

Peer Conduct Board

An overview of an educational and leadership opportunity for students at TCU



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Learning Outcomes

Participants will:

- Understand the purpose of the PCB and the members role
- Understand the impact of PCB and benefits to both the board and students who come before it
- Be able to articulate how this program could be implemented on your campus



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History of PCB

- Student Code of Conduct
- Peer Accountability
- Student Involvement



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Student Code of Conduct



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1.8 Peer Discipline Board (PDB)

A discipline panel of students living in residence halls and Greek houses empowered to adjudicate alcohol and community standards violations, in addition to hearing appeals of alcohol violations issued in a residence hall or Greek house. The PDB can issue a Letter of Warning in addition to other educational and community service sanctions. The PDB can recommend a more severe sanction to the University Discipline Officer, or his/her designee.

1.4 Code of Student Conduct (“Code”)

The Code of Student Conduct is the rule structure that outlines the rights and responsibilities of Texas Christian University students. It also contains the procedures for filing a complaint of student misconduct, the disciplinary process for alleged student misconduct, and possible disciplinary sanctions for student misconduct.

3.3.3 Community standards

Students are expected to adhere to a standard of behavior that allows others to live comfortably in the environment. Specifically the following behaviors, among others, are prohibited:

- a. causing excessive noise, especially during the “Quiet hours” period which is in effect from 10 p.m. to 10 am;
- b. violating posted University housing visitation policy;
- c. failure of the host to escort any guests;
- d. failure to register any social events or organization meeting in University housing with the Residence Hall Director;
- e. keeping or bringing pets or other animals (except fish or assistive animals) inside University housing;
- f. smoking in any University housing;
- g. door to door solicitation for any purposes;
- h. being in the presence of alcohol in a room/apartment, if a student is under 21 years of age, except as noted in Section 3.2.11(c).

Alcohol Violations at TCU



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3.2.11 Alcohol

Use, production, distribution, sale or possession of alcohol in a manner prohibited under Texas law or which includes any of the following conduct:

- a. use or possession of alcohol by anyone under 21 years of age or providing alcohol to someone who is under 21 years of age;
- b. use or possession of alcohol anywhere other than in a residence hall room or other specifically designated area for use;
- c. being in a room where alcohol is present while underage unless it is your room and your roommate is 21 years of age may be a violation of the Alcohol policy and/or a violation of community standards (see Community Standards 3.3.3 (h));
- d. behavior that evidences intoxication (for any student) and/or underage consumption, including but not limited to staggered walking, slurred speech, or alcohol on breath;
- e. possession of kegs or similar bulk quantity containers. Individuals who bring a keg or similar prohibited container to the campus are subject to a \$500 fine, removal from all University residence halls, and appropriate disciplinary action. Any organization that allows a keg or similar prohibited container, serves alcohol, or allows alcohol to be served at a University facility is subject to a \$1000 fine;
- f. possession of containers designed for alcoholic beverages while underage, regardless of intent of use;
- g. lack of sobriety while participating in a Study Abroad program.

The first alcohol violation will result in the student completing the eCheckup to Go online sanction program, discussing their results with professional staff and a \$75 fine.

The second alcohol violation will result in a \$100 fine, a letter home to student's parents or guardians, completion of a 2 hour educational workshop designed for repeat offenders, 10 hours of community service, and completion of 2-3 BASICS sessions with Alcohol and Drug Education staff.

The third alcohol violation will result in a \$150 fine, a letter home to students' parents or guardians, referral to a licensed mental health provider, one year of disciplinary probation, possible expulsion from University housing, 20 hours of community service and compliance with any recommendations made by Alcohol and Drug Education.

Peer Conduct Board (PCB) Implementation

Board Member Requirements:

- Recruitment and Interviews
- Number of board members: 21
- GPA requirement: 2.75 cumulative
- New members must be on campus residents, returning members may be off campus
- Training and development



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The Life of an Appeal Request

- 1) Request submission & Grounds for Appeal
- 2) Review Meeting
- 3) Appeal Hearing

Below, you will be required to select the ground(s) for appeal that are appropriate for your situation.

TCU allows students to appeal for 4 reasons:

"to determine whether the original process was conducted in conformity with prescribed measures" typically means that the student believes that something about their judicial process did not meet the requirements described in the Student Handbook (5.1.1-11) or the student's Fair Play Rights (campuslife.tcu.edu/student-conduct/the-discipline-process/).

"to determine whether the sanction(s) imposed were appropriate for the violation of the Code which the student was found to have committed. (not grounds for appealing an alcohol violation)" typically means that the student believes the sanctions (e.g. the consequences or "punishment") assigned are inappropriately harsh. (Extreme example: Being expelled for a noise violation.) This ground for appeal does not challenge whether the decision to find the student "in violation," but, rather, that the sanctions were too severe for the violation. Students may not challenge the severity of alcohol violations unless the sanctions do not conform to the sanctions listed in section 3.2.11 of the Student Handbook.

"to consider 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" typically means that the student has discovered new information or evidence that could have reasonably changed the outcome of his/her case, if that information was available at their Hall Director meeting. The student must be able to reasonably prove that the information was not available at their Hall Director meeting.

"to determine whether the decision reached regarding the accused student was supported by a greater weight of the information" typically means that the student does not believe that the information, facts, or "evidence" related to his/her case should have resulted in a violation. If the student believes that the information available does not constitute a violation or that their Hall Director did not have enough information/evidence to find the student in violation, this ground for appeal may be most appropriate.



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The Life of an Appeal Request

4. Outcomes

- Uphold
- Amend
- Overturn

PCB cannot

- Add charges
- Call witnesses
- Fines, probation, suspension, expulsion

Creative Sanctioning



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Reality of the Challenges within PCB

HD sanctions can be overturned by
students on the PCB



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PCB Stats

Appeals Received	Appeals Approved	Appeals Denied	Sanctions Overturned	Sanctions Amended	Sanctions Upheld	Pending Cases
22	15	7	3	6	2	4

Fall 2019: 181 Alcohol Violations were issued by Hall Directors



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Benefits of PCB



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Questions?

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Thank you!

