

# JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY®

*Play  
to Three*

**Student Handbook**  
2025-2026

Dear JSU Student:

This handbook is made available to each student at Jackson State University on the Division of Student Affairs Dean of Students web page at [www.jsums.edu](http://www.jsums.edu). The policies and procedures apply to all students, including undergraduate, graduate, and JSU Online student, regardless of one's classification. The information herein has been carefully assembled to address topics of general concern, interest and use to the student body. An electronic version may be found under the 'student' tab within each student's PAWS account. It is important that you become familiar with its contents.

Be informed that the University's policies and procedures are dynamic. We reserve the right to change them as the need arises; however, such changes will be communicated to you via e-mail in a timely manner as they occur.

Although this handbook will be an invaluable resource to you, it should not deter your interactions with members of the University's administration, faculty, and staff. While this handbook is not a contract, it does provide guidance as to the conduct expected of students. You are encouraged to ask questions and obtain additional information as needed for clarity and understanding.

Information regarding academic policies is not provided in its entirety in this handbook, but is addressed in the University Catalog or other University policies. Specific academic regulations and information for various colleges can also be found in the University Catalog. Please seek additional information when needed.

If you have questions, feel free to visit our office located in the Student Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Office 3200, call us at 601-979-2329, and/or e-mail us at [deanofstudents@jsums.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@jsums.edu). We wish you well throughout your collegiate journey at Jackson State University.

With Tiger Pride,

The Dean of Students Office  
Division of Student Affairs

### **Student Affairs Vision**

Student Affairs works to engage, retain and educate a diverse student population for success at Jackson State University and globally. We enhance learning by fostering critical thinking, ethical responsibility, leadership, civic engagement and the cultivation of healthy lifestyles to create a transformative university experience.

**“CHALLENGING MINDS, CHANGING LIVES”**

## **STATEMENT ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

**Jackson State University recruits, admits, and provides services, financial aid, and instruction to all students without regard to race, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability status, veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.**

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## **FREQUENTLY REQUESTED NUMBERS**

### **Alice Vernado Harden Center for Service and Community Engaged Learning**

Jacob L. Reddix Complex, 601-979-1294

#### **Academic Affairs**

H.P. Jacobs Administration Tower,  
601-979-2246

#### **Admissions**

B.F. Roberts Hall, 601-979-6361

#### **Athletics**

Lee E. Williams Athletics & Assembly Center,  
601-979-2360

#### **Recreation and Wellness**

Walter Payton Recreation and Wellness Center  
601-979-1368

#### **Auxiliary Enterprises**

Jacob L. Reddix, 601-979-1325  
(JSU SuperCard, Campus Store, Meal Plans, etc.)

#### **JSU Campus Store (formerly known as the Bookstore)**

Student Center, 601-979-2021

#### **Business Services**

B.F. Roberts Hall, 601-979-2216

#### **Career Services**

Jacob L. Reddix Complex, 601-979-2477

#### **Center for Student Engagement and Leadership**

Student Center, 601-979-1179

#### **Dean of Students Office**

Student Center, 601-979-2329

#### **Accessibility Education & Resource Center (ADA Compliance)**

Student Center, 601-979-3704

#### **Dining**

Heritage and Legacy Dining Facilities,  
601-979-2561

#### **Financial Aid**

B.F. Roberts Hall, 601-979-2227

#### **Health Services**

Health Services Center, 601-979-2260

#### **Housing and Residence Life Campbell College Suites-North, 601-979-2326**

#### **Latasha Norman Center for Counseling**

Student Center, 601-979-0374

#### **ID Center**

ID Card Center, 601-979-2407

#### **Operator**

601-979-2121

#### **Registrar**

B.F. Roberts Hall, 601-979-2300

#### **Student Affairs Office**

Student Center, 601-979-2241

#### **Public Safety**

Department of Public Safety, 601-979-2580

#### **Recreation and Wellness**

Walter Payton Recreation and Wellness Center, 601-979-  
1368

#### **University Academic Advisement Center**

H.T Sampson Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 601-979-2127

#### **Veterans and Military Students**

**Support Center** Jacob L. Reddix  
Building 601-979-1365/1755

## **Institution History**

Jackson State University has a distinguished history, rich in the tradition of educating young men and women for leadership, having undergone seven name changes as it grew and developed.

Founded as Natchez Seminary in 1877 by the American Baptist Home Mission Society, the school was established as Natchez, Mississippi “for the moral, religious and intellectual improvement of Christian leaders of the colored people of Mississippi and the neighboring states.” In November 1882, the school was moved to Jackson; in March 1899, the curriculum was expanded and the name was changed to Jackson College.

The state assumed support of the college in 1940, assigning to it the mission of training teachers. Subsequently, between 1953 and 1956, the curriculum was expanded to include a graduate program and bachelor’s programs in the arts and sciences; the name was then changed to Jackson State College in 1956.

Further expansion of the curriculum and a notable building program preceded the elevation of Jackson State College to University status on March 15, 1974. In 1979, Jackson State was officially designated the Urban University of the State of Mississippi. Presently, Jackson State University, a public, coeducational institution, is supported by legislative appropriations supplemented by student fees and federal and private grants.

## **Mission**

The mission of Jackson State University, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) and comprehensive urban research university, is to provide quality teaching, research and service at the baccalaureate, masters, specialist, and doctoral levels to diverse populations of students and communities using various modalities to ensure that they are technologically-advanced, ethical, global leaders who think critically and can address societal problems and compete effectively.

## **Vision**

Building on its historic mission of empowering diverse students to become leaders, Jackson State University will become recognized as a challenging, yet nurturing, state-of-the-art technologically-infused intellectual community. Students and faculty will engage in creative research, participate in interdisciplinary and multi-institutional/organizational collaborative learning teams and serve the global community.

## University Alma Mater

### **“Jackson Fair”** Pawley-Hall

Jackson Fair, Jackson Dear  
Thee I love, my dear old college home  
Thee I love, wherever I may roam  
Jackson Fair, Jackson Dear.

Jackson Fair, Jackson Dear  
Thee I love thy colors rich and bright  
Thee I love the blue and the white  
Jackson Fair, Jackson Dear.

### ***Refrain***

Hail, hail to thee, yes, hail to thee;  
Hail to the college of my heart,  
Hail, hail to thee, yes, hail to thee;  
Hail, to the college of my heart.

## **JSU CORE VALUES**

### **Accountability**

The value of accountability is the leadership and sanctity of public trust that is exercised through the willingness to take responsibility for an individual's own actions.

### **Professionalism**

This is the culmination of competence, knowledge, resourcefulness, quality, attitude, and cooperation related to how the University, all students, faculty, and staff are expected to conduct themselves. While it is important to be recognized for quality and knowledge, it is also essential create a positive view of our entire University. Demonstration of a positive attitude, competence, and cooperation on all levels creates an immeasurable positive impact.

### **Performance**

Faculty, staff, and students should always establish and communicate clear expectations and relentlessly pursue completion and success of the establish goals. The University encourages and expects faculty, staff, and students to work hard and diligently, celebrate successes and learn from our challenges and failures.

### **Excellence**

The University, faculty, staff, and students should continuously engage in practices individually and collectively to ensure the development of good character and high scholastic for ethical responsible leaders.

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## **PRINCIPLES FOR COLLEGIATE CONDUCT**

Jackson State University's Collegiate Code of Conduct is designed to address the principal behaviors and conduct that is expected of students, faculty, and staff as they interact in a diverse learning environment. It is intended to enhance student's success inside the classroom as well as in their campus life.

The tenets for this covenant are:

### **INTEGRITY**

Respect and embrace the principles of academic honesty.

### **PHILOSOPHY**

Embrace an academic philosophy for positive progress toward competency in goals, critical and logical thinking, and a commitment to excellence.

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Participate actively in classroom and other learning environments and commit to becoming a lifelong learner.

### **DIVERSITY**

Celebrate the similarities and differences in our cultures, races, and ethnic origins.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Encourage open communication and expression, which is guided by respect for others.

### **BEHAVIOR**

Understand that sexual and social harassment will not be tolerated. Always dress for success.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

Accept personal responsibility for one's actions and life choices and realize that embracing negative elements of an unhealthy lifestyle will interfere with success.

### **SERVICE**

Engage in civic opportunities to share knowledge and skills with local, national and world communities.

### **RESPECT**

Embrace and respect tradition by participating in rituals and observances, especially those that contribute to the history and heritage of the University.

### **ASSESSMENT**

Conduct periodic assessments of academic, personal and career progress. Stay focused on your purpose for being at the University.

### **SAFETY**

Be alert to threats to safety and inform appropriate authorities of such situations.

### **FREEDOM**

Respect the freedom of others to express themselves in matters relating to academic and philosophical opinions.



## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES RELATING TO STUDENTS**

### **STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

As an academic community, Jackson State University exists for the pursuit of learning and truth, for the development of students as scholars and citizens, and ultimately, for the well being of society. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. The University's responsibility for creating and maintaining an atmosphere conducive to these freedoms is shared by students, faculty, administrative personnel, and trustees.

The University community accepts its responsibilities to develop policies and procedures to safeguard these freedoms within the framework of the University's and Board of Trustees' policies and bylaws. As integral members of the University community, students exercise responsibility while developing their capacity for critical thinking and engaging in a sustained and independent search for truth. Students are expected at all times to exercise their freedoms in a manner that does not infringe upon the rights and freedoms of others.

Students shall not be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process. Although every student has rights and freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, these cannot be enjoyed, exercised, or protected in a community, which lacks order and stability. It is therefore, each student's responsibility to adhere to standards of conduct as prescribed by the University, the Board of Trustees for Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL), and by local, state, and federal laws.

### **General Student Rights and Responsibilities**

#### **JSU Student and Student Organization General Rights**

- The right to submit an application to the University and be accepted according to the University's published requirements. No applicant shall be denied admission because of race, religion, sex, political affiliation, national origin, physical or mental disability, age or veteran status.
- The right to expect a quality education.
- The right to develop one's individual potential.
- The right to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, political affiliation, national origin, physical or mental disability, age or veteran status.
- The right to freedom of speech and assembly which are subject to University requirements for the maintenance of order and the protection of rights and privileges of other members in the University community. This includes expression and discussion of views relevant to subject matter in the classroom; however, such expression and discussion is subordinate to the responsibility of the instructor and is not to disrupt routine classroom activity nor infringe on the learning process of other class members.
- The right to pursue an education without undue interference.
- The right to appropriately communicate one-on-one with administrators, instructors, counselors, advisors, staff and other University Officials.
- The right to confidentiality of official records, transcripts, disciplinary records and other educational records consistent with the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974" (the Buckley Amendment), also referred to as FERPA.
- The right to invite and hear speakers on topics of student choice subject to the approval of both student-elected or appointed representatives and University Officials.

- The right to belong to University approved/recognized student organizations which shall be open to qualified students without respect to race, religion, sex, political affiliation, national origin, physical or mental disability, age or veteran status restriction of any kind.
- The right of access to University facilities through University approved/recognized student organizations for business meetings, special meetings and programs open to the public; student organizations are responsible for reserving University facilities through the Department of Events.
- The right to petition the appropriate University Unit or body for redress of grievances.
- The right to fair student conduct hearings and appeals.
- The right to be free from harassment, threats, stalking, violence, hazing, etc.

#### JSU Student and Student Organization Responsibilities

- To abide by the behavioral standards of the University.
- To attend enrolled classes regularly and punctually and to know attendance requirements.
- To submit official University excuses to the professor for all class absences.
- To abide by Federal, State, and Local laws and regulations.
- To hold inviolate the rights of others regarding freedom of expression and assembly.
- To respect the rights and property of others including University Administrators, instructors, counselors, advisors, staff, students, guests and other University Officials.
- To follow the principles of common decency and acceptable behavior suitable to a higher education institution where student conduct is to be exemplary at all times.
- To realize that one's behavior reflects either credit or discredit not only on self but also on the University community.
- To respect all University property to include property of departments and other agencies housed on campus.
- To complete all academic requirements for any class in which a student is enrolled.
- To maintain updated records with the University Registrar's Office.
- To maintain current organizational membership information with the Center for Student Engagement and Leadership and/or the appropriate University adviser on a semester to semester basis.
- To inform all student organization members of the Hazing Policy and other relevant organization information on a semester to semester basis.

Each student is entitled to the essential rights common to all institutions of post-secondary education which include the following:

#### **STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE**

As constituents of the University community, students (individually and collectively) are free to identify and address issues relative to institutional policy and matters of general interest to the student body. The Jackson State Undergraduate Student Government Association represents undergraduate students in institutional governance, whereas the Graduate Student Association represents graduate students. Both undergraduate and graduate students are engaged in the policy formulation process through their respective government associations, and are invited to recommend additional policies for consideration and adoption.

#### **CITIZENSHIP**

Students at Jackson State University are both private citizens and members of the University community. As U.S. citizens, students enjoy the same freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and right of petition that other citizens enjoy. As members of the University community, they are expected to follow University rules and regulations outlined in the Code of Conduct and in the Student Handbook. Faculty members and administrative officials ensure that institutional powers are not employed to inhibit the intellectual and personal development of students exercising their rights both on and off the campus.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE (Graduation Requirement)**

The Alice Varnado Harden Center for Service and Community Engaged Learning promotes all students toward improving the human condition through civic engagement. Every student graduating from Jackson State University must have 120 verifiable service hours to graduate (60 hours for transfer students). Students exclusively enrolled in the JSU Online are not required to complete community service hours for graduation.

### **SPEECH AND EXPRESSION**

Students will be free to discuss questions of interest and to express opinion. Public expression of students or student organizations reflects the views of those making the statement and not necessarily those of the University community. The University retains the right to provide an educational environment that is safe and orderly for students, faculty, and staff.

### **FREEDOM OF INQUIRY AND EXPRESSION**

Students and chartered student organizations are free to examine and to discuss all questions of interest to them and to express opinions publicly and privately in a responsible way. They are free to support causes by orderly means including any means of peaceful assembly or advocacy, which do not infringe upon the rights or freedoms of others. However, speech may be limited by reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions which are developed by the University.

### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

In accordance with the Campus Speakers Policy, registered student organizations may invite persons of their own choosing for campus appearances. Such invitations must be submitted to the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee for review and approval before arrangements for the campus visit are finalized with the guest. This also includes events in which student organizations desire to invite dignitaries (Elected Officials, other higher learning institution Presidents, etc.) to campus for any reason. Invitations of this nature must be submitted to the Vice President for Student Affairs and approved by the University President. Guest appearances must not interfere with the University's regular instructional, research, and service activities and programs. Except for ceremonial occasions, invited speakers should be prepared to participate in reasonable public activities. Such public discussions may include classroom visits, attendance at receptions and related functions, media appearances, and participation in community activities, programs and projects.

