objections with any event, situation, or policy. These objections can be manifested either by actions or by words.
- Sit-In - Any organized protest in which a group of people peacefully occupy and refuse to leave university premises.
- Vigil - An observance of a commemorative activity or event meant to demonstrate unity around a particular issue or concern, and/or to promote peace and prevent violence.

Procedure for Planning a Peaceful Assembly

Prior to sponsoring a peaceful assembly, a group or organization must submit in writing to the Vice President of Student Life (VPSL) and/or the Dean of Students (DOS) an application at least 48 hours in advance of any activity. Application forms may be obtained from the Department of Safety and Security. Student Life may require further notice based on the scale of the event. This planning will include assessment of the need for further resources from outside the university, such as the Mars Hill Police or Madison County Sheriff's Department. Such assistance is not to be considered in order to suppress peaceful freedom of expression.

The application should include the location on campus where the event will be held, the proposed date and time of the event, the purpose of the event, and estimated number of participants. Based on the scope of the assembly, other security requirements may be necessary as determined by the Department of Safety and Security in conjunction with the Vice President of Student Life and/or Dean of Students.

If the proposed event is a march, the supporting group will be required to submit a proposed route. If this route leaves campus property, the Town of Mars Hill must be notified and agree to the terms of the event.

The VPSL and/or DOS, in conjunction with the Director of Safety and Security, will review the application within one working day of its submission and meet with the individual(s) requesting the permit prior to its approval. The meeting

will cover logistics including safety and security issues, use of amplified sound, and the potential for disruption to the university. Upon notification of a proposed activity, the VPSL and/or DOS will communicate application details in writing (with a clear description of the event) to the Senior Leadership Team. Final approval is made by the university president or his designee.

Failure to file the appropriate request for approval could result in sanctions according to the Student Code of Conduct. Sponsoring organizations and their representatives are responsible for ensuring that there will be no disruption of university activities, conduct of business or events, programs, or services. This includes, but is not limited to the following requirements.

- The event will allow free passage of pedestrian and vehicular traffic around campus at all points.
- No persons or group(s) shall block the ingress and egress to any building.
- Use of amplified sound will not disrupt the conduct of University business.
- Activities that might disrupt the campus environment will not be allowed or encouraged, such as the disruption of the living environment in residence halls or campus events.
- Respect of and adherence to all policies and procedures regulating on-campus events will be required.
- In the event that the demonstration will move outside of the confines of campus, the supporting organizations will be responsible for obtaining all permits and notifying the Town of Mars Hill.
- Any use of the name of the university through the media will be approved by the university's Marketing and Communications Office and/or [Senior Director for Marketing and Communications or Director of Communications].

Compliance with the Peaceful Assembly Policy

Everyone is expected to comply with the directions of university officials who are acting in accordance with the performance of their duties. Failure to do so is a violation of campus conduct codes, and is subject to sanctions as outlined in the Student Handbook. If a demonstration or activity interferes with normal university activities and/or functions, participants will be asked to disperse. Failure to comply will result in the appropriate sanctions. Any violations of the law will be subject to legal sanctions. Other actions that could be in violation include:

- Excessive noise, which interferes with classes, university offices, residence halls, community neighbors, or other campus and community activities
- Unauthorized entry into or occupation of a private work area
- Conduct that restricts or prevents faculty or staff members or student employees from performing their duties, including interruption of meetings, classes, or events
- Failure to maintain clear passage into or out of any university building or passageway, and/or work space
- Failure to disperse when a building, office, or campus space is closed
- Other conduct that disrupts the normal operations of the university
- Any other activity not listed that is out of bounds of peaceful assembly
- Vandalism including graffiti or destruction of university property is grounds for immediate legal sanctioning
- Violations of standing executive orders of the Governor's office, County of Madison, Town of Mars Hill, or any other governmental agency which has jurisdiction on or around campus.

Professional Boundaries Policy

General Policy

While the administration, faculty, and staff are encouraged to foster wholesome and appropriate relationships with students, amorous relationships between members of the administration, faculty or staff, and students, even of a consensual nature, are strictly prohibited. Such relationships are inherently problematic given the unequal status of the administration, faculty, or staff member even if there is no immediate position of authority with respect to the student.

Policy Definition

For purposes of this policy, an amorous relationship is any romantic or physically intimate relationship.

Social Media Policy

General Policy

All students, student organizations, and athletic teams are specifically prohibited from using the university's network, computers, email accounts, or any other form of technology owned or provided by the university for the purpose of, or in connection with, any form of violence, threatening behavior, harassment, sexual misconduct (as defined in the Sexual Misconduct Policy below), hazing, bullying or pursuing or promoting a relationship that is in violation of the Professional Boundaries Policy.

The use of social media and social networking sites is prominent on the campus of Mars Hill University. While social media can be an important and useful means of communication, it can also:

- Blur the lines of relationships between administration, faculty, staff and students;
- Create confusion regarding the opinions and voice of Mars Hill University and the opinions and voice of individuals affiliated with the university; and
- Impact the organizational, professional and personal reputations of those utilizing social media.

In order to help students, administration, faculty and staff properly portray, promote, and protect themselves and the university, Mars Hill University is implementing the following guidelines and best practices when using social media:

- Exercise respect, discretion and thoughtfulness when posting, especially when posting about Mars Hill University or an individual member of the administration, faculty or staff, or about a student;
- Refrain from speculating or gossiping about the university's policies or procedures;
- Refrain from using social media to "vent" about the university, students, administration, faculty or staff;
- Identify personal views as your own, not as the views of the university;
- Refrain from disclosing confidential information about the university or about any individual;
- Give careful consideration to all "friend" requests received and consider the appropriateness of acceptance; and
- Refrain from using copyrighted or proprietary information or materials without permission.

Choices regarding postings on social media and personal webpages can impact one's professional and personal life, both now and in the future. Faculty, staff, administrators, and students are reminded to avoid posting any information on social media that could jeopardize current or future job prospects, or would otherwise reflect poorly on themselves or on the university.

Policy Definitions

For purposes of this policy, social media and social networking means communication and interaction through the internet and web-based technology, and includes, personal web pages, and accounts or profiles created on a social media outlets including, but not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, LinkedIn, Instagram, Snapchat, Tinder, and YouTube.

Threatening Symbols Policy

The display of any symbols representative of organizations and ideologies associated with white supremacy groups or any other hate group or organization that seeks to promote fear and violence (as identified by the MHU committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) is prohibited on campus, including residence hall rooms, on vehicles registered to park

on campus, or anywhere else on university property. This policy includes, but is not limited to, the confederate flag, any variation of the flag originally employed as the battle flag of the Confederate Army of the Potomac, and swastikas and other Nazi symbols. Exceptions will be made for academic and educational purposes only.

Violations of the Safe Academic & Work Environment Policies- Reporting and Investigating

When & Where to Report

All students are asked to immediately report any known or believed instance of violence, threatening behavior, harassment, violation of the Professional Boundaries Policy, hazing, bullying, or violation of the Doors & Windows Policy, whether known through personal observation or otherwise, to the Assistant Dean of Students for investigation and, if warranted, disciplinary action. If the alleged violation involves a member of the faculty or an administrator, the matter will be referred to the Provost. If the alleged violation involves a member of the staff, the matter will be referred to the Director of Human Resources.

In the event the alleged violation of these policies involves the Assistant Dean of Students, reports should be made to the Vice President of Student Life. In addition, threatening behavior, harassment, violation of the Professional Boundaries Policy, hazing, bullying, and/or violation of the Doors & Windows Policy that a student believes is not being adequately addressed may be reported to the Provost or the university President.

Reports of a violation of these policies can be made in person or in written form, but should be made as soon as possible and within 60 calendar days of the incident or violation.

Reports of incidents involving sexual misconduct are to be reported and will be investigated in accordance with the stated MHU Policy on Sex/Gender Harassment, Discrimination, and Misconduct. Likewise, reports of incidents involving gender-based bullying or hazing are to be reported and will be investigated in accordance with the Title IX Grievance Procedures. If a sexual misconduct report is erroneously made in accordance with the Safe Academic & Work Environment Policies, the report shall thereafter be referred to the university's Title IX Coordinator for investigation in accordance with the Title IX Grievance Procedures.

Reporting Crimes and Violations of North Carolina Law

The Assistant Dean of Students or designee shall immediately notify the proper authorities of any alleged violation of these policies that is also a crime or violation of North Carolina law. Mars Hill University will cooperate with authorities in the enforcement of all applicable laws.

Investigations

All reports of violations of the Safe Academic & Work Environment Policies will be promptly and thoroughly investigated. Upon receiving a complaint or report, the Assistant Dean of Students or designee shall refer such reports for investigation as follows:

- Students - Reports alleging the violation of a Safe Academic & Work Environment Policy by a student shall be considered by the Student Conduct Office, as described in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Faculty & Administrators - Reports alleging the violation of a Safe Academic & Work Environment Policy by a member of the faculty or an administrator shall be investigated by a Faculty Review Board. The Faculty Review Board will consist of six members of the faculty, appointed by the Provost in consultation with the President and the Chair of the Faculty, for rotating three-year terms. The Faculty Review Board will receive investigation training from the Director of Human Resources. However, other than the Department Chair, no faculty member from the same department as either the accuser or the accused may be involved with any investigation.

- Staff - Reports alleging the violation of a Safe Academic & Work Environment Policy by a member of the staff shall be investigated by a Staff Review Board. The Staff Review Board will consist of six members of the staff of the university, appointed by the President in consultation with the Chair of the Staff Personnel Committee and the Director of Human Resources, for rotating year terms. The Staff Review Board will receive investigation training from the Director of Human Resources. However, no staff member from the same department as either the accuser or the accused may be involved with any investigation.

All investigations will be completed in a confidential manner (to the extent reasonably possible) and Mars Hill University will attempt to preserve the reputation and integrity of the involved individuals. Students are required to fully cooperate with any inquiry or investigation at the request of Mars Hill University. This includes complying with all requests at the time of any alleged incident and all requests throughout an investigation. A complainant is entitled to withdraw his or her complaint at any time. However, the university reserves the right to complete any investigation it deems necessary.

Disciplinary Action

If the investigating Board decides that a violation of any of these policies has occurred such that disciplinary action is necessary, the investigating Board will recommend appropriate disciplinary action to the Assistant Dean of Students. The Provost, in consultation with the university President, will make the final decisions regarding disciplinary action to be administered.

Disciplinary action for violation of these policies may include, but would not be limited to, the following:

- Students – warning, community service, counseling, suspension, prohibition from participation in athletics or in other student organizations, expulsion, and/or any and all other sanctions as specified in the Student Code of Conduct;
- Student organizations or athletic teams - warning, community service, suspension or prohibition from participation in University events; and suspension or prohibition of the university’s recognition of the student organization or athletic team; and
- Faculty, staff and administrators - warning, change in assignment, counseling, suspension, termination or discharge
-

Sex/Gender Harassment, Discrimination and Misconduct Policy

Introduction

Members of the Mars Hill University community, guests, and visitors have the right to be free from all forms of sex/gender harassment, discrimination, and misconduct, examples of which can include acts of sexual violence, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. All members of the campus community are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not infringe upon the rights of others. The university believes in zero tolerance for sex/gender-based misconduct. Zero tolerance means that when an allegation of misconduct is brought to an appropriate administrator’s attention, protective and other remedial measures will be used to reasonably ensure that such conduct ends, is not repeated, and the effects on the victim and community are remedied, including serious sanctions when a responding party is found to have violated this policy. This policy has been developed to reaffirm these principles and is intended to define community expectations and Mars Hill University’s model procedures.

The university’s sex/gender harassment, discrimination and misconduct policies are not meant to inhibit or prohibit educational content or discussions inside or outside of the classroom that include controversial or sensitive subject matters protected by academic freedom. Academic freedom extends to topics that are pedagogically appropriate and germane to the subject matter of courses or that touch on academic exploration of matters of public concern.

The university uses the preponderance of the evidence (also known as “more likely than not”) as a standard for proof of whether a violation occurred. In campus resolution proceedings, legal terms like “guilt”, “innocence” and “burdens of proof” are not applicable, but the university never assumes a responding party is in violation of university policy. Campus resolution proceedings are conducted to take into account the totality of all evidence available, from all relevant sources.

In order for the university to consider a complaint for possible supportive measures, informal resolution, and/or investigation, the complainant must file a written complaint with the Title IX Coordinator. Failure to file the complaint with the Title IX Coordinator relieves the university of the responsibility to offer supportive measures and/or consider the complaint for investigation. Upon learning of a complaint of sexual harassment, through the complainant’s written notice to the Title IX Coordinator, the university will offer supportive measures to both the complainant and the respondent; will take immediate and appropriate steps to discuss appropriate options (e.g., supportive measures, informal resolution (e.g., mediation), or a formal complaint investigation and hearing), with the complainant; and take appropriate action to address the matter promptly and equitably.

Title IX Coordinator

The university’s Title IX Coordinator oversees compliance with all aspects of the sex/gender harassment, discrimination and misconduct policy. The Coordinator reports to the President of the university, and is housed in the office of Human Resources. Questions about this policy should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator. Anyone wishing to make a report relating to discrimination or harassment may do so by reporting the concern to the university Title IX Coordinator:

Jennie Matthews
Director of Human Resources / Title IX Coordinator
Nash Education Building Room 209
(828) 689-1197
jmatthews@mhu.edu

Individuals experiencing harassment or discrimination also have the right to file a formal grievance with government authorities:

Office for Civil Rights (OCR)
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services - Southeast Region
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303-8909 Customer Response Center (800) 368-1019
Fax (202) 619-3818 TDD (800) 537-7697
Email: ocrmail@hhs.gov

In the event that an incident involves alleged misconduct by the Title IX Coordinator, reports should be made directly to the university President, Tony Floyd, J.D. at tony_floyd@mhu.edu .

Overview Of Policy Expectations With Respect To Physical Sexual Misconduct

The expectations of our community regarding sexual misconduct can be summarized as follows: In order for individuals to engage in sexual activity of any type with each other, there must be clear, knowing and voluntary consent prior to and during sexual activity. Consent is sexual permission. Consent can be given by word or action, but non-verbal consent is not as clear as talking about what you want sexually and what you don’t. Consent to some form of sexual activity cannot be automatically taken as consent to any other form of sexual activity. Previous consent does not imply consent to sexual activity in the future. Silence or passivity—without actions demonstrating permission—cannot be assumed to show consent. Consent, once given, can be withdrawn at any time. There must be a clear indication that consent is being withdrawn.

Additionally, there is a difference between seduction and coercion. Coercing someone into sexual activity violates this policy in the same way as physically forcing someone into sex. Coercion happens when someone is pressured unreasonably for sex.

Because alcohol or other drug use can place the capacity to consent in question, sober sex is less likely to raise such questions. When alcohol or other drugs are being used, a person will be considered unable to give valid consent if they cannot fully understand the details of a sexual interaction (who, what, when, where, why, or how) because they lack the capacity to reasonably understand the situation. Individuals who consent to sex must be able to understand what they are doing. Under this policy, “No” always means “No,” and “Yes” may not always mean “Yes.” Anything but a clear, knowing and voluntary consent to any sexual activity is equivalent to a “no.”

Location of Title IX Incident & Policy Requirements

As a recipient of federal financial assistance, Mars Hill University is required to respond to formal complaints when sexual harassment occurs in the school’s education program or activity, against a person in the United States. Education program or activity includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the school exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurred, and also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by MHU. This applies to all of the education programs or activities, whether such programs or activities occur on-campus or off-campus. Incidents that fall outside of Title IX’s jurisdiction may be addressed in any manner MHU chooses, including providing supportive measures or pursuing disciplinary action. A copy of the policy and anonymous reporting form may be found at www.mhu.edu/title-ix.