Invited speakers are afforded the courtesy and protection appropriate to a University community. The institutional control of campus facilities and the integrity of the academic environment are not to be used as a device of censorship. Sponsorship of guest speakers does not imply approval or endorsement of the views expressed, either by the sponsoring organization or the institution. For more information, consult the Campus Speakers Policy and the Free Expression Policy.

### **OFF-CAMPUS SPEAKERS**

The freedom of speech and assembly guaranteed by the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution shall be enjoyed by the students and faculties of the Institutions of Higher Learning of the State of Mississippi and respects the opportunity to hear off-campus or outside speakers on the various campuses. Free discussion of subjects of either a controversial or non-controversial nature shall not be curtailed due to the viewpoint of the speaker. However, there is no absolute right to assemble or to make or hear a speech at any time or place regardless of the circumstances, content of speech, purpose of assembly, or probable consequences of such meeting or speech.

### **ASSEMBLY AND DEMONSTRATION**

Students are free to organize and to associate for the promotion of their common interests. Assembly and Demonstration (just as Speech and Expression) within the public places of the institution are permitted, subject to

reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions. Such restrictions are provided for the maintenance of order, and are applicable to local, state, and federal laws. Although encouraged, prior approval from the University is not required for assembly and demonstration in traditional public forums so long as the traditional public forum has not been previously reserved or scheduled for a particular function, no sound amplification is used, and the participants do not violate other University policies.

To minimize possible scheduling conflicts and for efficient use of the University's facilities, the University encourages individuals or groups to contact and seek prior approval from the Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee for the scheduling of assembly and demonstration. The Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee designates areas for assembly and demonstration on a first-come, first-assigned basis. The individuals or groups engaged in these activities must adhere to regulations governing the use of the designated areas.

The University provides forums for the assembly and expression of ideas and opinions, such as the following:

1. "Traditional public forums" include the University's public streets, sidewalks, and similar common areas. These areas are generally available for expressive activity, planned or spontaneous, for the individual or small groups at any time without the need for reservation or prior approval. In such setting sound amplification are not permitted. Additionally, said individuals or small groups are not permitted to obstruct or otherwise block the routine regular flow of pedestrian or transit traffic in the University's public streets, sidewalks, and similar common areas.
2. "Designated public forums" include other parts of the campus that may become temporarily available for expressive activity as designated by the University. To facilitate the free exchange of ideas, the University has established high visibility areas on campus as designated public forums that may be used by any individuals or small groups, including students and other campus guests. As with traditional public forums the individuals or small groups are not permitted to obstruct or otherwise block the routine regular flow of pedestrian or transit traffic in the University's public streets, sidewalks, and similar common areas.

Designated public forums include:

- a) Tiger Park
  - b) The Pavilion
3. Non-public forums are areas that are not traditional public forums or designated public forums. These locations will be restricted to use for their intended purpose and are not available for public expressive activity. Examples include, but are not limited to, classrooms, residence hall rooms, faculty and staff offices, academic buildings, administration buildings, medical treatment facilities, libraries, research and computer labs, and private residential housing on campus. Additionally, security considerations may affect the availability of spaces that would otherwise be available.

## **PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION**

Students are free to publish and to distribute their ideas in the form of newspapers, newsletters, leaflets, handbills, and the like, subject to time, place and manner restrictions. Publications are disseminated in the designated free expression area(s) on the campus. Additional restrictions may apply to economic-related speech, such as business solicitations, and to any speech which may be considered speech of the University (such as publications funded or controlled by the University).

## **STUDENT MEDIA**

Student publications will maintain their integrity of purpose as vehicles of free inquiry and free expression in a University community. The editorial freedom of students, editors, and managers involves the corresponding obligation to be governed by the canons of responsible journalism. These entail the responsibility to avoid libel, undocumented allegations, techniques of harassment and so forth. At the same time, the University safeguards editorial freedom.

## **DISCRIMINATION**

Students have the right to be free from all forms of discrimination. Jackson State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, national or ethnic origin, disability, or veteran status in its educational programs, activities, admissions or employment practices.

## **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

Students have the right to secure their personal possessions against invasions of privacy and unreasonable search and seizure, subject to restrictions imposed by the Division of Student Affairs and the Department of Public Safety. However, the University reserves the right to enter occupied residence hall rooms for health and safety inspections, in cases of emergency, in response to reasonable suspicion regarding misconduct, and when entry is granted by authorities of the criminal justice system.

## **PRIVACY**

Students have the right to confidentiality of information relating to educational records that may be obtained by administrators, instructors, counselors, advisors, and officials of the university in the course of their work.

## **FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA) OF 1974**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that affords parents the right to have access to their children's education records, the right to seek to have the records amended, and the right to have some control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the education records. When a student turns 18 years old, or enters a postsecondary institution at any age, the rights under FERPA transfer from the parents to the student ("eligible student").

To comply with the requirements of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, Jackson State University's Office of Registrar and Records sends the annual notice of disclosure, which is posted on their University website. Additional information is available within the Dean of Students Office. Different types of student records are maintained in various University offices, and the chief administrator in each of these offices is responsible for them. Generally, with certain exceptions, the law provides that students and former students have the right to review their records, request explanations concerning them, obtain copies, and challenge records that they feel are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise inappropriate. The challenge procedure includes a full and fair opportunity for the student to present documentation to be included in his or her student file. The law also provides that students may waive their right of access to confidential letters of recommendation and may also grant permission to release certain personally identifiable information to specific personnel. Where FERPA may permit disclosure, Mississippi law may consider certain records to be confidential. Examples include, but not limited to, personnel records, records maintained for law enforcement purposes, records maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, or psychologist, and financial records of a student's parents. The law also provides that, in addition to University employees having a legitimate educational interest, certain other governmental and quasi-governmental agencies and parents certifying that a student is carried as a dependent for income tax purposes may have access to student records.

## **CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS**

Student educational records are considered confidential and may not be released without the written consent of the student. Academic records include those records that contain personally identifiable information related to a student that the University maintains. Examples include transcripts, some personnel records, and student conduct records. University employees have access to student information only for legitimate use in completing their position responsibilities. Some information is considered public (sometimes called Directory Information) and can be released without the student's permission; however, the student may opt to view this information as confidential. Directory information includes but is not limited to, the student's name, address, telephone listing, awards/honors received, dates of attendance, class standing, dates of degrees and/or certificates conferred, enrollment status, hometown, physical factors (athletes only), major field of study, names of previous institutions attended past and present participation in officially recognized co-curricular activities, and JSU mailbox number.

The University may release personally identifiable educational records in compliance with a court order or subpoena, but only after notifying the student or parent(s) if the student is less than 18 years of age. The confidentiality of the student records is protected by the Family Education Records and Privacy Act (FERPA). Unless an exception applies, FERPA prevents the disclosure of a student's educational records to a student's parents without the consent or authorization of the student. Students may request to withhold Directory Information submitted to the Office of Registrar and Records via email at [registraroffice@jsu.edu](mailto:registraroffice@jsu.edu).

## **FREEDOM FROM RETALIATION**

The faculty member (whether in the classroom or in individual conference) fosters relevant free discussion, inquiry, and expression. A student is free to take reasonable exception to the information offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion without threat of undue censure by the faculty member. The University, faculty member, and the student all possess rights related to academic freedom.

Faculty members are required to inform students of the content and requirements of each course and the criteria by which student performance is to be evaluated. A student is responsible for learning the prescribed content of the course in which he or she enrolls. The faculty member evaluates student performance in the classroom solely on an academic basis and not on a student's philosophies or conduct in matters unrelated to academic performance. Attendance and participation are considered a component of academic performance.

A student who contends to have encountered a prejudiced academic evaluation may use the University's Student Grievance Procedure as a means of seeking redress. (See Undergraduate or Graduate Catalog). Academic honesty is a primary responsibility of the student. Students found responsible of academic dishonesty will incur sanctions as prescribed by the University's undergraduate or graduate student conduct system.

## **REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES**

Any time a student's rights as outlined herein are violated, the student has the right to petition for redress through grievance procedures. A grievance is defined as the claim of an individual student that there has been a violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule, policy or procedure in relation to University Policies and Procedures.

Jackson State University assures prompt and impartial consideration to any complaints, which its students may have during the course of their matriculation at the University. When circumstances require, students are encouraged to submit complaints or grievances in accordance with the following procedures. Students may use this procedure without penalty or fear of reprisal.

### **A. Academic related complaints**

1. Discuss the concern with the instructor.
2. Discuss the concern with the department chair.
3. Discuss the concern with the College Dean.
4. Submit the final complaint to the Academic Affairs Ombudsperson.

**B. Administrative Office Complaint (non-academic related complaint)**

1. Report the information to the Assistant/Associate Director of the Department.
2. Report the information to the Executive Director or Director of the Department.
3. Report the information to the Dean of the Department (where applicable).
4. Report the information to the Assistant/Associate Vice President for the department.
5. Report the information to the Vice President for the department.

All grievances should be filed in writing, state the specific nature of the grievance(s), the individual(s) involved, and include the time and place the event(s) occurred.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO STUDENT CONDUCT**

Students and student organizations are expected and required to abide by local, state and federal laws. Students and their organizations must be aware that legal charges may be brought against them both within the University student conduct system and in the civil or criminal court system. The University administration is responsible for establishing a procedure for reviewing and taking institutional action against students and student organizations found responsible for violations of local, state and federal laws. While the University does not act as a policing agent for students when they are off campus, the University reserves the right to act if a student's or student organization's behavior is judged to be contrary to the pursuit of the educational mission of the University or if the continued presence of the student or the organization poses a threat to their well-being or to the rights and property of members of the University community.

All students who represent the University through affiliation with any Jackson State University organization, or any University sponsored activity, are required to be in good standing as a Jackson State University student. Depending upon the severity of offense(s), and/or decisions rendered by the hearing officer(s) or Student Affairs Conduct Committee, students, student groups, and/or student organizations found responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct, and are sanctioned to student conduct probation may lead to University representation restrictions. Representation includes, but is not limited to the following: Student Government Association, athletics, band, clubs, fraternities, sororities, and organizations.

The Vice President for Student Affairs or designee is directly responsible for Student Affairs and ultimately to the University President. The Vice President for Student Affairs or designee assumes general responsibility for Student Affairs and services offered by the University, from assimilation, matriculation, student support services, and graduate and post-graduation placement. In this capacity, it is his/her role to assure that students are informed of behaviors and activities that are unbecoming and/or unwelcome in the academy, some of which are listed and discussed in this section.

### **Unauthorized/Illegal Web Use**

JSU allows and encourages the use of JSU-owned computer resources. This use is a granted privilege, not a right. Student use must be in accordance with all applicable laws, policies, and standards regarding acceptable use. Areas of concern include but are not limited to:

1. Defamatory or libelous statements;

2. Copyright infringements (“illegal downloading”);
3. Obscene or threatening materials; and
4. Usage primarily for financial gain or compensation not relevant to JSU’s mission.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in charges being brought both within the University student conduct system and in the civil or criminal court system.

### **BRANDS AND TATTOOS**

No individual or organization may require others to be branded or tattooed. (See Hazing in the Student Code of Conduct.)

### **COMMENCEMENT**

Participation in commencement ceremonies is a privilege and not a right that may be revoked upon an allegation of student misconduct at the discretion of the IEO or VP of Student Affairs.

### **CRIMINAL ACTS**

Students who are arrested by authorities because of violation of criminal law are subject to suspension until the matter is settled by the police department or by the court. The nature of the offense and the settlement will determine what action, if any, will be taken by the University. The student may also be subject to the University’s student conduct process.

### **DECEPTION**

It is unacceptable and illegal for any person to:

- A. Misuse University records, forms, or documents by forgery, unauthorized alteration or reproduction, or any other means.
- B. Provide false information, either written or oral, to the University or to any administrator of the University. (Students who falsify housing and or admissions records are also subject to removal/or student conduct action.)
- C. Attempt to perpetrate a fraud against the University or the members of the University community.
- D. Misrepresent information or lie.

Participation in such acts is subject to University student conduct action and punishable by law.

### **Emergencies, Campus**

In regular operation of every institution, it is inevitable that there will be occasions when the routine operations are interrupted and in extreme instances, suspended altogether. These occasions may be due to weather, fire, strikes, or organized student demonstrations. In such situations, it is important for students, faculty, and employees to assure that all functions and services of the University continue insofar as possible or practicable. Please contact Public Safety at 601-979-2580 when in doubt.

### **DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS/CAMPUSES**

Jackson State University acknowledges and adheres to the laws of the state of Mississippi. The University also complies with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989. The possession or use of illegal drugs on the University’s campus is strictly prohibited.

### **FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**



**Students are expected to meet their financial obligations with the University in accordance with the designated deadline dates**

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### **FORBIDDEN OBJECTS**

The following objects are not allowed in the residential communities or public areas of the University, unless authorized by appropriate officials:

1. Pets;
2. Laboratory animals, either dead or alive;
3. Open flames (e.g., candles) or any combustible decoration or device;
4. Barbeque grills of any kind or size;
5. Alcoholic beverages and/or beverage containers (See Alcohol Policy); and
6. Firearms, fireworks, and weapons of any kind. (See Weapons Policy)

### **FRAUD**

It is unacceptable and illegal for any student to partake in:

Intentional false representation of a matter of fact, whether by words or by conduct.

Intentional false or misleading allegations or by concealment of that which should have been disclosed.

Intentional deception of another so that he/she shall act upon it to his/her advantage.

Intentional alteration of the truth for the purpose of inducing another to act in reliance upon the misrepresentation.

Participation in such acts is subject to University student conduct action and punishable by law.

### **JOINT RESPONSIBILITY**

All persons who knowingly act in concert to violate University regulations have individual and joint responsibility for such violations and such concerted acts are prohibited.

### **OBSCENITY**

Students who engage in acts on campus will be subject to disciplinary action. Such acts include improper body exposures in non-private locations on campus. For more detail regarding obscenity, please see The Student Decorum Policy. Sanctions will apply: suspension, expulsion.

### **PARKING REGULATIONS**

All parking regulations may be found in the publications of the Department of Public Safety. Additional information may be obtained by visiting the website: <http://www.jsums.edu/campuspolice/>

### **PETS**

To protect the interest and safety of students and employees, it is the policy of the University not to allow pets to accompany any faculty, staff, student or visitor while on any University owned property. Pets are also restricted from being in any University owned building, including but not limited to administrative buildings, classroom buildings, residential communities, or dining facilities. "Pets" are considered animals, domestic or wild, in the company of a student, faculty member, guest, or visitor to the University, and does not apply to service animals or approved emotional support animals. Documentation for required service animals and approved emotional support animals must be on file with the Accessibility Education & Resource Center (AERC).

## **PICKETING**

It shall be unlawful for any person, singly or in concert with others, to engage in picketing or mass demonstration in such a manner as to obstruct or unreasonably interfere with free ingress or egress to and from any public premises, state property, county or municipal courthouses, city halls, office buildings, jails, or other public buildings owned by the State of Mississippi, or any county or municipal government located therein or thereon conducted or so as to obstruct or unreasonably interfere with free use of public streets, sidewalks, or other public ways adjacent or contiguous thereto.

Any person guilty of violating this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500), or imprisoned in jail not more than six (6) months, or both such fine and imprisonment.

## **SELF-DEFENSE**

Self-defense is defined as the justifiable infliction of harm upon another person to preserve oneself from imminent physical harm. Most importantly, self-defense must be preventative and proportional. The harm inflicted upon the attacker may only be as much force or harm as is needed to repel the attack and no more.

Consequently, self-defense may be claimed only when a student acts under a reasonable belief that a defensive action is necessary to avoid injury and there are no other alternatives available, including reasonable means of assistance or retreat. The student must use the minimum force necessary to escape injury. Self-defense may not be claimed if the harm caused by the self-defense is disproportionate to the harm avoided. A student who is the initial aggressor or who provokes the other student's conduct may not claim self-defense.

## **SMOKING (Inhaling, exhaling, or burning of any type of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, or smoking equipment)**

Definitions:

A. "Electronic Smoking Device" means any product containing or delivering nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that can be used by a person in any manner for the purpose of inhaling vapor or aerosol from the product. The term includes any such device,

whether manufacturing, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-hookah, or vape pen, or under any other product name or descriptor.

B. "Hookah" means a water pipe and any associated products and devices which are used to produce fumes, smoke, and/or vapor from the burning of material including, but not limited to, tobacco, shisha, or other plant matter.

C. "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, hookah, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, including marijuana, whether natural or synthetic, in any manner or in any form. "Smoking" also includes the use of an electronic smoking device which creates an aerosol or vapor, in any manner or in any form, or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking in this Article.

"Tobacco Product" means any substance containing tobacco leaf, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco,

hookah tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, bidis, blunts, clove cigarettes, or any other preparation of tobacco; and any product or formulation of matter containing biologically active amounts of nicotine that is manufactured, sold, offered for sale, or otherwise distributed with the exception that the product or matter will be introduced into the human body by inhalation; but does not include any cessation product specifically approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in treating nicotine or tobacco dependence

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### **SMOKING (Inhaling, exhaling, or burning of any type of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, or smoking equipment)**

Definitions:

- D. "Electronic Smoking Device" means any product containing or delivering nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that can be used by a person in any manner for the purpose of inhaling vapor or aerosol from the product. The term includes any such device, whether manufacturing, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-hookah, or vape pen, or under any other product name or descriptor.
- E. "Hookah" means a water pipe and any associated products and devices which are used to produce fumes, smoke, and/or vapor from the burning of material including, but not limited to, tobacco, shisha, or other plant matter.
- F. "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, hookah, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, including marijuana, whether natural or synthetic, in any manner or in any form. "Smoking" also includes the use of an electronic smoking device which creates an aerosol or vapor, in any manner or in any form, or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking in this Article.

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### **SMOKING (Inhaling, exhaling, or burning of any type of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, or smoking equipment)**

Definitions:

G. "Electronic Smoking Device" means any product containing or delivering nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that can be used by a person in any manner for the purpose of inhaling vapor or aerosol from the product. The term includes any such device,

whether manufacturing, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-hookah, or vape pen, or under any other product name or descriptor.

H. "Hookah" means a water pipe and any associated products and devices which are used to produce fumes, smoke, and/or vapor from the burning of material including, but not limited to, tobacco, shisha, or other plant matter.

I. "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, hookah, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, including marijuana, whether natural or synthetic, in any manner or in any form. "Smoking" also includes the use of an electronic smoking device which creates an aerosol or vapor, in any manner or in any form, or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking in this Article.

"Tobacco Product" means any substance containing tobacco leaf, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, hookah tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, bidis, blunts, clove cigarettes, or any other preparation of tobacco; and any product or formulation of matter containing biologically active amounts of nicotine that is manufactured, sold, offered for sale, or otherwise distributed with the exception that the product or matter will be introduced into the human body by inhalation; but does not include any cessation product specifically approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in treating nicotine or tobacco dependence

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The Smoke-Free Campus Policy applies to all Jackson State University facilities, property, and vehicles, owned or leased, regardless of location. Smoking and the use of tobacco products shall not be permitted in any enclosed place, including, but not limited to, all offices, classrooms, hallways, waiting rooms, restrooms, meeting rooms, community areas, performance venues, athletic venues, auditoriums, dining hall and private residential space within campus housing. Smoking and the use of tobacco products shall also be prohibited outdoors on all JSU campus property, including, but not limited to, parking lots, paths, fields, sports/recreational areas and stadiums, as well as in all personal vehicles while on campus. This policy applies to all students and other persons on campus, regardless of the purpose for their visit. Participation in this act is subject to University student conduct action.

#### **SOLICITATION – OUTSIDE VENDORS**

University property, although recognized as state property, is considered “specialized use” state property and therefore subject to reasonable restrictions and guidelines designed to foster the purposes to which the institution is dedicated. Rules are promulgated to enhance the purposes of the educational institution and to protect the individual rights of students and those members of the general public wishing to give students the opportunity to purchase their services or goods.

No group or individual may conduct a sales campaign in residential communities, classrooms, administrative buildings, or any other campus location. Private individuals, students or non-residential students may not conduct a sales campaign in residential communities, classrooms, administrative buildings or at any other campus location.

Door-to-door sales are prohibited. Placing door hangers on residential communities or signs on cars in University-owned parking lots is prohibited. Nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting commercial solicitation to individual students by telephone, mail, or email. Any solicitation of a commercial nature on campus requires University approval. Please contact the Division of Student Affairs for more information.

Violators are subject to University discipline and may be punishable by law.

## **STUDENT ORGANIZATION EVENTS**

Any student group wishing to operate on the campus of Jackson State University must register annually with the Center for Student Engagement and Leadership. The office is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Student Center. Each registered student organization will be expected to produce social, educational, and intercultural programming, which is aligned with the policies and procedures of the University. With this in mind, all programming and event titles, slogans, and/or promotional items should reflect that of an institution of higher learning. Furthermore, all promotional items should be approved through Contractual Services any time institutional branding, as well as logos are used. To be considered, contact Auxiliary Enterprises at 601-979-1325. Moreover, all student organization must follow the campus event planning process, which includes approval from various campus partners, prior to initiating the use of any campus space or facility for any event sponsored by a student organization. When hosting an event, it is mandatory that the hosting student organization has a participating advisor present throughout the duration of each event. The advisor must be an employee of the University. The University reserves the right to cancel an event due to the absence of a participating advisor.

## **STUDENT TRAVEL**

Any student traveling for the purpose of University business must be in good standing, meaning the student must not have a pending disciplinary matter or outstanding sanctions with the Dean of Students Office. Additionally, students are required to travel with an advisor (an employee of the University) if classified as an undergraduate student, regardless of age. Graduate students are not required to travel with an advisor. However, an employee must be identified as the point of contact on the travel form in case of an emergency. Delegates should uphold the highest moral and ethical practices, as well as dress appropriately at all times during University travel. Additionally, the student(s) and/or organization will be held accountable and/or liable for any damages caused to personal or real property during University travel from the point of trip origin to point of trip return. All students/student organizations should also note the following:

1. Illegal drugs/controlled substances shall not be possessed, transported, or consumed by any delegate at any time.
2. Alcohol shall not be possessed, transported, or consumed in any vehicle utilized to transport delegates.
3. Alcohol beverages shall not be possessed, transported, or consumed at any scheduled activity or function.
4. Theft is prohibited from any location throughout the travel experience. This includes, but is not limited to hotel, convention center, etc.
5. Students are representing Jackson State University at all times.

## **STUDENTS TRAVELING IN AUTOMOBILES**

The University assumes no responsibility or liability regarding students traveling in public or private vehicles.

## **TRADEMARK GUIDELINES**

The use of the JSU™ logo, mascot, seal, or any other logos on letterhead or in any other publications, shall be used according to the guidelines set forth in the Licensing Program and University Logo Guidelines manual. The student organization/club/sports club team must submit a Logo Use Form for approval prior to sales or distribution.

A recognized student organization/club/sports club team (on or off campus) may use the University name in its title, publications, or letterhead to show its status as a recognized student organization. The organization may not use the name in a manner that will create confusion between it as an organization and the University. It may not use the name in a manner that would in any way constitute an endorsement, approval or underwriting of any organization, product, activity, service or contract by Jackson State University®.

Students are not permitted to use the University Seal or other trademarks without written permission from the University.

Exceptions to this policy are granted in a limited number of special request(s). For example, the University Seal may be used for class projects and for university-approved conference and presentation materials. To be considered for such an exception, contact Auxiliary Enterprises at 601-979-1325.

Approval must be received prior to printing, manufacture, or distribution. Any use of the logo, seal, name, or other University marks must be in accordance with policies established by the University.

## **Resale and Other Commercial Use of University Logo**

Should an item bearing the trademarks of the University be sold to anyone other than the membership of the student organization/club/sports club team, it then becomes a commercial use of the mark and is subject to a license agreement. The use of JSU™ on or in connection with items offered for sale, in association with the name, logo or other indicia of any non- JSU™ entity or otherwise for commercial purposes shall be subject to a license agreement between the external entity and JSU™. For example, if the student organization/club/sports club team decides to sell a T-Shirt bearing the marks as a fund-raiser, the manufacturer of the item is obligated to enter into a royalty bearing license agreement through the Division of Auxiliary Enterprises. This office approves all artwork and designs, as well as the quality of the product prior to its distribution.

## **UNAUTHORIZED LIVING**

Students who are illegally residing in the residence hall will be charged a fee and are subject to denial of housing, probation or dismissal from the University. They are also subject to arrest as a trespasser.

#### **UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY AND USE – UNIVERSITY FACILITIES OR EQUIPMENT**

- A. No person shall make unauthorized entry into any University building office, residence hall, parking lot, or other facility. Nor shall any person remain, without authorization, in any building after normal closing hours.
- B. Unauthorized use of equipment is prohibited. This includes unauthorized use of computers and computer programs. Attempts to access restricted records and programs are prohibited. Such actions are a violation of the *Student Code of Conduct*.
- C. Unauthorized entry into vehicles is prohibited.
- D. Unauthorized use of bathrooms, exits, or windows is prohibited.
- E. Unauthorized use or duplication of keys is prohibited.
- F. Unauthorized use or possession of any parking permit (decal) is prohibited. A violation of these regulations may result in suspension.
- G. Persons on University property or at University events shall provide their I.D. when requested by a University official.

Participation in such acts is subject to University student conduct action and punishable by law.

#### **VIOLATION OF LAW**

Violation of local, state, or federal law on the campus is prohibited. Violations off campus which constitute either an aggravated misdemeanor or felony may affect the student's ability to function as a member of the University community and the student will be subject to student conduct action by the University. Additionally, Jackson State University has the right, but not the obligation, to sanction its students for off-campus violations. Jackson State University has the right to sanction each student violator regardless of court hearings, upcoming court dates, or outcomes of such hearings.



## HOW TO REPORT AN INCIDENT/ISSUE/CONCERN

Issue/Concern	Point of Contact
<b>Academic</b> Instructors: plagiarism, cheating, academic dishonesty, etc.  Students: Academic complaints, grade changes, etc.	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>The Division of Academic Affairs</b> 601-979-2246</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Submit an electronic complaint by submitting an email to: academics@jsums.edu</p>
<b>Student Conduct</b> (illegal substances, failure to comply, disorderly conduct, etc.)	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>The Department of Public Safety</b> 601-979-2580</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Open 24 hours, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*Reports involving students will in turn be submitted to the Dean of Students Office.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>The Dean of Students Office</b>  <a href="#">DOS Office Incident Reporting Form</a> (click to submit)</p>
<b>Title IX</b> (gender-based discrimination including sexual harassment, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, stalking, retaliation, etc.)	<p style="text-align: right;">Title IX Office titleix@jsums.edu 601-979-1315</p>

## **ACADEMIC POLICIES**

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

#### **Cheating includes:**

- Submitting material that is not yours as part of your course performance, such as copying another student's course work, assignment and exam or allowing a student to copy from you.
- Using information or devices that are not allowed by the faculty; such as using formulas or data from a home computer program, or using unauthorized materials for a take-home exam;
- Obtaining and using unauthorized material, such as a copy of an examination before it is given;
- Fabricating information, such as the data for a lab report;
- Violating procedures prescribed to protect the integrity of an assignment, test, or other evaluation;
- Collaborating with others on assignments without the faculty's consent;
- Cooperating with or helping another student to cheat; and
- Participating in or performing other forms of dishonest behavior, such as having another person take an examination in your place; or altering exam answers without permission.

#### **Plagiarism includes:**

- Directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them;
- Using sources of information (published or unpublished) without identifying them;
- Paraphrasing materials or ideas of others without identifying the sources;
- Submitting themes, essays, term papers, tests and other similar requirements that are not the work of the student; and
- Failing to appropriately acknowledge direct quotations and the idea of another when incorporated in papers.

When a student requires clarity about the proper use of materials, a faculty member or consultation with staff in the Richard Wright Writing Center should be consulted for clarification. Generally, if a student writes while looking at a source or while looking at notes taken from a source, a footnote should be given. Whenever any idea is taken from a specific work, even when the student writes the idea entirely in his/her own words, there must be a footnote giving credit to the author responsible for the idea. The student should never retain a sentence pattern and substitute synonyms for the original words. Paraphrasing means alteration of sentence pattern and changing of words. Any direct quotation should be footnoted or documented in an acceptable fashion. Methods of documentation vary, and it is possible to cite in the text itself, rather than in a footnote. The student should give credit in a manner specified by the instructor.