Sexual Violence -- Risk Reduction Tips

Risk reduction tips can often take a victim-blaming tone, even unintentionally. Only those who commit sexual violence are responsible for those actions. We offer the tips below with no intention to victim-blame, with recognition that these suggestions may nevertheless help you to reduce your risk of experiencing a non-consensual sexual act. Below, suggestions to avoid committing a non-consensual sexual act are also offered:

- If you have limits, make them known as early as possible.
- Tell a sexual aggressor “NO” clearly and firmly.
- Try to remove yourself from the physical presence of a sexual aggressor.
- Find someone nearby and ask for help.
- Take affirmative responsibility for your alcohol intake/drug use and acknowledge that alcohol/drugs lower your sexual inhibitions and may make you vulnerable to someone who views a drunk or high person as a sexual opportunity.
- Give thought to sharing your intimate content, pictures, images and videos with others, even those you may trust. If you do choose to share, clarify your expectations as to how or if those images may be used, shared, or disseminated.
- Take care of your friends and ask that they take care of you. A real friend will challenge you if you are about to make a mistake. Respect them when they do.
- If you find yourself in the position of being the initiator of sexual behavior, you owe sexual respect to your potential partner. These suggestions may help you to reduce your risk for being accused of sexual misconduct:
- Clearly communicate your intentions to your sexual partner and give them a chance to clearly relate their intentions to you.
- Understand and respect personal boundaries.
- DON’T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS about consent; about someone’s sexual availability; about whether they are attracted to you; about how far you can go or about whether they are physically and/or mentally able to consent. Your partner’s consent should be affirmative and continuous. If there are any questions or ambiguity then you DO NOT have consent.

- Mixed messages from your partner are a clear indication that you should stop, defuse any sexual tension and communicate better. You may be misreading them. They may not have figured out how far they want to go with you yet. You must respect the timeline for sexual behaviors with which they are comfortable.
- Don't take advantage of someone's drunkenness or altered state, even if they willingly consumed alcohol or other substances.
- Realize that your potential partner could feel intimidated or coerced by you. You may have a power advantage simply because of your gender or physical presence. Don't abuse that power.
- Do not share intimate content, pictures, images, and videos that are shared with you.
- Understand that consent to some form of sexual behavior does not automatically imply consent to any other forms of sexual behavior.
- Silence, passivity, or non-responsiveness cannot be interpreted as an indication of consent. Read your potential partner carefully, paying attention to verbal and non-verbal communication and body language.

Sexual Misconduct Offenses

Sexual misconduct offenses include, but are not limited to:

1. Sexual Harassment
2. Non-Consensual Sexual Contact (or attempts to commit same)
3. Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse (or attempts to commit same)
4. Sexual Exploitation

1. Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is:

- unwelcome,
- sexual, sex-based and/or gender-based verbal, written, online and/or physical conduct.

Anyone experiencing sexual harassment in any university program is encouraged to report it immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Remedies, education, and/or training will be provided in response.

Sexual Harassment, as defined by the Office of Civil Rights, means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- (1) An employee of the recipient conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the recipient on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- (2) Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient's education program or activity; or
- (3) "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. s 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(30).

Sexual harassment may be disciplined when it takes the form of quid pro quo harassment, retaliatory harassment and/or creates a hostile environment.

A hostile environment is created when sexual harassment is:

- sufficiently severe, or
- persistent or pervasive, and
- objectively offensive that it

- unreasonably interferes with, denies or limits someone's ability to participate in or benefit from the university's educational and/or employment, social and/or residential program.

Quid Pro Quo Harassment is:

- Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature
- By a person having power or authority over another
- Submission to such sexual conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of rating or evaluating an individual's educational or employment progress, development, or performance.
- This includes when submission to such conduct would be a condition for access to receiving the benefits of any educational or employment program.

Examples include: attempting to coerce an unwilling person into a sexual relationship; repeatedly subjecting a person to egregious, unwelcome sexual attention; punishing a refusal to comply with a sexual based request; conditioning a benefit on submitting to sexual advances; or engaging in sexual violence, intimate partner violence, stalking, or gender-based bullying.

Some examples of possible Sexual Harassment include:

- A professor insists that a student have sex with him/her in exchange for a good grade. This is harassment regardless of whether the student accedes to the request.
- A student repeatedly sends sexually-oriented jokes around on an email list s/he created, even when asked to stop, causing one recipient to avoid the sender on campus and in the residence hall in which they both live.
- Explicit sexual pictures are displayed in a professor's office or on the exterior of a residence hall door
- Two supervisors frequently 'rate' several employees' bodies and sex appeal, commenting suggestively about their clothing and appearance.
- A professor engages students in her class in discussions about their past sexual experiences, yet the conversation is not in any way germane to the subject matter of the class. She probes for explicit details, and demands that students answer her, though they are clearly uncomfortable and hesitant.
- An ex-girlfriend widely spreads false stories about her sex life with her former boyfriend to the clear discomfort of the boyfriend, turning him into a social pariah on campus
- Male students take to calling a particular brunette student "Monica" because of her resemblance to Monica Lewinsky. Soon, everyone adopts this nickname for her, and she is the target of relentless remarks about cigars, the president, "sexual relations" and Weight Watchers.
- A student grabs another student by the hair, then grabs her breast and puts his mouth on it. While this is sexual harassment, it is also a form of sexual violence.

2. Non-Consensual Sexual Contact

Non-Consensual Sexual Contact is:

- any intentional sexual touching,
- however slight,
- with any object,
- by a person upon another person,
- that is without consent and/or by force.

Sexual Contact includes:

- Intentional contact with the breasts, buttock, groin, or genitals, or touching another with any of these body parts, or making another touch you or themselves with or on any of these body parts; or
- Any other intentional bodily contact in a sexual manner.

3. Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse

Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse is:

- any sexual intercourse
- however slight,
- with any object,
- by a person upon another person,
- that is without consent and/or by force.

Intercourse includes:

- vaginal or anal penetration by a penis, object, tongue or finger, and oral copulation (mouth to genital contact), no matter how slight the penetration or contact.

4. Sexual Exploitation

Occurs when one person takes non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for his/her own advantage or benefit, or to benefit or advantage anyone other than the one being exploited, and that behavior does not otherwise constitute one of other sexual misconduct offenses. Examples of sexual exploitation include, but are not limited to:

- Invasion of sexual privacy;
- Prostituting another person;
- Non-consensual digital, video, or audio recording of nudity or sexual activity;
- Unauthorized sharing or distribution of digital, video or audio recording of nudity or sexual activity;
- Engaging in voyeurism;
- Going beyond the boundaries of consent (such as letting your friend hide in the closet to watch you having consensual sex);
- Knowingly exposing someone to or transmitting an STI, STD or HIV to another person;
- Intentionally or recklessly exposing one's genitals in non-consensual circumstances; inducing another to expose their genitals;
- Sexually-based stalking and/or bullying may also be forms of sexual exploitation

Additional Applicable Definitions:

- Complainant: an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment. Any third party, as well as the complainant, may report sexual harassment. Parents and guardians may not become complainants or respondents, but have a legal right to act on behalf of parties by filing formal complaints.
- Consent:
 - Consent is
 - » clear, and
 - » knowing, and
 - » voluntary [or affirmative, conscious and voluntary],
 - » words or actions,
 - » that give permission for specific sexual activity.
 - Consent is active, not passive.
 - Silence, in and of itself, cannot be interpreted as consent.

- Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as those words or actions create mutually understandable permission regarding willingness to engage in (and the conditions of) sexual activity.
- Consent to any one form of sexual activity cannot automatically imply consent to any other forms of sexual activity.
- Previous relationships or prior consent cannot imply consent to future sexual acts.
- Consent can be withdrawn once given, as long as that withdrawal is clearly communicated.
- In order to give consent, one must be of legal age.
- Sexual activity with someone you know to be or should know to be incapacitated constitutes a violation of this policy.
 - » Incapacitation can occur mentally or physically, from developmental disability, by alcohol or other drug use, or blackout.
 - » The question of what the responding party should have known is objectively based on what a reasonable person in the place of the responding party, sober and exercising good judgment, would have known about the condition of the reporting party.
 - » Incapacitation is a state where someone cannot make rational, reasonable decisions because they lack the capacity to give knowing consent (e.g., to understand the “who, what, when, where, why or how” of their sexual interaction).
 - » This policy also covers a person whose incapacity results from mental disability, sleep, unconsciousness, involuntary physical restraint, or from the taking of rape drugs. Possession, use and/or distribution of any of these substances, including Rohypnol, Ketomine, GHB, Burundanga, etc. is prohibited, and administering one of these drugs to another student is a violation of this policy. More information on these drugs can be found at <http://www.911rape.org/>.
- “Document filed by a complainant”: A document or electronic submission that contains the complainant’s physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint.
- Force: The use of physical violence and/or imposing on someone physically to gain sexual access. Force also includes threats, intimidation (implied threats) and coercion that overcomes free will or resistance or that produces consent (“Have sex with me or I’ll hit you. Okay, don’t hit me, I’ll do what you want.”).
 - Coercion is unreasonable pressure for sexual activity. When someone makes clear to you that they do not want sex, that they want to stop, or that they do not want to go past a certain point of sexual interaction, continued pressure beyond that point can be coercive.
 - NOTE: There is no requirement for a party to resist the sexual advance or request, but resistance is a clear demonstration of non-consent. The presence of force is not demonstrated by the absence of resistance. Sexual activity that is forced is by definition non-consensual, but non-consensual sexual activity is not by definition forced.
- Formal Complaint: A document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that the school investigate the allegation of sexual harassment.
- Respondent: An individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
- Supportive measures: Individualized services reasonably available, non-disciplinary, and not unreasonably burdensome to the other party while designed to ensure equal educational access, protect safety, or deter sexual harassment.
- Use of alcohol or other drugs will never function to excuse any behavior that violates this policy.
- This policy is applicable regardless of the sexual orientation and/or gender identity of individuals engaging in sexual activity.

Other Misconduct Offenses

Other misconduct offenses (will fall under Title IX when sex or gender-based)

1. Threatening or causing physical harm, extreme verbal abuse, or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person;
2. Discrimination, defined as actions that deprive other members of the community of educational or employment access, benefits or opportunities on the basis of sex or gender;
3. Intimidation, defined as implied threats or acts that cause an unreasonable fear of harm in another;
4. Hazing, defined as acts likely to cause physical or psychological harm or social ostracism to any person within the university community, when related to the admission, initiation, pledging, joining, or any other group-affiliation activity;
5. Bullying, defined as
 - a. Repeated and/or severe
 - b. Aggressive behavior
 - c. Likely to intimidate or intentionally hurt, control or diminish another person, physically or mentally
 - d. That is not speech or conduct otherwise protected by the 1st Amendment.
6. Intimate Partner Violence, defined as violence or abuse between those in an intimate relationship to each other,
 - a. A boyfriend shoves his girlfriend into a wall upon seeing her talking to a male friend. This physical assault based in jealousy is a violation of the Intimate Partner Violence policy.
 - b. An ex-girlfriend shames her female partner, threatening to out her as a lesbian if she doesn't give the ex another chance. Psychological abuse is a form of Intimate Partner Violence.
 - c. A graduate student refuses to wear a condom and forces his girlfriend to take hormonal birth control though it makes her ill, in order to prevent pregnancy.
 - d. Married employees are witnessed in the parking garage, with one partner slapping and scratching the other in the midst of an argument.
7. Stalking
 - e. Stalking 1:
 - i. A course of conduct
 - ii. Directed at a specific person
 - iii. On the basis of actual or perceived membership in a protected class
 - iv. That is unwelcome, AND
 - v. Would cause a reasonable person to feel fear
 - f. Stalking 2:
 - i. Repetitive and Menacing
 - ii. Pursuit, following, harassing and/or interfering with the peace and/or safety of another
8. Any other University policies may fall within this section when a violation is motivated by the actual or perceived membership of the reporting party's sex or gender.

Retaliation

Retaliation is defined as any adverse action taken against a person participating in a protected activity because of their participation in that protected activity, subject to limitations imposed by the First Amendment and/or Academic Freedom. Retaliation against an individual for an allegation, for supporting a reporting party or for assisting in providing information relevant to an allegation is a serious violation of university policy.

Sanctions

The following sanctions may be imposed upon any student found to have violated the Sex/Gender Harassment, Discrimination and Misconduct Policy. Factors considered in sanctioning are defined in the Student Handbook's Code of Conduct, Faculty Handbook, Staff Handbook. The following are the typical sanctions that may be imposed upon students or organizations singly or in combination:

Sanctions

- Warning
- Probation
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Withholding Diploma
- Revocation of Degree
- Transcript Notation
- Organizational Sanctions
- Other Actions

Sanctioning for Sexual Misconduct

- Any person found responsible for violating the Non-Consensual Sexual Contact policy (where no intercourse has occurred) will likely receive a sanction ranging from probation to expulsion, depending on the severity of the incident, and taking into account any previous disciplinary violations.*
- Any person found responsible for violating the Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse policy will likely face a recommended sanction of suspension or expulsion (student) or suspension or termination (employee).*
- Any person found responsible for violating the Sexual Exploitation or Sexual Harassment policies will likely receive a recommended sanction ranging from warning to expulsion or termination, depending on the severity of the incident, and taking into account any previous disciplinary violations.*

*The decision-making body reserves the right to broaden or lessen any range of recommended sanctions in the case of serious mitigating circumstances or egregiously offensive behavior. Neither the initial hearing officers nor any appeals body or officer will deviate from the range of recommended sanctions unless compelling justification exists to do so.

Confidentiality, Privacy And Reporting Policy

Confidentiality and Reporting of Offenses Under This Policy

All university employees (faculty, staff, and administrators) are expected to immediately (within 48 hours) report actual or suspected discrimination or harassment to appropriate officials, though there are some limited exceptions. In order to make informed choices, it is important to be aware of confidentiality and mandatory reporting requirements when consulting campus resources. On campus, some resources may maintain confidentiality – meaning they are not required to report actual or suspected discrimination or harassment to appropriate university officials - thereby offering options and advice without any obligation to inform an outside agency or individual unless a victim has requested information to be shared.

Confidential reporters are trained professionals who can provide confidential support. These individuals are not required by the university to report any information to the Title IX Coordinator without your permission, though they may have certain reporting requirements pursuant to their own professional licensure requirements or code of ethics. The University's confidential reporting sources are:

- University Wellness Center, Renee Sprinkle and Sheila Metcalf (828) 689-1243
- Counseling Center, Phillip Brantley and Noreal Armstrong (828) 689-1196; or counseling@mhu.edu

- Pastoral Counseling, Stephanie McLeskey or the Assistant Chaplain [currently unfilled position] (828) 689-1299 or (828) 689-1664

Other resources exist for a victim to report crimes and policy violations and these resources will take action when an incident is reported to them. The following describes the two reporting options at Mars Hill University:

Formal Reporting Options

All university employees have a duty to report, unless they fall under the “Confidential Reporting” section above, within 48 hours of knowledge of a potential policy violation. Reporting parties may want to consider carefully whether they share personally identifiable details with non-confidential employees, as those details must be shared by the employee with the Title IX Coordinator. Employees must share all details of the reports they receive. Remedial actions may result without formal university action.

If a complainant does not wish for their name to be shared, does not wish for an investigation to take place, or does not want a formal resolution to be pursued, the complainant may make such a request to the Title IX Coordinator, who will evaluate that request in light of the duty to ensure the safety of the campus and comply with federal law. In cases indicating pattern, predation, threat, weapons and/or violence, the university will likely be unable to honor a request for confidentiality. In cases where the victim requests confidentiality and the circumstances allow the university to honor that request, the university will offer interim supports and remedies to the complainant and the community, but will not otherwise pursue formal action. A reporting party has the right, and can expect, to have reports taken seriously by the university when formally reported, and to have those incidents investigated and properly resolved through these procedures.