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

To maintain an atmosphere on the Jackson State University campus that is conducive to academic pursuits and fosters the growth and development of all members of the University community, a series of procedures and regulations governing student conduct and behavior has been established. Included in these procedures and regulations, which collectively are known as the Student Code of Conduct, are statements concerning expectations regarding student conduct, guarantees of student rights, and procedures for adjudicating allegations concerning student misconduct. The sanctions for violation of these regulations are also contained in the Student Code of Conduct. All students at Jackson State University are expected to read and become familiar with all sections of the Student Code of Conduct. Each student is individually responsible for adhering to the regulations contained in the Student Code of Conduct.

The Vice President for Student Affairs or designee may extend or accelerate existing timelines, as well as establish and enforce additional deadlines not stated in these procedures as necessary for prompt and effective case resolution. Further, the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee, in collaboration with Legal Counsel and the respective campus Provost may modify these procedures at any time, as a whole or on a case-by-case basis where necessary to comply with applicable law, regulation, guidance or as deemed appropriate. Policy changes will be communicated with the campus community via e-mail.

A student, student group, or student organization found to have violated these regulations will be subject to action, ranging from a student conduct warning or probation, to suspension or expulsion. The severity of the sanction is dependent upon the severity of the offense as determined by the Student Affairs Conduct Committee, Inter-Residence Hall Committee, or Student Affairs Appeals Committee.

Discipline will be levied when appropriate, but not in which a qualified, licensed, mental health professional has communicated to the University in writing that the actions were caused by severe psychological problems sufficient to warrant the immediate withdrawal of the individual from the University. In each instance, the individual may not re-enroll at Jackson State University for at least two full academic semesters and then only upon the written recommendation of the mental health professional. A student who withdraws from the University prior to his or her scheduled student conduct hearing will not be readmitted until the student conduct hold is cleared.

Any and all questions concerning the Student Code of Conduct, its enforcement or interpretation, should be directed to the Department of Public Safety or the Dean of Students Office.

## **PHILOSOPHY OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE**

Conduct of students enrolled at Jackson State University obliges proper and appropriate conduct both in and out of the classroom. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner to be a credit to themselves and to the University. Facilitating growth toward a mature and well-balanced personality in each student is accomplished in part through formal classroom and laboratory instruction and in part through other experiences and associations afforded by the University. University rules and procedures, including the disciplinary system, are intended to further the educational purpose of the University and to aid in the development of the individual student. Rules and procedures apply to the conduct of each student during the time of enrollment.

An educational approach to discipline is employed whenever possible. The University Student Conduct System and appeals processes are designed to provide and help maintain an atmosphere within the University community that is conducive to academic pursuits. However, stringent student conduct measures against a student or a group of students, such as suspension or expulsion, are instituted only when appropriate.

### **The Student Conduct Process vs. the Criminal Process**

The student conduct process is quite different from the criminal court system. Typically, the student conduct process involves an informal setting when compared to the criminal court system. Student conduct hearings are supportive and educational. While students may have a support person during a hearing (an advisor), another major difference between the two processes are that in the student conduct process, students are expected to speak for themselves instead of a representative speaking on their behalf.

While there are differences between the two processes, they are not considered entirely mutually exclusive. Consequently, in relationship to the same incident, a student may be arrested for criminal charges and also have violations brought against them for violating the Student Code of Conduct.

The primary purpose of the student conduct process is to educate students while correcting behavior which does not meet the standards of the Jackson State University community. However, the ultimate goal of the student conduct process is to help students learn from their mistakes while helping them understand the consequences of their actions, as well as how their actions may have negatively impacted the campus community and its members. As a result, the terminology used will be somewhat different from the criminal process.

<b>Student Conduct</b>	<b>Legal System</b>
Conduct Hearing	Trial
Conduct	Discipline
Referred	Written-Up
Incident Report	Police Report
Confronted	Charged
Accused Violator	Offender/Suspect
Violation	Offense/Crime
Responsible or Not Responsible	Guilty or Not Guilty
Student Conduct Leaders	Jurors
Sanction	Penalty

## **STUDENT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND SANCTIONS**

Student Organizations (including fraternities and sororities) are responsible for knowing and complying with all Policies listed in the JSU Student Handbook, as well all supplemental Policies from the departments or organizations they are associated with. Student Organizations, like individual students, are responsible for the conduct of their members both on and off Jackson State University's campuses.

The process for resolving complaints against Student Organizations mirrors the process for individual students with a few exceptions. Please note that interim measures may be taken, if deemed necessary, prior to the adjudication of alleged violations.

### **PRELIMINARY REVIEW**

All reports or complaints of alleged misconduct involving a Student Organization will be reviewed by the Dean of Students Office. The University has the authority to determine whether the Student Organization, individual members, or both should receive notification of alleged violations on a case-by-case basis. Examples of the criteria used by the Dean of Students Office in making that determination are:

- One or more of the Organization's members and/or leaders committed or supported the acts in the particular incident.
- The behavior or actions taken can be attributed to an Organization-sponsored, associated, or financed activity.
- The Organization leadership had prior knowledge that the particular behavior or action would be occurring and made no reasonable effort to intervene.
- One or more of the Organization's members and/or leaders were not honest about the particular incident.

It is the Dean of Students Office's sole judgment to proceed with formal notifications of allegations. The Dean of Students Office will take the steps deemed appropriate to gather relevant information pertaining to a particular report or complaint. If the Dean of Students Office concludes that there is enough information to meet the preponderance of the evidence standard, the student conduct process will be initiated.

## **GENERAL STUDENT CONDUCT PROCESS FOR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

The conduct process for Student Organizations mirrors the process for individual Students, with some nuances. Additional information about the student conduct process can be found in the JSU Student Handbook.

- Hearing notification (Alleged Violations) distributed to the Organization's president/leadership, as well as the primary advisor.
- During the hearing, organization members will be given a chance to respond to the alleged violations.
- The Student Affairs Conduct Committee will make a decision pertaining to the Student Organization being found responsible or not responsible. If the Student Organization is found not responsible, the case will be exonerated. If the organization is found responsible, sanctions will be given to individuals, as well as the organization, where applicable. Please note: decisions are made on a case by case basis. Student Organization members may receive individual sanctions and/or the Student Organization may also have sanctions to complete.

## **SANCTIONING FOR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

The goal of all student conduct proceedings is to educate those involved and repair harm done to impacted communities. To accomplish this, JSU utilizes two main categories of sanctioning. The first is educational sanctioning. This can take the form of an essay, project, program, or anything else that requires the Student Organization involved to reflect on their experience. The second category of sanctioning is referred to as a status sanction. A status sanction typically limits some form of activity for a period of time.

Sanctions that may be imposed for cases involving all Student Organizations include, but are not limited to, the following:

### **Disciplinary Reprimand**

A disciplinary reprimand is a written notice that a Student Organization has violated the Code of Student Conduct and that another violation will result in a more severe sanction.

### **Disciplinary Probation**

Disciplinary Probation is a designated period of time during which the Student Organization is given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to abide by the community's expectations of behavior articulated in the Code of Conduct. Suspension of social privileges, including the ability to host social functions, may accompany this sanction.

### **Loss of University Privileges and Services**

Loss of University privileges and services includes, but is not limited to, loss of space reservation privileges.

### **Loss of Membership Recruitment**

Loss of membership recruitment is the prohibition of any event or activity with the goal of increasing student membership or interest in joining the organization for a designated period.

## **Social Suspension**

Social Suspension is the loss of all social function privileges for a defined or indefinite period of time. A social function shall be defined as any event that has the primary characteristics of a "party." These characteristics include: socialization as the primary purpose and activity, dancing, and/or music (DJ, band, etc.).

## **Suspension of Recognition**

Suspension of Recognition is a designated period of time during which a Student Organization loses recognition by the University and access to all University services. A suspended Student Organization must cease all organizational activities. In addition, all of the Organization's social media presence will need to be deactivated for the duration of the suspension. After the designated period of suspension, the organization may submit a reactivation request to the Dean of Students Office (deanofstudents@jsums.edu).

## **Organizational Learning and Engagement**

Educational sanctions provide a Student Organization the opportunity to review conduct expectations, understand how behavior can contribute to a positive and beneficial University experience, and learn of campus resources which support academic and non-academic success.

This may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Membership Review
- Internal Student Organization policy revision
- Risk Management Training
- Hazing Program/Training/Presentation
- Removal of Organization Officers
- Temporary or Permanent Restrictions on Accessing University Facilities
- Educational Program – The Organization is to host an educational program on a topic assigned by the Student Affairs Conduct Committee. This program can be open to the entire community.
- Mandatory Follow-Up Meetings between the Dean of Students Office, the Center for Student Engagement and Leadership staff, and Organizational Leadership, as well as advisors.
- Educational Presentation from a JSU Administrator to the Organization's Members.



## HONOR CODE

*I will be honest in all of my academic course work and will not indulge in or tolerate the academic dishonesty of my counterparts or peers. I will not partake in any type of misconduct, misrepresentation, or immoral behavior that will harm, damage or endanger any person, property or myself or reflect negatively against me or hinder my academic continuance. I will strive to achieve excellence and to complete degree requirements without hesitation. I am a valuable part of the Jackson State University family, and proud of it.*

On the campus of Jackson State University, the Division of Student Affairs collaborates with various academic and student support entities to provide a safe environment for students. The office is located in the JSU Student Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. When non-academic incidents occur and an individual has a reasonable belief that a student has violated the Student Code of Conduct, the incident should be reported to Public Safety or the Dean of Students Office for formal reporting. Said report shall be reviewed and referred to the appropriate entity for appropriate actions as outlined herein.

The following policies and procedures apply to all Jackson State University properties both owned and leased.

## VIOLATIONS & SANCTIONS

**1.00 ABDUCTION AND/OR KIDNAPPING.** Enticing, persuading or forcible seizing and carrying of any student, faculty, staff or University official from one place (whether on or off campus) without that person's consent.

**1.10 ACADEMIC DISHONESTY.** Misconduct, dishonesty, misrepresentation, immoral behavior that will harm, damage or endanger any person or property or hinder academic continuance.

**1.15 AGGRAVATED BATTERY.** An unlawful act of violent injury to the person of another, accompanied by circumstances of aggravation, such as the use of a deadly weapon.

**1.20 AIDING AND /OR INCITING.** Aiding, abetting, persuading, and/or procuring another person or persons to commit any act of misconduct whether in the University in the University community or environment; the persuading or aiding of another person to breach the peace ~~on University premises~~ on or off campus functions sponsored, approved by, or participated in by any member of the University. Gatherings of groups of students on or off of the premises in such a manner which causes damage to public or private property, causes injury to persons, or interferes with the orderly functioning of the University or with the normal flow of traffic or ordinary procedures.

**1.30 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.** The use, consumption, possession, purchase, sale, and/or distribution of alcoholic beverages on University property, in cars or other vehicles, or at any of the university's activities (whether on- or off-campus) are prohibited, except as expressly permitted by the university regulations, exceptions, or local, state, and federal laws. This includes the possession of any alcohol paraphernalia (bottles, cans, etc.).

***Drinking Age Law, Mississippi*** - Effective Oct. 1, 1986, it is illegal for any person under the age of 21 to possess or be sold, given, or furnished beer or light wine. This law has serious consequences for persons who provide or sell any alcoholic beverage, including beer and wine, to individuals under 21, as well as for underage drinkers.

**1.35 ALCOHOL/DRUG INTOXICATION.** Appearing in public on the University premises while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs is strictly prohibited. This includes any disorderly conduct regardless of whether such conduct results in injury to persons or property, as a result of intoxication.

**1.40 ANIMALS (pets).** Having pets or other animals (ex. dogs, cats, snakes, birds, hamsters), with the exception of

service animals (when accompanied by their owner) and tropical fish in an aquarium or other approved containers in buildings, including living communities, classrooms, and offices, except when needed in connection with an approved disability or with the written permission of the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee, is prohibited. This also applies to violating the University's Animal Policy.

**1.50 ARSON/FIRE SETTING.** The malicious, fraudulent, and/or intentional burning of property on the university premises. Such acts include, but are not limited to, creating fires, setting a personal fire, open flames, and/or igniting flammable materials. This includes any person who is party to or aids, counsels or procures the burning or destruction of any state supported school building.

Willfully starting a fire in University buildings or on University property, which includes but is not limited to bonfires and cookouts, without the proper authorization of the University Safety Manager and the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee is prohibited. Compliance with local and state fire codes must be assured and verified.

**1.60 ASSAULT.** The intentional harassment, degradation, threat or intimidation of another in an attempt to commit a battery or the intentional placing of another in reasonable apprehension of receiving a battery. This includes engaging in, attempting or intending to engage in any form of verbal or mental abuse, coercion, which is directed toward another person or group of people which creates an intimidating, fearful or offensive environment in the classrooms, offices, residential communities and on the University premises. In general, physical contact is not required.

**1.70 ATTEMPTED OFFENSES.** An attempt to commit an act of misconduct whether on or off campus involving members of the University community (that is faculty, staff, student, or campus visitor) in an offense that would be in violation of any law, code of conduct, rule, regulation of local, state or federal criminal code.

**1.80 BATTERY.** The unlawful application of force to the person of another is strictly prohibited.

Note: Self-defense is that which reasonably appears necessary, in view of all the circumstances of the case, to prevent injury and remove oneself from the situation.

**1.90 BURGLARY/ROBBERY.** The unlawful entry of a 'structure' to commit a felony or a theft. The taking or attempting to take something of value from another person by use of force, threats or intimidation.

**2.00 CAMPUS VIOLENCE.** Violence, threats, harassment, intimidation and other disruptive behavior by members of the University community or visitors will not be tolerated. Such behavior may include but is not limited to fighting, participating in hazing (in any capacity), verbal or written statements, sexual assault, gestures, or expressions which communicate a direct or indirect threat of physical harm. It also includes conduct which materially interferes with the normal operation of the University and conduct and/or expressions which are obscene, intimidating, or which are blatantly offensive to the prevailing standards of an academic community. See also Jackson State University's Campus Violence Policy.

Note: Self-defense is that which reasonably appears necessary, in view of all the circumstances of the case, to prevent injury and remove oneself from the situation.

**2.05 CONTEMPT OF HEARING.** Contempt of hearing violation includes (1) the failure to appear before a student conduct body after proper notification of a scheduled student conduct hearing or conference, (2) failing to adhere to hearing procedures, (3) willful disobedience to, or displaying open disrespect for a University Student Affairs Conduct Committee member such as the use of profanity, threatening behavior, or derogatory remarks, comments, and/or gestures, and (4) failure to comply with student conduct conditions as sanctions imposed by a student conduct body administrative officer or staff person. Contempt charges will require the student to pay a student conduct fine in addition to other sanctions imposed.