Formal reporting still affords privacy to the reporter, and only a small group of officials who need to know will be told, including but not limited to: Vice President for Student Life, Dean of Students, University Security, CARE Team. Information will be shared as necessary with investigators, witnesses and the responding party. The circle of people with this knowledge will be kept as tight as possible to preserve a reporting party’s rights and privacy.

Reports to the Title IX Coordinator can be made via email, phone or in person at the contact information below:

Jennie Matthews
Nash Education Building Room 209
(828) 689-1197
jmatthews@mhu.edu

Failure of a non-confidential employee, as described in this section, to report an incident or incidents of sex or gender harassment or discrimination of which they become aware within 48 hours, is a violation of university policy and can be subject to disciplinary action for failure to comply with university policies.

Investigative Process

A detailed investigative process is included in Appendix A.

Federal Timely Warning Reporting Obligations

Victims of sexual misconduct should also be aware that university administrators must issue immediate timely warnings for incidents reported to them that are confirmed to pose a substantial threat of bodily harm or danger to members of the campus community. The university will ensure that a victim’s name and other identifying information is not disclosed, while still providing enough information for community members to make safety decisions in light of the danger.

Additional Policy Provisions

False Reports :

University will not tolerate intentional false reporting of incidents. It is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct to make an intentionally false report of any policy violation, and it may also violate state criminal statutes and civil defamation laws.

Appendix A

Preliminary Investigative Process

Receipt of Initial Report - If a complaint is reported to a responsible employee other than the university's Title IX Coordinator, the person receiving the initial report shall notify the university's Title IX Coordinator of the complaint within 48 hours of receipt of the report. If the Title IX Coordinator is alleged to have been involved in a violation, the complaint shall be reported to the Vice President for Student Life, who will fulfill the responsibilities of the Title IX Coordinator with regards to the complaint. Should a Complainant request that a complaint be kept confidential, the Title IX Coordinator will respect the Complainant's request and do everything practicable to maintain confidentiality, though doing so may limit the university's ability to respond to the complaint. However, the Title IX Coordinator must balance this request with the university's responsibility to provide a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all members of the university community.

The purpose of the preliminary inquiry is to determine reasonable cause, whether any of the Office of Civil Rights requirements for dismissal are present, suitability for informal resolution and supportive or interim measures.

Notice of Complaint to Respondent & Opportunity for Response - Within five (5) days of receipt of a complaint, the Title IX Coordinator, with the assistance of other university officials, shall make a preliminary inquiry and initial determination as to whether or not the Grievance falls within the scope of these procedures and whether further investigation is necessary. If the Title IX Coordinator determines that further investigation regarding the complaint is necessary under these procedures, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide written notice of the reported complaint to the Respondent, either by providing the Respondent with a copy of the written initial report of the complaint, or by providing the Respondent with a summary of the allegations and requests made by the Complainant. In this notice, the Respondent shall be advised that a written Response to the Grievance may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator within 5 days of notice of the complaint. The Response, if any, should confirm or deny the factual allegations, and indicate the extent to which the complaint has merit. If the Respondent files a Response, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide a copy of the Response to the Complainant upon receipt.

Interim Measures - It is the goal of the university to investigate all complaints in a prompt and equitable manner. Accordingly, the university strives to complete and resolve a filed complaint within 60 business days or less (exclusive of any appeal). During the Preliminary Investigative process, the Title IX Coordinator, in consultation with senior administrators, may implement Interim Measures to ensure the safety of all members of the university community. By way of example, Interim Measures could include no-contact orders, changes in housing assignments, changes to course schedules, changes to work schedules or duties, counseling, health services, other support services, or temporary suspension. If Interim Measures are implemented, the Title IX Coordinator or a senior administrator shall notify the Complainant, the Respondent, and any other individual or entity affected by the Interim Measures, in writing. The following factors are considered when determining the appropriateness of Interim Measures: the seriousness of the allegations, scheduled interactions between the Grievant and the Respondent (e.g., courses, housing assignments, extracurricular activities), restraining orders or other civil protections, and the specific needs and requests of the Complainant. When implementing Interim Measures, the Title IX Coordinator will balance the need to ensure the safety of the Complainant and the university community with the need to minimize the impact on the Respondent.

Informal Resolution - Prior to any investigation, and at any time during the investigative process, the Title IX Coordinator may inquire of the parties if they wish to participate in informal resolution of the complaint. If, and only if, both the Complainant and the Respondent voluntarily agree to do so, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will meet with the parties and informally attempt to resolve the complaint. If the parties can reach an agreement, it shall be recorded in

writing and signed by both the Complainant and Respondent, and no further action will be taken in connection with these Investigative Procedures. However, complaints alleging sexual assault or other sexual violence may not be resolved through this informal process, even with the parties' consent. Further, all parties shall have the absolute right to end the informal resolution process at any time and return to, or begin, the formal stage of the investigative process under these Investigative Procedures.

Formal Investigation Process

Appointment of Investigators - Unless an informal resolution is pursued, the Title IX Coordinator will appoint an Investigator and an Assistant Investigator, both of whom have had training in civil rights investigations, within five (5) business days of receipt of response from the Respondent, if any. The Title IX Coordinator will inform the Complainant and Respondent of these assignments in writing, to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest. Investigators are expected to complete all interviews, review all evidence, and complete an Investigation Report within 15 business days, unless, in the judgment of the Title IX Coordinator, additional time is required. If additional time is needed, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the Complainant and Respondent in writing of the date by which the investigation is expected to be completed.

Interviews and Evidence - During the investigation, the Investigator and Assistant Investigator will work as a team, reviewing the Complaint and the Response (if submitted), conducting interviews of both parties and relevant witnesses and collecting evidence. During interviews, both the Complainant and the Respondent have the right to have an advisor of their choice accompany them. All participants in interviews, including the Complainant, the Respondent, other witnesses, and any advisors, are required to maintain strict confidentiality about the interviews, sharing neither the Investigators' questions nor their responses with others, unless they are given written consent to do so by the Title IX Coordinator. Evidence collected by the Investigators may include student or personnel files, photographs, videos, reports, law enforcement investigatory records, medical records (if provided by a patient), or other documents. Investigators have no legal power to compel individuals to participate in interviews or to subpoena records, but refusing to participate in an interview or share relevant evidence may be grounds for disciplinary actions.

Investigation Report - Upon concluding their investigation, the Investigator and Assistant Investigator will prepare a written Investigation Report that documents the violation alleged, the interviews conducted, and the evidence reviewed. Both parties will be provided an equal opportunity to inspect and review evidence that is "directly related" to the allegations. Parties have 10 days to review and submit a written response to any evidence, which must be considered by the investigators before finalizing their report. Final investigation report will be provided to both parties at least 10 days before any hearing to decide whether the respondent is responsible for the alleged policy violations.

Formal Hearing Process – Upon completion of the investigative process, a live Title IX hearing, including the opportunity for cross-examination of all witnesses by each party's advisor, must occur in order to separate the investigative function from the decision-making function. MHU will provide appropriate evidentiary training for adjudicators (chosen by the university), and live hearings (which may be "virtual") that are recorded. Highlighting the importance of cross-examination, presiding decision-maker(s) are forbidden from relying on any statement of any party or witness who refuses to submit to live cross-examination in reaching a determination regarding responsibility. The scope of cross-examination and questioning requires decision-maker(s) to determine whether a question is relevant before the party or witness is required to answer. The decision-maker(s) must then explain on the record the basis for excluding a question as not relevant. Some rape shield protections for complainants apply, as questions and evidence about a complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are deemed not relevant by default. MHU will provide an advisor to conduct the cross-examination, free of charge to a party if she or he does not have one present at the live hearing.

Final Determination

A written determination will be provided simultaneously to all parties for each alleged policy violation.

Appeal

Right of Appeal. Both the Complainant and the Respondent have the right to appeal the result of the Investigation Report in writing within 5 business days. Appeals are limited to 1500 words and must be based on one or more of the following grounds:

- The appealing party has new information that was not reasonably available before the investigation and could have significantly affected the Investigators' determination that the Respondent was or was not responsible ("new information").
- The appealing party has evidence of a procedural error in the investigation that could have significantly affected the Investigators' determination that the Respondent was or was not responsible ("procedural error").
- The appealing party asserts that the severity of the recommended disciplinary actions and/or remedial steps is substantially disproportionate to the severity of the violation ("disproportionate recommendation").

Disagreement with the Investigators' determination or with the recommended disciplinary actions and/or remedial steps is not grounds for an appeal. Any appeal filed after 5 business days will be dismissed.

Appointment of Review Board. Should an Appeal be filed in a timely manner and based on appropriate grounds, the Title IX Coordinator will appoint a three-person Review Board to hear the Appeal within 5 business days. The Review Board will consist of a Review Board Chair, who must be an individual who has experience serving as an Investigator or Assistant Investigator

Traffic Code

This publication supersedes all previous publications dealing with traffic rules and regulations. Any suggestions or comments concerning this publication should be sent by email to kwest@mhu.edu.

A. General Statement of Policy

The operation of a motor vehicle on the Mars Hill University campus is a privilege granted by the university. Due to limited parking, automobiles are generally NOT to be used as a means of intra-campus transportation. Parking privileges will be determined by the display of decals or hang tags issued by the Department of Safety and Security. Parking decals or hang tags will designate the authorized parking area for that particular vehicle. The Department of Safety and Security and/or Student Life will determine due cause, suspension, and revocation.

1. The Department of Safety and Security Officers are charged to protect the safety and welfare of the entire campus. They are responsible for enforcing the traffic regulations and ordinances impartially, whether the violator is a faculty, staff, or student. Safety and Security Officers will observe and use the utmost courtesy when interacting with members of the university community. It is expected that Security Officers will be treated with civility and respect in return.
2. The fact that a person parks in violation of any regulation or law and does not receive a citation does not mean that the regulation or law is no longer in effect. The responsibility to park a vehicle legally rests with the vehicle operator.
3. All persons in the university community, faculty, staff, and students are expected not only to observe the traffic regulations but also to pay fines for violations. Failure to do so may result in the vehicle being impounded and towed at the owner's expense, revocation of campus driving privileges, or immobilization by use of the Denver boot.
4. All traffic rules and regulations contained herein may be strictly enforced at all times for all members of the university community.

B. Definitions:

1. For the purpose of these regulations, a motor vehicle includes automobile, truck, motorcycle, motor scooter, motor bike, golf cart, and any other motor-powered vehicle.
2. The term student includes all persons taking full- or part-time undergraduate, graduate, or post-graduate work (including those taking night courses), adult studies students, or auditors.
3. The term visitor includes any person, other than faculty, staff, and students, driving or parking a non-registered vehicle on campus.
4. The term faculty and staff includes any person hired as a MHU employee either full-time, part-time or of temporary status.
5. The term “public vehicular area” includes any drive, driveway, road, roadway, street, or alley upon the grounds and premises of any public or private hospital, college, university, school, orphanage, church, or any of the institutions maintained and supported by the state of North Carolina, or any of its subdivisions or upon the grounds and premises of any service station, drive-in theater, supermarket, store, restaurant or office building or any other business, residential, or municipal establishment providing parking space for customers, patrons, or the public or any drive, driveway, road, roadway, street, alley or parking lot (N.C.G.S. 20-4.01) (32)

C. Temporary Parking Permits for Visitors and Handicapped Persons

1. Temporary Parking Permits will be issued at the request of the individual or a member of faculty or staff. During posted office hours, temporary parking permits will be available from the Office of Safety and Security, the security officer on duty, the parking enforcement officer on duty, Student Life, Admissions, or other identified offices on campus. After hours, visitors should call the Security Officer on duty at (828) 689-1230. Visitors of students are the responsibility of that student, therefore any traffic violations are the host student’s responsibility to appropriately dispose of the citation by either payment for or successful appeal of the violation.
2. Handicap parking spaces are reserved for any MHU issued Temporary Medical Condition Permit or state issued handicap placard marked vehicles. Improper parking in a Handicap space will result in \$150.00 fine and potential immediate towing. No vehicle will be booted in a handicap space.
3. State handicap placards must be registered in the Student’s name and also with the Department of Safety and Security. It must be verified the placard was issued to the student and not another person.
4. Qualifications for MHU issued Temporary Medical Condition Permit:
 - a. Temporary Medical Condition Permits are issued at the direction of the Director of Medical Services in the Wellness Center with proper documentation from a medical doctor, or medical professional.
 - b. Director of Medical Services will communicate to the Department of Safety and Security the approval for and duration of the MHU handicap parking permit.
 - c. Temporary Medical Condition Permits will be issued by the Department of Safety and Security, office located on the third floor of Wren Student Union.
5. Handicap and Temporary Medical Condition Permits parking locations and order:
 - a. First—utilize any blue painted parking space or space designated with a standing handicap parking sign.
 - b. Second—utilize any green painted parking space designated for faculty/staff parking.
 - c. Third— utilize any white painted parking space.
 - d. Fourth— utilize any visitor designated area.
6. Handicap placard or Temporary Medical Condition Permits are never authorized to park in a Fire Lane or No Parking Zone.

D. Motor Vehicle Registration Requirements

1. All faculty, staff, or student motor vehicles operated on campus will be registered regardless of the length of time they are operated on campus. See later section for time limit for registration.
2. If, due to an emergency, a student is unable to drive their registered vehicle and must use an unregistered vehicle, the Department of Safety and Security office must be notified immediately to issue a temporary parking

permit. Any citations received due to a delay in this notification are the responsibility of the student and are not a valid reason for granting of appeal.

3. If, for any reason, a decal must be replaced, the Department of Safety and Security must be notified and a new decal obtained as soon as possible.
4. Under no circumstances are students to utilize faculty/staff hang tags. Individuals found in violation of this will be processed through the Student Code of Conduct for fraud.

E. Motor Vehicle Registration Procedure:

1. Registration is completed through an online process with Rydin Permit Express. The link <https://www.permitsales.net/MHU>
Can also be found on My MHU Resources for Students page.
2. All tickets/fines must be paid within 10 days to prevent a \$10.00 late fee from being assessed.
3. All traffic fines are paid online at www.permitsales.net/MHU/violations. There is no option for charging it to your student account or paying by any other method. Obtain a prepaid card if you do not have access to a credit card. Monthly all unpaid traffic fines will be transferred to student accounts.
4. All students must pick up the MHU Parking Permit during check in. After that time a newly registered or changed vehicle will need to pick up the permit at the Office of Safety and Security during business hours; 9-5, M-F. If the vehicle is on campus outside those hours, the Security Officer on duty must be notified to issue a temporary parking permit.
5. All commuters are required to register any vehicle that will ever be on campus.
6. Permits must be displayed outside on the back window glass, left lower corner, and firmly affixed to the vehicle. For sedan, SUV or pickup trucks any other location is a violation and the permit must be replaced.
7. If the vehicle registered is a soft top convertible, has a small collapsible window, or is a Jeep type with a removable top, the decal must be attached to the outside front driver side lower window. Any unique vehicle situations should be presented to the Director of Safety and Security or designee. Pictures with directions will be available during registration.
8. Motorcycles and scooters are also vehicles and must be registered. The sticker must be affixed to the front fork or front frame or guard portion of the scooter. Any questions should be referred to the Director of Safety and Security.
9. Student permits are a one-use safety configuration. Permit decals may not be shared from car to car.
10. Registration is not complete until the decal is properly displayed on the vehicle and all expired parking stickers have been removed.
11. Vehicles violating parking protocols are subject to being fined according to Section F of this traffic code.
12. Students are only allowed to register one vehicle at a time while at Mars Hill University. A new permit may be issued if a student changes cars during the semester, but an additional vehicle registration is not allowed. The Director of Safety and Security, or designee, may authorize a waiver of this rule based on individual need for Adult Studies or commuter students.

F. Decals, Hang Tags and Corresponding Colors

Students will receive a parking permit and must park in either the commuter lots or residential lots depending on the student's status.