**2.10 DAMAGE TO PROPERTY/DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.** Damage, vandalism or destruction to property owned or leased by the University or personal property belonging to an individual, including but not limited to, car vandalism, walking on roofs of a University building, defacing structures and facilities, littering, unauthorized biking, skate boarding in inappropriate areas, marking, egging, littering, painting, use of sidewalk chalk, spraying, the painting of residence hall rooms, hall ways, lobby areas, classrooms, doors, bricks, and siding without the proper authorization.

**2.20 DANGEROUS, THREATENING, and/or UNSAFE BEHAVIOR.** Any conduct or behavior, which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person in the University environment. This includes, but is not limited to, physical altercations, verbal threats to injure or harm another, horse playing, practical jokes, abductions, and kidnapping.

**2.25 DIGITAL AND ELECTRONIC COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT.** Digital or electronic use of copyrighted materials without authorization from the owner of the copyright.

**2.30 DISORDERLY OR DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT.** Disorderly or disruptive conduct that unreasonably interferes with University activities or with the legitimate activities of any member of the University community.

**2.40 DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT PRINTED MATERIAL.** Distribution of printed materials that are libelous, obscene, or that encourages imminent violations of public laws or University regulations.

**2.50 DRUG PARAPHERNALIA/POSSESSION OF/USE OF DRUGS (Illegal).** The consumption, sale, distribution, manufacturing, purchase, passing of, or being in the presence of or the vicinity of illegal drugs, narcotics, the accessory to, or aiding and abetting of any controlled substances, are strictly prohibited from all locations of the university, and beyond the premises according to all local, state, and federal laws. Illegal drugs also include all prescription drugs without a valid medical prescription. This policy also applies to engaging in smoking marijuana and/or other illegal substances in personal vehicles on University owned property.

This policy also applies to distributing, manufacturing, passing of or purchasing illegal drugs in the form of edibles. Students who reside in states where marijuana is legal are prohibited from the use and/or distribution of illegal drug products on campus. Having edibles in one's possession from a legal state is prohibited in the state of Mississippi.

Drug paraphernalia is strictly prohibited at the University. Paraphernalia is defined as all equipment, products, and materials of any kind used to facilitate planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, manufacturing, converting, processing, preparing, packaging, storing, concealing, playing with, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing a controlled substance into the body. The scope of this prohibition includes drugs or paraphernalia that is on the person or in the possession of a student on property owned or controlled by the university and/ or at events and activities sponsored by the University, and involves related incidents that are subject to prosecution under local, state, and federal laws. The illegal possession of and/or use of drugs, or drug paraphernalia includes, but is not limited to roach clips, bongs, hookah, masks, scales, balances, sandwich bags or plastic bags and their corners, sifters, syringes, spoons, chamber pipes, homemade pipes, film canisters, diluents, spray cans, carburetor pipes, paint, pipes, using screens, water pipes, and any other equipment, products and materials that can be directly linked to the usage of controlled substances.

Evidence of marijuana use may include, but is not limited to: the smell appears of smoke, the presence of marijuana seeds, or residue. The possession of illegal paraphernalia, such as a scale, accompanied with drug paraphernalia and/or an illegal substance and/or large quantities of money may result in a minimum of a one-year suspension due to intent to distribute.

Improper behavior or conduct on the campus which is a result of the use of illegal drugs which means that one who, having consumed or used drugs, experiences a loss of the normal use of his/her mental and/or physical faculties is restricted.

**2.55 DRESS.** See Decorum Policy. This policy applies in classrooms, dining facilities, and when conducting business within on-campus offices. This policy also applies when students travel on University business, representing the institution. On campus professional staff members reserve the right to refuse service whether meeting in person or virtually until a student is properly dressed. Examples of inappropriate dress and/or appearance include, but are not limited to:

- Do-rags, scarves, bonnets, etc. for men and women. This policy item does not apply to headgear considered as a part of religious or cultural dress.
- Midriffs or halters, mesh, netted shirts, tube tops or cut-off t-shirts in classrooms, dining hall, Student Center, and offices.
- Short shorts that expose private areas.
- Sagging or unbelted pants.
- Undershirts for men, of any color, outside of the private living quarters of the residential communities.

**2.60 FAILURE TO COMPLY.** Failure to comply with a proper order or summons when requested by authorized University officials; failure to comply with the directions of University officials (including residence hall staff) acting in the performance of their duties; failure to appear before a student conduct committee upon request; failure to provide student identification upon request; failure to abide by or comply with University policies and procedures, including student leadership, organization, and/or membership requirements; failure to comply with an ordered student conduct sanction.

This includes direct disobedience of a lawful order of a University official, as well as failure to evacuate a building during a fire alarm, drill, or when otherwise so ordered by a University official, fire department staff, or local law official.

COVID-19 Pandemic: Failure to comply with University safety policies and guidance regarding wearing a Face Covering (including failing to wear it properly over one's nose and mouth) on campus, practicing social distancing/physical distancing, and exceeding campus gathering limits.

**2.65 FALSE STUDENT CONDUCT ALLEGATION/REPORT.** Making a student conduct allegation against a member of the University community that is knowingly false.

**2.70 FORGERY, DISHONESTY, FRAUDULENT ACTS, AND/OR MISREPRESENTATION.** Forgery of names, signatures, documents (personal, public, and/or private) will not be tolerated. Forgery, deceptive acts, misrepresentation and/or dishonest acts include, but are not limited to materials, alteration, misuse of University documents, records, or student identification cards, or documents and records belonging to another, cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty; tampering with the election of any University recognized student organization; malfeasance or misuse of elective or appointive office in a student organization, its members, or the welfare of the University community; and fraudulently issuing worthless checks to the University.

Lying, knowingly furnishing false information to the University or its officials, other forms of dishonesty in University-related affairs is also prohibited. The scope includes but is not limited to the following: lying, fraudulently obtaining, altering, falsifying, transferring, loaning, selling or misusing or attempting intended misuse of an ID card, validation sticker, or any University document or service.

Contributing to falsification of information; giving or providing false statements, written or oral; and/or providing false information during any University proceeding, any University affiliated or sponsored event, or to any University official.

**2.75 GAMBLING.** Prohibited activity includes but is not limited to: betting or wagering or selling pools on any athletic event; playing card games or dice for money; possessing any card, book or other device for registering bets; knowingly permitting the use of your room, suite, apartment, telephone or other electronic communication device for illegal gambling; offering, soliciting or accepting a bribe to influence the outcome of an athletic event; and involvement in bookmaking or wagering pools with respect to sporting events.

**2.80 GUEST'S BEHAVIOR.** Students are responsible for the behavior of their guests when accompanying a student or student organizations while on any University property. Charges may be brought against a student when guests are left unattended for any reason. If a guest is found to be in violation of the Student Code of Conduct while in the company of the student host or with or without the student host's knowledge, applicable charges will be brought against the guest, as well as against the student host or the host student organization.

COVID-19 requirement: Students are responsible for ensuring their guests comply with University safety rules, including practicing social distancing and wearing face coverings while on University property.

**2.90 HARASSMENT (Verbal and/or Physical).** The excessive physical interference with, or abuse of, any person employed by, enrolled with, or associated with the University through any form of constituency (alum, vendors, community partners, etc.). This policy also applies to social media use. Harassment includes conduct that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that a reasonable person with the same characteristics of the victim would be adversely affected to a degree that interferes with his or her ability to participate in or to realize the intended benefits of a University activity, opportunity, or resource.

When part of a pattern of conduct that rises to the level of this standard, harassment may include language to physical acts which degrades, insults, taunts, or challenges another person by any means or mode of communication, so as to provoke a violent response, communication of threat, or defamation of character. It includes the use of profanity, verbal assaults, derogatory comments or remarks, sexist remarks, racist remarks or any behavior that places another member of the University community in a state of fear or anxiety.

**3.00 HAZING.** Any action taken or situation of intimidation created, intentionally, whether on or off campus, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, ridicule, or the breaking of school's rules. Activities considered to be hazing include two elements: (1) Coercion, either overt or covert, and (2) Production of physical or mental discomfort, in either the participant(s) or spectators.

It is strictly prohibited for a person or organization to, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, intentionally or recklessly engage in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or to a third person.

**3.05 HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS.** Any behavior which creates a risk or danger to others of the University community, including but not limited to riding hover boards or devices similar in nature in residential communities, academic or support buildings, propping open doors to residential communities, throwing objects from windows or balconies, failure to keep one's room in a condition that is safe and sanitary, or failure to maintain reasonable standards of cleanliness and safety as defined by the University. Also includes failure to remove trash from residential communities.

This includes the possession of flammable liquids, fireworks, weapons, illegal or controlled substances, illegal

cooking appliances, open fires, candles, and incense burners.

**COVID-19 Pandemic:** This policy also relates to University safety policies and guidance regarding wearing a face covering (including failing to wear it properly over one's nose and mouth) on campus, practicing social distancing/physical distancing, and exceeding campus gathering limits.

**3.10 HOUSING VIOLATION.** Failure to comply with housing and residence life regulations including visitation policies, health and safety concerns such as possession of burning candles, failure to dispose of trash, etc.

**3.15 IDENTITY DISCLOSURE.** Failure to carry a valid University student identification card (when possession is in reason) while on the University property or failure to present it to a University official, including housing and residence hall staff, police officers, administration, and staff members upon request. Presenting a false name or other identification, including false or invalid ID card, to a University official, while in the performance of their duties is prohibited.

**3.18 Identity Theft.** Fraudulently obtaining, transferring, selling, loaning, fabricating, manufacturing, falsifying, altering, misusing or attempting or intending to misuse one's ID card or personal identifying information, without the consent of said owner, for the purpose of misrepresenting oneself to obtain any benefits, credit, goods, services or other items of value in the name of said owner.

**3.20 POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY.** Knowingly possessing property that may be identified as being stolen from the University or from any other person is prohibited.

**3.25 PHYSICAL ALTERCATION.** Actions including, but not limited, to physical attack upon or physical interference with a person which prevents the person from conducting their customary or usual affairs, puts the person in fear for their physical safety, or causes the person to suffer actual physical injury. The University has special concern for incidents in which persons are subject to physical assault because of membership or perceived membership associated with racial, ethnic, religious, gender, or sexual orientation groups.

**3.30 PHYSICAL VIOLENCE.** Engaging in physical violence of any nature against any person, on or off campus. This includes but is not limited to: using a knife, gun, or other weapon; physically abusing, restraining or transporting someone against his/her will; or acting in a manner that threatens or endangers the physical health or safety of any person or causes reasonable apprehension of such harm.

**3.35 LITTERING, THROWING OBJECTS OUT OF WINDOWS.** The inappropriate disposal of refuse, including ejecting or dropping any object from windows in residential communities or balconies or other University buildings or vehicle.

**3.50 MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS, PARKING VIOLATIONS.** Violation of properly constituted rules and regulations governing the use of motor vehicles (e.g. automobiles, motorcycles) on University-owned or controlled property or at University sponsored or supervised activities. This also includes driving and parking on grass and sidewalks. Failure to obey traffic and parking regulations is punishable by the University Department of Public Safety.

**3.55 PROBATION VIOLATION.** Failure to comply with the sanctions placed on a student for a specified amount of time violating the Student Code of Conduct and/or breaking of any laws.

**3.60 RAPE.** Forcing or coercing another, regardless of sexual gender, personal affiliation, and/or affiliation with the University to engage in the act of sexual intercourse without that person's consent, or when the sexual intercourse is deemed without the person's consent because the person (victim) is incapable of understanding the nature of the act by reason of stupor or abnormal condition of the mind produced by an intoxicating or narcotic agent administered by

the offender.

**3.70 SAFETY CODE MISCHIEF.** Tampering with safety equipment is a serious violation of the Student Code of Conduct and is subject to criminal prosecution. Turning in a false fire or bomb alert, by any means including a telephone call or by a warning device, theft, removal of, or tampering with fire extinguishing or safety equipment, exit signs, smoke alarms and detectors, fire hoses, sprinkler systems, hoses, fire mischief, or violation of University guidelines regarding fire safety, or standard safety (e.g., failure to follow evacuation procedures or obstructing the evacuation of a building during a fire, fire drill, or any other type of emergency) is strictly prohibited.

COVID-19 requirement: Tampering with or intentionally damaging items required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the health and safety of all. Stealing, discarding, or purposely tampering with roommate, suitemate, or campus COVID-19 safety items. Deliberate failure to abide by any health or safety standards for any University related function (campus events, classroom operations, etc.)

**3.76 GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT.** Gender-based harassment includes harassment based on actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, which may include acts of aggression, intimidation, or hostility, even if the acts do not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

**3.79 RELATIONSHIP (Dating and Domestic) VIOLENCE.** Relationship violence is abuse, violence, or intentionally controlling behavior between partners or former partners involving one or more of the following elements: (i) battering that causes bodily injury; (ii) purposely or knowingly causing reasonable apprehension of bodily injury; (iii) emotional abuse creating apprehension of bodily injury or property damage; (iv) repeated telephonic, electronic, or other forms of communication — anonymously or directly — made with the intent to intimidate, terrify, harass, or threaten. Relationship violence can occur in all type of relationships (e.g., heterosexual, same sex, or any other type of relationship).

**3.82 RETALIATION.** Retaliation is an adverse action or attempt to seek retribution against the complainant, or any person or group of persons involved in the investigation and/or resolution of a sexual misconduct complaint. Retaliation can be committed by any person or group of persons, not just a respondent. Retaliation may include continued abuse or violence, other forms of harassment, and slander and libel.

**3.84 SEXUAL ASSAULT.** The forcing of, or attempting to force, another person regardless of sexual gender, personal affiliation, and/or affiliation with the University, to participate in sexual intercourse and/or other sexual activities against his/her will is prohibited. Such misconduct includes verbal coercion, threats and physical restraint, and will not be tolerated. Violators of this section who are found responsible as defined under the University's Title IX and Sexual Misconduct Policy are subject to sanctions as prescribed in the Student Handbook and will also be subject to criminal prosecution.

**3.87 SEXUAL BATTERY.** The forcing of or forceful intention of engaging in sexual misconduct by physical contact and/or excessive force (with or without a weapon) which leads to physical pain, toward another person regardless of sexual gender, personal affiliation, and/or affiliation with the University, without his/her consent or when such sexual contact is deemed offensive to the victim, will not be tolerated by the University.

**3.90 SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.** A course of conduct when a person takes sexual advantage of another person for the benefit of anyone other than that person without that person's consent.