1. Decals will be issued according to the student's status as a resident or a commuter student. In-residence students will be issued decals listing the academic year and designated "Resident". Commuter and Adult Studies students will be issued decals listing the academic year and designated "Commuter". Faculty and staff will be issued blue hanging tags which do not expire.
2. All vehicles on campus will be subject to the same rules. Not registering a vehicle will result in the same citations, booting and towing procedure.
3. Parking lots are designated by parking status, and marked with signs clearly visible at the entrance of the lots. Corresponding locations are:

Lunsford/Jarvis.....	Resident
Myers.....	Resident
Dixon Palmer/Azalea/Dogwood.....	Resident
Gibson/Laurel/Turner/Brown.....	Resident
Edna Moore-Stroup/Huffman/Fox.....	Resident
Bailey St/Edna Moore Gravel.....	Resident
Ponder Field lot.....	Commuter
Spilman Gravel.....	Commuter
McConnell.....	Faculty Staff
Renfro.....	Faculty Staff
Chambers.....	Faculty Staff
Ammons Field House.....	Faculty Staff
213 Lot at Park Drive.....	Commuters/Visitors
Broyhill Chapel.....	Commuter/Visitors
Dormitory Drive/Joe Anderson...Faculty Staff, to Resident as marked at Town House Drive south	
Town House Drive to Dixon Palmer B entrance.....	Commuter
Nash Upper.....	Commuter and Resident
Nash Lower.....	Faculty Staff
Day Hall building side.....	Faculty Staff
Auditorium Drive, Behind Moore/Pittman, first lot on left.....	Faculty Staff
Visitors.....	Print paper on dashboard
Faculty/Staff.....	Blue hanging tag

G. Violations, Fines and Payments

Violations, Fines, Booting, and Towing

1. As a courtesy, a notice will be sent to each registered email address when a citation is issued notifying them of the violation, location, procedure to pay for the citation online, and informal appeal procedure. Failure to receive the email notification does not constitute grounds for successful appeal. A list of common parking violations includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Fire Lane
 - b. Handicap
 - c. Non-Registration
 - d. Improper Zone Faculty/staff
 - e. Improper Zone
 - f. No Parking Zone
 - g. 10-Minute Excess
 - h. 15-Minute Excess
 - i. Parking against the flow or left of center
 - j. Wrong Way/One Way Violation (Moving violation)
 - k. Blocking other vehicle or roadway
 - l. Breaching barricades
 - m. Failure to display decal, or improperly affixed decal
 - n. Other
2. Fees for Violations:

1st violation-\$10.00; 2nd violation-\$25.00; 3rd violation-\$50.00; all subsequent violations \$50.00. These fines are per school year and do not reset per semester.

- a. Handicap and Fire Lane Zones-\$150.00
- b. Non-Registration: 1st Violation - \$10; 2nd Violation - \$50, 3rd violation, \$50 ticket, boot, and \$50 boot removal fee.
- c. Boot removal -\$50.00 plus the cost of the violation.
- d. All other violations:
1st violation-\$10.00; 2nd violation-\$25.00; 3rd violation-\$50.00; all subsequent violations in the academic year:\$50.00
- e. Payment must be made within 10 calendar days or each citation is subject to a one-time \$10.00 late fee.
- f. Violation for failure to register which results in a vehicle being booted subjects the vehicle to being towed off-campus. All recorded violation fees must be paid in full prior to student's parking privileges being reinstated. Until properly registered, such vehicle will be subject to immediate towing if returned to campus.
- g. When discovered that a student has attempted to subvert the registration requirement for a vehicle, this is a violation of student conduct rules and subject to university disciplinary procedures.
- h. Fire Lane and Handicap violations are subject to immediate towing.
- i. MHU will be first booting and potentially towing vehicles that have excessive fines of \$135.00 or more outstanding or unpaid.
- j. If a booted vehicle accrued fines are not cleared by the owner within 48 hours it will be towed.
- k. If a vehicle immobilization device or boot is improperly removed, damaged, or stolen, the vehicle owner will be held responsible. This will be investigated as criminal vandalism or larceny and prosecuted as such.
- m. Towed vehicles will be removed to Haney's Towing. To recover a towed vehicle, an additional towing fee must be paid directly to Haney's Towing. There will be an additional charge per day for daily storage fees due to that business, NOT the university. If a vehicle is towed a second time, the student loses the privilege of a vehicle on campus for the remainder of that semester without refund.

H. Suspension or Revocation Of Driving Privileges May Result From The Following:

1. Operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or any other controlled substance;
2. Accumulating more than \$135.00 unpaid MHU traffic or parking violations, during any month or summer school;
3. Driving a motor vehicle on campus during the period when the individual's driving privilege has been suspended or revoked. The violator's vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense. The case will be turned over to the appropriate University judicial body.

I. Appeals

1. A notice will be sent to each registered email address when a citation is issued notifying them of the violation, location, procedure to pay for the citation online, and informal appeals procedure. Failure to receive the email notification does not constitute grounds for successful appeal.
2. All appeals must be made within 10 calendar days of receipt of the citation. Any appeal past that point will not be heard.
3. Informal appeals may be made directly from the website listed in the email.
4. Informal appeal will be reviewed by Safety and Security supervisory staff.
5. Notice will be made back to the registered email address within 72 hours of the informal decision.
6. If the appeal is not granted, within five (5) calendar days of notice students may file a formal written appeal by making direct contact with the Office of Safety and Security and notifying the Director of Safety and Security by email. Any appeal past that point will not be heard.

7. The Director of Safety and Security will confer with the VP of Student Life and decide within 72 hours of acknowledgement of the formal appeal. This appeal will serve as the final step in the process, and any appeal past that decision will not be heard.
8. During the last two weeks of each semester, and during summer sessions, the Director of Safety and Security will adjudicate all traffic tickets appealed properly. This appeal will serve as the final step in the process, and any appeal past that decision will not be heard.

J. Zone Parking

Students must park in the lots designated for their corresponding Residence Hall or commuter parking with no exceptions. There are no open parking areas on the Mars Hill University Campus.

The following lots are totally restricted parking:

1. Huffman 24 hr. staff spaces: marked by sign.
2. Wellness Center (Nash lower-Infirmery Lot).
3. The Department of Safety and Security spaces: Security vehicles only.
4. Handicap spaces: properly marked vehicles only (state issued or MHU temporary parking permit).
5. Residence Life Spaces: Residence Life professional or designated staff only.
6. Athletic Street is reserved for two-hour maximum parking for utilization of the gyms in Wren or Chambers, or as marked by appropriate signage. Athletic St. Parking is not to be used by commuters or students parking to go to class or be subject to citation.
7. Service Vehicle spaces: emergency and MHU official vehicles only
8. Blackwell Plaza; designated for Admissions visitors, visitor utility carts, and staff vehicles.
9. Any parking changes made necessary from construction or changes around Blackwell or the Lunsford Commons.
10. Commuter students and authorized visitors are allowed to park in the following locations:
 - a. Lot located at Park Drive and Cascade St. (N.C. 213)
 - b. Broyhill Chapel adjacent to Park Drive.
 - c. Upper Nash off Dormitory Drive (No overnight parking allowed)
 - d. Gravel lot located on Bailey Street beside Spilman (No overnight parking allowed)
 - e. Gravel lot located below Edna Moore off Bailey St.
 - e. Designated parking spaces at Ponder field.
 - f. First six parallel parking spaces on Townhouse Drive.
 - g. All parking on College St beside Cornwell and on Main St. is controlled by the Town of Mars Hill, and is NOT to be used for student or Staff parking subject to MHPD citations.
 - h. Day hall Bailey St. side is controlled by the Town of Mars Hill, and is NOT to be used for student or Staff parking subject to MHPD citations.

K. General Guidelines and Rules

In addition to the motor vehicle laws of the State of North Carolina, the following rules and regulations are applicable:

1. Mars Hill University assumes NO responsibility for any damage or loss to motor vehicles driven or parked on campus. However, it is required that all thefts or damages are reported to the Department of Safety and Security immediately.
2. The registrant of the motor vehicle is held responsible for the safe, prudent operation, and proper parking of their vehicle regardless of who may be the operator.
3. All motor vehicle accidents occurring on campus are to be reported to the Department of Safety and Security immediately. Security will notify law enforcement if necessary for investigation or reporting forwarded to the State of N.C.
4. Flagrant violation of any rule or regulation concerning the operation and parking of a vehicle on campus may result in the owner being fined, the vehicle being booted, or the vehicle being towed away. The owner and/or registrant will be liable for any fines, towing, and/or storage charges.

5. Any operator of a motor vehicle on campus must be able to show, upon request of any representative of the Department of Safety and Security, their university ID card, valid driver's license, and proper vehicle registration.
6. It is a violation to disregard the one-way street signs, and drivers will be cited for this dangerous act. The following streets on campus are classified as one-way and drivers will be cited for violation:
 - a. The upper drive at Fox Residence Hall closest to the building
 - b. The driveway around Huffman, Stroup, and Edna Moore Residence Halls
 - c. Townhouse Drive in its entirety from Dormitory Drive to Dogwood Hall. Past Dogwood in front of Dixon Palmer to Park Drive is two-way.
 - d. Dormitory Drive from Townhouse Drive up the hill past Myers to the far end of Gibson Residence Hall parking lot. Joe Anderson Drive to South Main Street is two-way traffic.
7. Stopping in "No Parking" zones located near the residence halls for unloading purposes and to pick-up passengers is acceptable only if a licensed driver with the keys to the vehicle remains with the vehicle at all times. Otherwise, vehicles will be ticketed or towed (to permit passage of other vehicles). Towing will be at the owner's expense. The use of hazard lights does not make allowance for parking in a no parking zone nor in a fire lane. If a car is left unattended, it is in violation.
8. If a vehicle becomes inoperable on campus, the operator must notify the Department of Safety and Security of the vehicle location. Operator must make reasonable effort to get the vehicle moved as soon as possible. Multiple citations because an operator did not notify security will not be excused on appeal.
9. Any area within the boundaries of Mars Hill University which is not marked with a specific parking space will be considered a "No Parking" zone.
10. Parking lots are for parking only and are not to be used by motorized vehicles for racing or other noisy or disturbing activities.
11. Vehicles improperly parked are subject to additional enforcement action and fines every twenty four (24) hours.
12. Restricted zone parking is in effect from 6:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. During weekends and holidays faculty and staff parking is available until 6:00 a.m. Monday or the following regular business morning.
13. All posted traffic and regulating signs not covered in these regulations will be observed.
14. Wellness Center parking is restricted at all times.
15. Certain vehicles designated by the Director of Safety and Security as emergency and/or utility vehicles will be allowed to park anywhere necessary to conduct emergency maintenance operation or business.
16. All commuter and visitor lots will be monitored for unauthorized vehicles and cited accordingly.
17. Overflow parking is located on Dormitory Drive and Joe Anderson Drive, accessible by driving up the hill above Myers Residence Hall. This over flow parallel parking will be marked with a sign and does not include the parking lots of Turner, Brown, Gibson and Laurel.
18. No student vehicles are allowed in faculty/staff marked spaces or lots between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. After 6:00 p.m. and until 6:00 a.m. students may use F/S marked spaces. After 6:00 a.m. all student vehicles must be removed from F/S reserved parking or the vehicle is subject to a violation. Faculty/staff lots and spaces are marked by signs or by green paint on the parking area.
19. Handicap parking spaces are reserved for state-issued handicap placard marked vehicles or MHU-issued temporary medical condition permit. Any student needing such temporary accommodation is to report to the Infirmary for documentation by the school nursing staff, who will provide a form stating the duration of the condition. Contact will be made with the office of Safety and Security where a medical parking permit will be issued. Improper parking in a Handicapped space will result in \$150.00 fine and potential immediate towing. No vehicle will be booted in a handicapped space.
20. Fire lanes are marked by a sign or red paint on the curb or asphalt. Only fire trucks and emergency vehicles may park in fire lanes. Parking in a fire lane will result in a \$150.00 citation and the vehicle towed. No vehicle will be booted in a fire lane.
21. Parking spaces are designated on Edna Moore/Stroup/ Huffman Hill that are reserved for handicap, unloading parking, and service vehicles. All reserved spaces are marked and improper parking in such spaces are subject to citation, booting, and potential towing.

22. 10- or 15-minute parking spaces are located at various locations throughout campus. Any vehicle remaining overnight in a 10- or 15-minute spot is subject to all sanctions up to and including towing. Overnight in this context is defined as two hours or more. These spaces are reserved for very short term use for loading and unloading.
- 213 Lot-designated commuter and visitor parking
 - Ammons Field House-faculty/staff parking only
 - Athletic Street-designated community parking, restricted to two-hour limit. Not to be used for athletic training or student classes.
 - Auditorium Drive-handicapped spaces and designated as faculty/staff only
 - Azalea Lot-designated in-residence student parking
 - Bailey Street (gravel lot beside the Baptist Church) commuter parking
 - Belk Field or Lower Fox Lot-designated for in-residence student parking
 - Brown Lot-designated in-residence student parking
 - Chapel Lot (lower lot)-designated commuter and visitor parking
 - Chambers Lot-designated faculty/staff and handicap parking only
 - Dixon Palmer Lot B-designated in-residence student parking
 - Dixon Palmer Lot C-designated in-residence student parking
 - Dogwood Lot-designated in-residence student parking
 - Dormitory Drive/Joe Anderson Dr- designated faculty/staff parking only
 - Ferguson Health Science (nursing) Lot-faculty/ staff
 - Ferguson Math and Science Lot-designated faculty/staff
 - Fox Drive- designated in-residence parking. Two spaces on Fox Drive are designated F/S.
 - Front of Chapel-designated handicap parking
 - Gibson Lot-designated in-residence student parking
 - Huffman Gravel Lot-designated in-residence student parking
 - Joe Anderson Drive- designated overflow parking
 - Lunsford Faculty-designated faculty/staff parking only
 - Lunsford Lower-designated in-residence student parking
 - Lunsford Upper-designated in-residence student parking
 - McConnell Lot-designated faculty/staff only
 - Moore (behind the building)-faculty/staff and service vehicles only
 - Myers Lot-designated in-residence student parking
 - Nash Lot (lower lot) -designated faculty/staff only
 - Nash Lot (upper lot) -designated commuter and visitor
 - Pittman Lot-designated Visitor (4), Handicap (3) and 21 faculty/staff
 - Ponder Lot-designated faculty/staff, visitors, and commuter parking
 - Renfro Lot-designated faculty/staff, Chartwells and security parking
 - Renfro (beside the building)-designated faculty staff
 - Spilman Lot-designated commuter student parking NO OVERNIGHT PARKING
 - Turner Lot- designated in-residence student parking
23. Students may not park in designated visitor, handicap, or service vehicle spaces or in designated fire lanes. Student parking spaces are marked with white paint: faculty/staff spaces are marked with green paint, and

fire lanes are marked with red paint. Handicap spaces are marked with blue paint. Service vehicle spaces are marked in yellow paint.

24. Visitors need to register their vehicles if they plan to stay overnight or if they will be making frequent visits to campus. It is the responsibility of the student to have their visitors registered. If a vehicle is registered as a visitor, and is on campus for more than three (3) consecutive days, it will be considered a non-registered student vehicle and will be subject to student fines or sanctions. If a non-registered vehicle accumulates multiple tickets, it will be booted. It is also the responsibility of the student to take responsibility for any violations that a visitor acquires.
25. The spaces along Athletic Street, College Street, and Bailey Street are shared town streets and subject to Mars Hill Town regulations. Students are not allowed to park on Athletic Street except for two hours while using the gym facilities. Students are not allowed to park on College St. while attending classes or be subject to Town of Mars Hill Police parking enforcement. These spaces are shared with community members using our facilities. A complete list of parking and instructions with a map will be provided at check in and registration, and is available online. An interactive campus map with locations and information about all of our buildings is available on our website, at: www.mhu.edu/about/virtual-map

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