**3.93 SEXUAL HARASSMENT.** Sexual Harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that if sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive, and objectively offensive to a reasonable person, has the effect of creating a hostile or stressful living, learning, or working environment, or whenever toleration of such conduct or rejection of it is the basis for an academic or employment decision affecting an individual. Conduct is considered “unwelcome” if the person did not request or invite it and considered the conduct to be undesirable or offensive.

Sexual harassment includes any conduct or incident that is sufficiently serious that it is likely to limit or deny a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the University’s educational programs or a faculty or staff member’s ability to work, which may include a single incident of sexual assault or other serious sexual misconduct

**3.97 SEX OFFENSES.** Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

Fondling—The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

Statutory Rape—Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

**4.00 STALKING.** Stalking is a course of conduct involving more than one instance of inappropriate and unwanted attention, harassment, threatening or intimidating physical or verbal contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a person that could be reasonably regarded as likely to alarm or place that person in fear of harm or injury, including physical, emotional, or psychological harm. This includes the use of technology to pursue, harass, threaten, intimidate, or otherwise make unwelcome contact with another person.

**4.05 SMOKING.** The inhaling, exhaling, or burning of any type of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, marijuana, or any other smoking equipment, whether filled with tobacco or any other type of material on University owned or leased property. Students are prohibited from smoking marijuana or any illegal or prohibited substances in their personal vehicles and/or on University owned or affiliated property.

The policy applies to all students and student guests.

**4.07 SUSPENSION VIOLATION.** This policy applies to students that have been placed on suspension for a student conduct violation and have been restricted from University property. However, there is a suspension violation if the student appears on campus during a suspension period or appears on campus before they have been reinstated following a suspension period.

**4.10 TECHNOLOGY.** Students and recognized organizations are cautioned that any material posted on the internet, including social networking sites and internet blogs will not be considered private or protected information. Students may be held accountable for inappropriate or unauthorized content posted in this manner and information obtained from such sources may be considered in cases of misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, LinkedIn, BlogSpot, GroupMe, and YouTube. This charge also includes content included in communication threads via texts, e-mails, group chats, etc. This policy also applies to any forms of phone or technology device usage.



COVID-19 Pandemic Requirement: This policy also applies to student conduct/behavior associated with technology use, as a health and safety measure, throughout the pandemic. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Zoom Bombing (By Students and Non-Affiliated Parties)
- Online Class Disruptions/Virtual Hearing Disruptions
- Classroom/Virtual Events & Program Chat Behavior

**4.15 SOLICITATION.** Unauthorized selling, collection of monies, and promotion on campus or within University buildings is not permitted without permission of the Division of Business and Finance. Students may not act as agents for business firms which entail solicitation or the receiving of business offers or goods on University property. Further, students may not solicit on behalf of the University without the permission of the Division of Business and Finance. Use of any residence hall room for business purposes of any nature, (e.g. the selling of food, clothing, jewelry, merchandise, favors, manicures/pedicures, hair relaxing/styling/braiding, barbering, babysitting) whatsoever is prohibited.

**4.25 THEFT/MISAPPROPRIATION.** Theft is defined as the wrongful taking of money or property without the consent of the owner, and/or the secreting of anything stolen, regardless of where the theft occurred; stealing from another person, agency institution, or the University; the taking of property belonging to another, with the intent of converting the property to one's personal use; the unauthorized taking or consumption of food from the cafeteria or from a campus event; unauthorized use of another's credit card; and failure to return another's personal property upon request or within a reasonable period of time. Misappropriation, the taking of property belonging to another by mistake and/or without the owner's permission, but with no intent to convert the property to one's personal use is not permitted. This includes unauthorized moving or relocation of University furniture to one's own room or to some other area, illegal and/or unauthorized possession or sale of any property without the proper authorization, and possession of property which has been reported lost or stolen.

**4.30 TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT.** The unauthorized use of the JSU logo, mascot, seal or any other logos on letterhead or in any other publications.

**4.35 TRESPASSING.** Unauthorized presence on, in or within any building or property owned or operated by the University (including residential communities), or the unauthorized entry into or remaining in a facility, or in a private room or office under the control of another, after having been asked to leave.

**4.40 UNAUTHORIZED USE/ENTRY OF UNIVERSITY FACILITIES.** Unauthorized use of equipment, occupancy of, or unauthorized entry into or exiting from University facilities. Unauthorized entry/exiting includes the entering and/or occupying and improper exiting of University facilities that are locked, closed or restricted to certain or all persons. Unauthorized entry or exiting into and from residential communities, without proper permission into living quarters or other building and/or structures or University premises, or the aiding and assisting of such is prohibited.

**4.45 VIOLATION OF CRIMINAL CODE OF THE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.** Actions or activities, on or off-campus that violate criminal law.

**4.50 WEAPONS/FIREARMS.** The use, storage, possession, or display of weapons, firearms, self-defense devices, or explosives is strictly prohibited on the premises of the University. Weapons include, but are not limited to the following: mace, pepper spray, rifles, shotguns, tasers, stun guns, ammunition, handguns, air guns, BB guns, bowie knives, daggers, switchblade knives, butcher knives, metallic or brass knuckles, explosives (including dangerous chemicals), water guns, play guns, firecrackers, propelled missiles, and fireworks. The possession or uses of items that

resemble guns, knives, or other weapons are also strictly prohibited. A concealed weapons permit may not constitute authorization.

When course content and classroom assignments require the use of such items, the Provost, Vice President for Student Affairs or designee, and the Department of Public Safety will work collaboratively to provide written approval. The initial request should be submitted to [deanofstudents@jsums.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@jsums.edu). This policy also applies to any device used as a weapon to intentionally harm another.

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Notes:

Students serve as a representative of Jackson State University while enrolled with the University. Consequently, students may be charged with Student Code of Conduct violations for incidents that occur while representing the University, whether on or off campus. Any student who holds a student leadership position within the University (Campus Activities Board, Greek organization member, Student Government Association member, respective student organization executive board members, student-athletes, etc.) may be relieved of their duties upon receipt of an incident report listing a student leader as an alleged offender. Based on the severity of the incident, student leaders may be relieved of their duties until a final decision is reached. Students are expected to use their assigned Jackson State University student e-mail account, in order to receive all University correspondence, including information pertaining to student conduct violations.

All sanctions imposed on students, student groups, and/or student organizations found responsible of violation(s) are based solely on individual circumstances. No case is exactly the same as another, and sanctions will most likely differ in similar instances. It is primarily the decision of the hearing officer/committee to determine the sanction(s) imposed on each student. The following sanctions may be imposed when students violate the Student Code of Conduct:

Academic Sanctions

Community Service

Counseling Consultation

Community Standards Seminar Completion

Expulsion

Educational Sanction, such as book reviews, modules, research papers, reflective journals, etc.

*Fine: The amounts of fines may range from a \$50 minimum to a \$1,000 maximum per violation or charge, excluding any restitution. The amount of the fine per violation or charge is determined at the discretion of the hearing committee or hearing officer.*

Indefinite Suspension

Student Conduct Hold

Loss of Privileges

Probation

Removal of animal(s)

Restitution

Subject to Criminal Prosecution

Suspension

Termination of network access

Workshops/Seminars

And other creative sanctions to encourage student development

## STUDENT CONDUCT TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The following actions may be imposed upon any student, student group, or student organization found to have violated the Student Code of Conduct:

**COMMUNITY SERVICE.** A sanction imposed upon a student as a result of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Service is provided by the student to a specific on-campus or off-campus area or department of the University for specific hours as imposed by the designated Student Conduct hearing body. Monetary compensation is not provided. NOTE: Community Service hours completed to satisfy a student conduct sanction will not count toward the community service hours required for graduation.

**COUNSELING CONSULTATION.** Referral for consultation for alcohol/drug counseling, general mental health assistance, anger management, or other counseling issues deemed necessary by the designated Student Conduct hearing body with the Latasha Norman Counseling Center, Applied Psychological Services, or an outside agency/organization. Students must follow through with consultation and provide official documentation on letterhead for the agency/organization verifying completion of requirements.

**EDUCATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS.** Based on the nature of the offense, students may be required to complete a research assignment on a topic related to the offense committed. The research assignment must be typed, completed and submitted by the deadline specified. It must be thorough, comprehensive, and scholarly. The completed project must also conform to other specifications that may be given by the designated Student Conduct hearing body.

**EXONERATE.** To clear the accused of any and all blame, with all charges being dismissed or dropped.

**FINE.** A monetary payment imposed as punishment for an offense. Payment must be made to the University for violations of the Student Codes of Conduct.

**SANCTIONS.** Consequences which are required to be completed as a result of being found responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct. Each sanction has a deadline, which is outlined in the decision letter. Completed sanctions may be submitted in person or via e-mail to [deanofstudents@jsums.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@jsums.edu). Sanctions require a 3-business day review period, prior to receiving approval. If a student fails to complete their sanction(s) by the designated deadline, a hold will be placed on the student's account. The hold will not be removed until the sanction(s) have been completed.

**STANDARD OF PROOF.** In resolving matters regarding student conduct, the University will use a "preponderance of the evidence" standard, which is whether the evidence gathered and information provided during the investigation supports a finding that it is more likely than not that the respondent violated the Student Code of Conduct.

**STUDENT CONDUCT HOLD.** When a student fails to respond to a charge notification, attend a scheduled student conduct hearing, or complete assigned sanctions, a student conduct hold will be placed on the student's account. The hold will not be removed until all student conduct requirements have been satisfied. A student conduct hold restricts students from conducting University related business, including but not limited to completing course registration, adding/dropping classes, and viewing grades.

**PROBATION.** A specified amount of time, involving restrictions, after which University authorities will determine if the student's behavior has improved. During this time period, the student may receive additional student conduct measures resulting in suspension, if he/she is involved in violations of any type of the Student Code of Conduct and/or the breaking of any laws. The types of probation are Regular and Indefinite. NOTE: Probationary statuses range from one (1) semester through matriculation. A violation of a probationary status may result in the student

being immediately suspended from the University.

**LOSS OF PRIVILEGES.** A student who receives a sanction will be notified in writing of the specific privilege(s), which he/she has lost. The privileges may include removal/eviction from on-campus housing and restrictions from affiliation and/or representing the University. Students with outstanding sanctions are prohibited from traveling. The written notification shall include the time period for which the student has lost certain privileges.

**NO FURTHER CONTACT.** No further communication (verbal, physical, or electronic) with a specific person for a specified period of time or throughout their matriculation at the university.

**REPRIMAND.** The University has documented that such actions are inappropriate and do not reflect the community standards and values. Reprimand of a student for actions violating the Student Code of Conduct.

**RESTITUTION.** Compensation, reimbursement of, or a required replacement of a loss, injury, or property (personal or private) by the student in violation. Restitution must be made within a specified time period. Failure to pay full restitution to the appropriate party will result in the student being placed on disciplinary hold and/or suspension. NOTE: Restitution is due in full, prior to or within the 30th day from official notification to the offender, unless otherwise approved by the Dean of Students or designee.

**SUSPENSION.** Dismissal from the University for a specific period of time following severe acts of violation of the Student Code of Conduct or violation of a present probationary status. When a student is suspended and assigned to a room in Housing and Residence Life, the student shall be permitted one (1) day to vacate the assigned room if the student is a Mississippi resident and two (2) days to vacate the assigned room if the student is an out of state student. Suspensions are recorded on the student's permanent record (including transcripts) and case files are maintained when suspensions occur for student organizations. Students suspended from the University are required to return their student identification card and room keys and may not return to campus for the duration of their suspension, except to conduct official business with an administrative officer or faculty member, and then only with prior permission of the Dean of Students or designee. If a student returns to the campus without permission during the period of suspension, his or her eligibility to return to Jackson State University will be threatened and he/she will be subject to arrest. During the period of suspension, the student is not eligible or entitled to receive any University services. His or her name is deleted from the roster of enrolled students and from the faculty class roll. The student will not get credit for course assignment, papers, projects, make-up work, or other course-related work during the period of suspension. During the period of suspension, therefore, the student's relationship with the university is terminated, and he or she is, in fact persona non-gratis.

Students are not allowed to be on any University property, nor are students allowed to attend University sponsored events during their suspension. If a student wishes to conduct any business on any University property, the student is required to contact the Dean of Students or designee to be cleared. The request must be cleared in advance. Lastly, upon arrival, a suspended student must check-in and prior to departing, must check-out at the Public Safety headquarters for documentation purposes.

Students may request transcripts while suspended by e-mailing [deanofstudents@jsums.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@jsums.edu). The e-mail needs to include the request for transcripts for a suspended student, as well as the student's name and J#. In turn, the Dean of Students or designee will contact the Registrar's Office with the request. Afterwards, the student will be notified via e-mail that the request has been submitted to the Registrar's Office. When students are suspended or expelled from the University, the student must allow 15 business days following the date of the final decision letter, prior to requesting a transcript. Lastly, the student will be required to contact the Registrar's Office to order transcripts, as well as submit the required payment. Please note: financial obligations must be satisfied with the University prior to transcripts being distributed.

Following a fully served suspension period, a student or student organization who wishes to re-enter the University must submit a written request to be reinstated into the University. The student or student organization must submit a typed letter to the Dean of Students or designee no later than (30) days prior to the beginning of the semester for which he/she is requesting to be allowed to return (e.g. the letter must be received by the proper University designee thirty (30) days before the begin of the fall semester the student wishes to return to the University). The reinstatement request should be e-mailed to deanofstudents@jsums.edu. The document should outline productivity that has occurred throughout the suspension period, as well as measures that will be taken in order to avoid future violations of the Student Code of Conduct. The Dean of Students or designee will review the student's file or student organization and determine the eligibility to return to the University following a suspension period. The Dean of Students or designee will in turn schedule a reinstatement meeting. Following the reinstatement meeting, the Dean of Students or designee will determine if the student is eligible to return. The decision will be distributed to the student via e-mail. Regardless of a student or student organization's completion of the suspension period, the Dean of Students or designee reserves the right and has the complete discretion relating to the decision of a student being reinstated from a suspension. This decision includes, but is not limited to, denial of readmission or reinstatement and restrictions on extra-curricular activity participation based upon the nature of the suspension. The types of suspensions and expulsion are defined as follows:

- A. **Suspension.** Suspension period begins with an existing semester and continues through that semester; however, suspension may become effective at the beginning of a specified semester (usually the following semester) and continue through that semester and future ones.  
All students and student organizations returning to "active" status at Jackson State University following a student conduct suspension will be placed on mandatory "Probationary Status" for one semester. Any violations of the probationary status within this time period may result in an additional suspension effective immediately and continuing throughout the time period recommended by the Dean of Students or designee.
- B. **Interim Suspension.** Suspension that is immediately put into effect when violations are alleged. The suspension will remain in effect until the student conduct hearing is held or the student has completed requirements of the sanction imposed. Suspensions of this type are usually temporary; however, if the student is found responsible for the violation(s), or fails to satisfy the requirements of the sanction imposed, the interim suspension may be changed to another sanction, including suspension or expulsion.
- C. **Indefinite Suspension.** Dismissal or Suspension from the University to be served for a period of not less than one (1) year.
- D. **Expulsion.** Permanent dismissal from the University. Expulsion is the most severe sanction that can be imposed upon a student for a violation. The student who receives a sanction of expulsion is not eligible to apply for readmission to the university. When a student is expelled from the University, the student's relationship with the University is permanently severed, and the student is persona non-gratis.

Note: Failure to complete an assigned sanction within the allotted time frame will result in the student receiving a student conduct hold on his/her student account and/or suspension from the University.

In addition to the above sanctions, students, student groups, and/or student organizations found responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct may be prohibited from a specified affiliation or from representing the University as a member of an organization or a University-sponsored activity.

Depending on the severity of an incident, students, student groups, and/or organizations may face criminal charges off campus. If a student, student group, and/or student organization has already been to court for an alleged incident, then the student, student group, and/or student organization has fulfilled their obligation to any violation of law. Meaning, the student, student group, and/or student organization has met the requirement set forth under Mississippi Law for the designated county. However, the student, student group, and/or student organization will still be required to meet

their obligation to Jackson State University's policies and procedures outlined in this handbook. Consequently, even if the court finds a student, student group, and/or student organization "not guilty" or determined there was not sufficient evidence to even "hear" the case in court, the student, student group, and/or student organization will still be required to meet with Student Conduct and Community Standards for a hearing. The University student conduct process runs separately and concurrently to any process the law requires, and determines responsibility based on the preponderance of evidence. Under these circumstances, this process is not considered double jeopardy.

Questions or concerns regarding the student conduct process may be directed to the Division of Student Affairs. Offices are located in the Student Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 3222.

## **Student Conduct Procedures**

### **Authority**

By virtue of the bylaws and policies of the Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning, the President of Jackson State University is charged with the responsibility of maintaining “appropriate standards of conduct of students.” This duty has been delegated to the Division of Student Affairs. The Division of Student Affairs is further authorized to expel, dismiss, suspend and place limitations on continued attendance and to levy sanctions for student conduct violations. The Vice President for Student Affairs is aided in this responsibility by the Dean of Students.

### **Student Conduct Responsibility**

The Dean of Students Office is responsible for receiving and examining student conduct matters related to the behavior of students, student groups, and/or student organizations. Furthermore, the Dean of Students Office is responsible for assigning cases to the appropriate committees based on the behavior, status, and case loads. In addition, the Student Conduct hearing officers have the sole discretion in determining the appropriate sanction(s) for students, student groups, and/or student organizations found responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Student Conduct Procedures**

Student Conduct procedures may be initiated against a student, student group, and/or organization upon receiving and examining an official incident report and/or valid complaint regarding the behavior of a student, student group, and/or student organization. Any person affiliated with the JSU community — students, faculty, visitors, guests, and staff — may bring complaints of misconduct against a student or group of students. To initiate a case, allegations must be presented to Public Safety (601-979-2580) or to the Dean of Students Office ([deanofstudents@jsums.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@jsums.edu)). After receiving allegations of misconduct, Public Safety will provide a written incident report to the Dean of Students Office (where applicable). The Dean of Students Office will review the allegations and determine the appropriate individual or University entity to hear the case, or if informal resolution process is appropriate for the case. All allegations should be submitted at the earliest opportunity after an incident occurs. Yet, there is no time limit on reporting violations of the Student Code of Conduct. However, the longer someone waits to report an offense, the harder it becomes for University officials to obtain information and witness statements and to make determinations regarding alleged violations. As necessary, University officials reserve the right to initiate a complaint, and initiate conduct proceedings without a formal complaint by the victim of misconduct.

Once an incident report is received, the Dean of Students Office will determine whether further action is appropriate based on its review of the alleged behavior. In the event a sufficient cause is determined, the case will proceed to an administrative hearing or assigned to a student conduct committee. All Student Affairs Conduct Committee members are trained students, faculty, and staff members. Below are some examples of the committees that exist, however, the committees are not limited to these examples:

1. Student Conduct Hearing Boards/Officers
  - a. Membership of the Student Affairs Conduct Committee (SACC) may be comprised of University stakeholders and/or Student Conduct Leaders. The Student Conduct Leaders consist of the Chair, Associate Chair and three to six Student Conduct Leaders who may classify as sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate students; although all may serve at a particular hearing, only three are required if the Student Conduct Leaders hear a case alone. When University stakeholders serve on the SACC, the hearing will only require one Student Conduct Leader. A Dean of Students Office professional staff member or the Student Affairs Conduct Committee Chair shall preside over the

committee hearing. This committee shall hear cases which may result in a student, student group, and/or student organization being admonished, exonerated, receiving a letter of warning, being assigned University service or counseling, receiving a fine, being placed on probation, losing privileges, being assigned a research assignment or reflection journal, paying restitution, being required to attend workshops/seminars, being suspended or being expelled from the University community.

- b. When deemed necessary, an administrative hearing may be conducted by a Dean of Students Office professional staff member serving in a student conduct role. In this instance, the administrator is considered a hearing officer and the presence of University stakeholders, nor Student Conduct Leaders is not required.
- c. In instances which may involve a conflict of interest with the victims/complainants in the case being adjudicated, the Dean of Students or designee reserves the right to temporarily or permanently replace or dismiss any person(s) from SACC membership. This includes, but is not limited to any Student Conduct Leader or University stakeholder. Ultimately, the Dean of Students Office reserves the right to comprise a committee based on the dynamics of each respective case. No SACC member, witness, observer, or other student may violate the confidentiality of student conduct proceedings. SACC members may never reveal information about student conduct deliberations or outcomes, except pursuant to court order.
- d. In consideration of students' availability limitation, during times of University recess, summer sessions or extenuating circumstances, the Dean of Students or designee reserves the right to comprise a SACC without a student representative being a part of the committee.

## 2. Inter-Residence Hall Committee

- a. The Inter-Residence Hall Committee (IRHC) is comprised of residence hall full-time and part-time (graduate assistants) staff members. The chair of the committee is appointed by the Executive Director of Housing and Residence Life. The IRHC is responsible for adjudicating cases resulting from violations of the residence hall rules and regulations, which may include: (see Resident Student Handbook)
  - i. Roommate Disputes
  - ii. Housing Violations
  - iii. Illegal Visitation

NOTE: Cases of a more serious nature may be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

## 3. Appeals Committee (appeals from an administrative hearing or Student Affairs Conduct Committee hearing)

- a. The Appeals Committee is responsible for adjudicating cases after a decision has been rendered by a student conduct hearing board/officer. Appeals are granted on the basis of a substantial violation of the hearing procedure or new evidence, witnesses, or facts.
- b. Appeals may be assigned to an administrative hearing officer for review.



## **Student Conduct Process Terms and Communication Expectations**

### Decision/Sanction Letter

Written notification of the hearing outcome.

### Appeal Decision Letter

Written notification of the appeal decision.

### Communication

Correspondence from the Dean of Students Office-Student Conduct and Community Standards will be distributed to the student's assigned JSU student e-mail account. Therefore, students are expected to check their JSU student e-mail account daily. When the term e-mail is used throughout the Student Handbook, it refers to the student's JSU student e-mail account.

## **Notification Process**

The initial form of communication with a student, student group, and/or student organization named in an incident report will be via e-mail. A hearing notification will be distributed to the student via e-mail, outlining the hearing date, time, as well as the charges brought against the student. The information will be distributed to the student's JSU student e-mail account and will be provided at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the hearing. Therefore, students are strongly encouraged to routinely check their JSU student e-mail account, at least once a day, so that important information is not missed.

When there are three (3) or more students involved in a case, the Dean of Students Office reserves the right to schedule the hearing date and time for all students involved, without confirmation from the students due to the number of individuals involved. Documentation can be provided to students for missed classes or work responsibilities when such circumstances exist.

Failure to attend a scheduled hearing will result in the accused student being charged with "Failure to Comply" and/or "Contempt of Hearing." In this case, a decision will be made in the student's absence based on the information outlined in the incident report and any information gathered from the investigation and a contempt of hearing fine will be charged to the student's account, in addition to other sanctions that may be assigned.

## **Administrative Hearing and Student Affairs Conduct Committee Processes**

Once a hearing day and time is confirmed by the Dean of Students Office, the student will receive documentation outlining the aforementioned information. The following outlines each student's rights:

1. To receive information pertaining to the specific charges, the time, date, and place of the hearing no less than 48 hours prior to the hearing, unless accommodations are made by the student for a shorter time period. The specific names of committee members will not be provided to students.
2. The accused student, student group, or student organization can be accompanied by a representative(s) of their choice; however, their representative(s) is not allowed to speak during the hearing with the exception of providing instruction regarding your Fifth Amendment Rights. The role of the representative(s) is to support the accused student or witness throughout the hearing, but that role is passive and will not include directly questioning witnesses, or addressing the hearing committee. If a student, student organization, or student group plans to bring a representative(s) and/or witness(es) to the hearing, the student, student group, or student organization must notify the hearing board in writing of their name at least 48 hours prior to the

hearing. The information should be submitted to [studentconduct@jsums.edu](mailto:studentconduct@jsums.edu). Each student is allowed a maximum of two advisors during a hearing.

### Hearing Procedures

The purpose of the administrative or student conduct committee hearing is to reach a decision regarding the accused responsibility for violation of University rules or regulations, to provide due process for the accused, and to recommend a sanction if necessary. Although Public Safety generates the majority of incident reports, a representative from Public Safety does not have to be in attendance in order for a scheduled hearing to occur. Such decisions may affect students, groups, and student organizations and their relationship to the University. Administrative hearing decisions shall be determined by the Dean of Student Office designee. In the event additional information is provided during a hearing that may not have been included in the initial incident report, the hearing officer or hearing committee reserves the right to amend the charges during the hearing, in an effort to expedite the decision process. The student shall be permitted to face and question their accusers and witnesses against them at the hearing when the complainant is a student. When the accuser is a Public Safety Officer, the incident report will be used as evidence. However, the officer will not appear during the hearing. If a student, student group, or student organization fails to attend the hearing after being notified, it will be held in their absence. Attendance at an administrative or student conduct committee hearing is limited to only those individuals directly involved or those requested by the Dean of Students Office designee. The confidentiality of all student cases must be maintained.

If possible, the accused is usually informed in writing of the outcome (responsible or not responsible) of the hearing and sanctions within a minimum of five (5) business days after the hearing. In the event a decision cannot be made within five (5) business days, the accused will be informed by the Dean of Students Office designee.

### *Spectators*

To protect the privacy of persons participating in the student conduct process, the hearing will be closed to spectators. Witnesses may only be present in the hearing space when participating in the hearing process. The accused student will be entitled, for support, to have up to two support persons of their choice to accompany them during the hearing, in addition to an Advisor. A support person may not be called as a witness. The Student Affairs Conduct Committee Chair has the right to exclude support persons from the hearing, if deemed necessary, for the secure or orderly conduct of the hearing.

### **APPEALS PROCESS**

A student, student group, or student organization may submit an appeal to Dean of Students once the decision of the administrative or student conduct committee hearing is reached. A decision may be appealed for one or more of the following reasons:

- (1) Substantial violation of the hearing procedure. If the appeal is based on substantial violation of the hearing procedure, the following should be noted: Citation of specific procedural errors, reason(s) why procedural error was not mentioned in the original hearing, and reason(s) why correction of error can contribute to a decision other than the one originally made; and
- (2) New evidence, witnesses or facts. If the appeal is based on new facts, the following must be included: A description of new evidence, name(s) of person(s) who can present this evidence (if any), or reasons why the evidence was not discussed at the original hearing, and reason(s) why the evidence can contribute to a decision other

than that which was originally made.

**Note:** An appeal may not be submitted to the Dean of Students simply due to a student disagreeing with the assigned sanctions associated with being found responsible for a student conduct violation.

## **FILING AN APPEAL**

All appeals must be submitted in writing (typed) from the student via e-mail to the Dean of Students Office within 2 business days of the initial decision letter date. As a reminder, students are expected to check their JSU student email account daily. The appeal needs to be distributed to [deanofstudents@jsums.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@jsums.edu). The e-mail must include supporting documentation along with the appeal letter. The appeal request must state the specific grounds on which the student, student group, or student organization should be granted an appeal as described in the previous section. The appeal request must also be clear and specific. The Dean of Students or designee is not obligated to confer with the student, and may choose to review only the written information in making a decision.

After the letter of appeal has been received, it will be determined whether there are grounds to grant an appeal. In turn, notification will be distributed to the student, student group, or student organization within seven (7) business days after receipt of the student, student group, or student organization's appeal request. If a conference is needed to consider the matter further, the notice shall include the time and place at which the student, student group, or student organization is to be present.

In this case, the accused student, student group, or student organization can be accompanied by a representative(s) of their choice; however, their representative(s) is not allowed to speak during the hearing with the exception of providing instruction regarding your Fifth Amendment Rights. The role of the representative(s) is to support the accused student or witness throughout the hearing, but that role is passive and will not include directly questioning witnesses, or addressing the hearing committee. If a student, student organization, or student group plans to bring a representative(s) and/or witness(es) to the hearing, the student, student group, or student organization must notify the Dean of Students in writing via email at [deanofstudents@jsums.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@jsums.edu) of their name at least 48 hours prior to the hearing. Each student is allowed a maximum of two advisors during an appeal review.

The sanction of suspension imposed by the Dean of Students or designee does not become effective until all available appeals have been exhausted by the student, student group, or student organization within the time periods designated for appeals. An exception occurs when, in the determination of the Dean of Students, his/her designee, or Appeals Committee, the student, student group, or student organization's continued presence on campus constitutes a clear and present danger to the students and/or others in the University community. In such instances, the student, student group, or student organization will be asked to leave the campus; however, the student, student group, or student organization rights to request an appeal within the designated time periods shall not be compromised.

The decision of the Dean of Students, his/her designee, or Appeals Committee, to grant an appeal, is final, except in those cases involving expulsion from the University. If an expelled student chooses not to request an appeal within the specified time period, the decision of the Dean of Students or designee is final. It is, therefore, imperative that the student abides by the stipulations of his/her sanction(s). In cases involving expulsion, the student, student group, or student organization may appeal the sanction to the Vice President for Student Affairs, in writing via email to [studentaffairs@jsums.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@jsums.edu), with a copy to the Dean of Students ([deanofstudents@jsums.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@jsums.edu)) within 2 business days following the appeal decision letter date from the Dean of Students. Appeal requests of this nature must also be typewritten. Similarly, the Vice President for Student Affairs is not obligated to confer with the student, and may choose to review only the written information in making a decision. After the letter of appeal has been received, it will be determined whether there are grounds to grant an appeal. In turn, notification will be distributed to the student, student group, or student organization within seven (7) business days after receipt of the student, student group, or student organization's appeal request. If a conference is needed to consider

the matter further, the notice shall include the time and place at which the student, student group, or student organization is to be present. An appeal to the Vice President for Student Affairs is the final step in an appeal for an expulsion. Once a decision is made, it is final.

### **Rights of Victims**

In a student conduct hearing, both the accused student and the victim have rights. The rights of the victim are listed below:

To choose whether to charge the student with a violation of the law. The victim may also formally charge him/her with a violation of the *Student or Collegiate Code of Conduct*, resulting in an administrative or student conduct committee hearing

To have a person(s) of their choice accompany them throughout the student conduct process.

To submit a victim impact statement to the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee prior to a sanction being imposed.

To have past unrelated behavior excluded from the hearing.

To be informed of the results of a student conduct hearing, in compliance with the *Campus Security* and *Student Right to Know Act* with the permission of the Dean of Students Office. A complainant may be notified whether the respondent was found responsible or not responsible for the alleged action. However, the complainant is not entitled to know and shall not be notified of any specific sanction received by the respondent as a result of the hearing.

To have adjustments made in residential living arrangements if necessary. Jackson State University has an obligation to protect members of the University community from physical harm or from a student whose continued presence on campus presents a clear and present danger to themselves or others. Notwithstanding the victim's right to bring charges, the University reserves the right to investigate and take appropriate action against a student accused of a violent physical or verbal assault.

Note: The complainant will only be notified of the case outcome if a written request is submitted to [deanofstudents@jsums.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@jsums.edu). The request needs to include the complainant's name. In turn, the complainant will be notified of whether the student was found responsible or not responsible. Due to FERPA laws, the complainant will not receive the specific consequences associated with the case if the alleged offender is found responsible.

### **Official Withdrawal from the University**

Should an accused student be academically dismissed or leave the University voluntarily before pending disciplinary charges have been resolved, a hold will be placed on the student's account. If an accused student withdraws from the University with a case pending, that accused student shall not be readmitted to the University until after the pending case has been processed, resolved, or otherwise adjudicated. The Dean of Students Office will place a student conduct hold on the student's record, which will prevent reinstatement (selection of classes and registration) of that student until the case has been adjudicated.

### **Student Conduct Files and Records**

The Dean of Students Office shall maintain student conduct records and a disciplinary tracking system, which shall include, but not be limited to, the accused student's name and related information, description of the incident, parties involved, code violations, sanctions, and other relevant information. Such information shall be maintained in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Student Conduct records shall be made available to student conduct bodies and University officials designated in the Code, as necessary.

## **Parental Notification**

The University reserves the right to notify parents/guardians of dependent students regarding any health or safety risk, change in student status, or conduct situation, particularly alcohol and other drug violations. The University may also notify parents/guardians of non-dependent students who are under age 21 of alcohol and/or drug policy violations. When a student is not dependent, the University will contact parents/guardians to inform them of situations in which there is a significant health and/or safety risk. The University also reserves the right to designate which college officials have a need to know about individual conduct complaints pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. In contrast, Student Conduct and Community Standards will not notify or inform parents/guardians of other Student Code of Conduct violations or associated sanctions, without written consent from the student.

## **SPECIAL NOTATION TO STUDENTS**

Each violation of the Jackson State University Student or Collegiate Codes of Conduct is treated separately from any other case. Student Conduct sanctions will vary accordingly, depending upon the severity of each offense. All sanctions will be determined on an individual basis; however, all mitigating circumstances are reviewed and taken into consideration by the Student Conduct hearing officers/boards. Therefore, students may or may not receive similar sanctions for offenses of the same or similar nature.

## **SAFETY & WELL-BEING AMNESTY POLICY**

“What should I do? I don’t want me or my friend to get in trouble but help is needed!”

If you are on campus and have an emergency, do the right thing and call Public Safety at 601-979-2580.

Under the Safety and Well-Being Amnesty policy, students or student organizations who seek *proactive* assistance on behalf of themselves or others experiencing an alcohol or drug related emergency will not be subject to disciplinary action under University Conduct Rules and Regulations.

Students who qualify for amnesty will still be required to meet with a University official. Although students who qualify for amnesty are exempt from the charges and sanctions from the Dean of Students Office, they may still be responsible for completing educational measures in relation to their alcohol or drug consumption, and/or other unsafe behavior. Educational measures may include, but are not limited to: parental notification if under the age of 21 for alcohol or drug violations, alcohol, drug, or other supportive opportunities.



## Student Success & The University Academic Advisement Center

### Your Partner in Academic Success

At Jackson State University (JSU), student success is a shared priority. We are committed to providing you with the guidance, resources, and support you need to succeed academically and graduate on time. The University Academic Advisement Center (UAAC) serves as a key resource to help you navigate your academic journey, make informed decisions, and stay on track toward your degree.

### What is UAAC?

The University Academic Advisement Center (UAAC) offers comprehensive advising services for first-time freshmen, transfer students, undeclared majors, and students seeking additional academic guidance. Our team of advisors works collaboratively to ensure you receive personalized support that meets your individual goals and needs.

### Types of Academic Advisors to Support You:

- **Student Success Advisors** – Focused on supporting first-year students, undeclared majors, and students needing extra academic guidance.
- **College Success Advisors** – Assigned within specific academic colleges to provide specialized advising for declared majors.
- **JSUOnline Advisors** – Dedicated to fully online students, assisting with registration, course selection, and navigating online learning.
- **Athletic Advisors** – Support student-athletes in balancing academic and athletic commitments while staying on track for graduation.





### How UAAC Supports You:

- **Academic Advising:** Personalized course selection and planning to meet degree requirements.
- **Degree Planning:** Development of clear, achievable academic goals and graduation timelines.
- **Registration Assistance:** Help with course registration and clearing advising holds.
- **Major and Career Exploration:** Guidance for students who are undecided or exploring academic options.
- **Academic Support Referrals:** Direct connection to campus services such as tutoring, counseling, and workshops.
- **Success Workshops and Events:** Skill-building sessions on study habits, time management, and academic strategies.

### **Why You Should Connect with UAAC:**

- Stay on track for graduation.
- Receive support if facing academic challenges.
- Explore different majors and career paths.
- Navigate the registration process smoothly.
- Access personalized help that matches your unique goals.

### **Where to Find Us:**

 **Location:** H.T. Sampson Library, 2nd Floor  
 **Email:** [advising@jsums.edu](mailto:advising@jsums.edu)  
 **Phone:** 601-979-2127  
 **Website:** <https://www.jsums.edu/studentsuccess/uaac/>

### **Final Note:**

Your academic journey is important to us and you don't have to do it alone. Whether you're choosing a major, needing help with classes, or planning for graduation, UAAC advisors are here to guide and support you every step of the way!

# ACADEMIC POLICIES

## ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

### *Objective*

To create and sustain an academic environment that permits students to freely express concerns or reveal complaints about their education and the educational process and to have their concerns and complaints addressed swiftly and forthrightly.

### *Statement*

Students enrolled at Jackson State University may register a concern or complaint about any academic regulation, the instructional program, delivery of the program, grades received, the academic advisement system, or any other matter related to academic affairs, without any adverse action for expressing the concern or filing the complaint. Concerns and complaints will be received, explored or investigated, and responded to in a fair and timely fashion, though students should understand that the final response by the University may not always be the response they prefer.

### *Procedures*

Students should follow the proper chain of command when an academic concern arises. The proper chain of command is as follows:

1. Student shall discuss his or her concern with the academic advisor.
2. If the matter was not resolved through the academic adviser, the student may proceed by submitting the concern to the chair of the department.
3. If the Chair of the department has not resolved the student's issue or concern, the student may submit the Dean of the academic college.
4. If the advisor, Chair, or Academic Dean has not resolved the student's issue or concern, the student should contact the Academic Ombuds at 601-979-2244. The Academic Ombuds will respond accordingly and will forward severe issues of concern to the Provost Office for review.

As it relates to academic concerns, such as academic dishonesty or plagiarism, the respective faculty member(s) are expected to submit the complaint to Academic Affairs by contacting 601-979-2244. All academic complaints will be reviewed through Academic Affairs. All behavioral classroom concerns are expected to be reported to Public Safety by contacting 601-979-2580, which in turn will be submitted to Student Affairs for review.

### Classroom Concerns or Complaints

(e.g. grades received; improper dismissals; unprofessional behavior)

- Student discusses concern or complaint with the instructor.
- Instructor provides a response (allow up to 5 days if investigation is required).
- Complaints unresolved by the instructor or for which the response is unacceptable must be described in writing by the student and submitted to the department chair.
- The chair properly logs and investigates the matter and provides a written response to the student within ten days.
- Issues that are still unresolved must be submitted by the student to the school/college dean.
- The dean provides the final written response within ten days, which may be done with committee input and/or in consultation with higher level administrators.



Other Academic Concerns or Complaints (e.g. academic advisement or academic regulations)

- Student discusses the concern or complaint with the academic advisor.
- The advisor provides a response (allow up to 5 days if an investigation is needed), or refers it to the appropriate official/body, e.g. department chair or Academic Standards Committee, for response within 20 days. The appropriate official/body returns the response to the advisor and the advisor returns it to the student.
- Unresolved concerns or complaints must be submitted in writing by the student to the school/college Dean.
- The school/college dean provides a written response within ten days, which may be done with committee input and/or in consultation with the Provost.

If the complaint remains, the student will submit it to the Provost for a final response.

NOTE: Academic complaints dating back more than a semester generally will not be investigated.

## **ACADEMIC RECORDS POLICY**

Jackson State University maintains a permanent academic record for each student enrolled. The permanent academic record contains those grades received from course work completed at the University, along with any transfer of courses and credits from any other accredited institution of higher learning that is used by Jackson State University to fulfill the degree requirements. All records are confidential. Academic records are considered property of the University. Opportunities are provided for students to inspect and to control the release of information contained in their records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974.

The purpose of FERPA is to afford certain rights to students concerning their education records. The primary rights afforded are the right to inspect and review the education records, the right to seek to have the records amended, and the right to have some control over the disclosure of information from those records. The Act applies to all education records maintained by the University, which are directly related to a student. Records containing a student's name, social security number, or other personally identifiable information are protected by FERPA.

The student must make a written request to have the academic record released. The academic record is generated and printed on transcript security paper, which prevents duplicating or printing an official copy outside the Records Office. A nominal charge is assessed for the reproduction and distribution of a personal and/or official copy of the transcript.

## **CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY**

### *OBJECTIVE*

To ensure that students attend all class sessions and activities, except in cases of extreme cause, to maximize their learning from the quality instructional experience afforded at the University.

### *STATEMENT*

Students at Jackson State University must fully commit themselves to their program of study. One hundred percent (100%) punctual class attendance is expected of all students in all scheduled classes and

activities. Instructors keep attendance records and any absence for which a student does not provide written official excuse is counted as an unexcused absence. Students must understand that even with an official excuse of absence, they (students) are responsible for the work required during their absence.

Students may be officially excused from class for attendance at University approved functions, provided the sponsor properly executes a Student Affairs Leave Form, such excuses shall be accepted by the instructor. Students may also be officially excused by the Dean of their College or the Vice President for Student Affairs for certain campus activities.

Students requesting excuses for absences due to illness or other emergency situations will be issued a **Request for an Excused Absence**. The **Request for an Excused Absence Form** will be issued only after proper documentation stating the reason for non-attendance has been submitted and verified. (Proper documentation includes doctor's excuse, official court document, etc.).

### **EXCUSED ABSENCE FORMS**

Commuter and residential students with extended absences (more than 5 days) shall report to the Vice President for Student Affairs (3rd Floor of the JSU Student Center). There are serious consequences for poor class attendance. After being absent three times in a 50-minute class, three hours in a class that meets longer than one hour, or one time immediately before or after scheduled recess/holiday, the instructor shall report the next unexcused absence to the Associate Vice President for Student Success for freshmen and sophomores and to the school/college dean and department chair for juniors and seniors.

The dean/chair or designee will counsel with the student and in concert with the instructor, may require the student to complete complementary course assignments. If a student does not respond well to the counselor with the assignments, the instructor may impose a grade penalty on the student.

Unexcused absences that exceed the equivalency of six 50-minute sessions may lead to an "F" for the course. Students who do not maintain the minimum grade point average required for retention over two semesters are suspended from the University. At the discretion of the school/college dean and with approval of the Division of Student Affairs, there may be additional class attendance policies stipulated in school handbooks and other official school documents.

### **SPECIFICATIONS/PROCEDURES**

Instructors must maintain attendance records and discuss and/or present students with a copy of the class attendance requirements at the beginning of the semester and summer session, preferably on the course syllabus. When, for any reason, students are absent from class, it is their responsibility to present to the instructor as soon as possible (and not later than five days from date of absence) an official **Request for an Excused Absence**.

Faculty/staff who sponsor/coordinate functions for students who will miss class must execute a Student Affairs Leave Form, which must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Additionally, faculty/staff must notify the instructor of such absences prior to the date of absence. When students know in advance that they will be absent from class, instructors should be notified and arrangements made to secure assignments.

*Students who willfully miss class and practice chronic absenteeism are not only subject to academic penalties but may be subject to student conduct sanctions also. Unexcused poor class attendance violates the spirit of the University's Collegiate Code of Conduct and consequently holds these students accountable under the guidelines of non-adherence to the University's Student and Collegiate Codes of Conduct*

## Undergraduate Admissions FAQs

1. What is the address to forward my documents to Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment?

JSU Undergraduate Admissions

P.O. Box 17330

Jackson MS 39217

Email: [futuretigers@jsums.edu](mailto:futuretigers@jsums.edu)

2. How can I check on the status of my admissions hold, and how can it be removed?

To check on the status of your admissions hold, please contact Undergraduate Admissions at 601-979-6361.

3. How do I submit an official transcript from another institution?

The official transcript may be sent electronically via e-Scrip Safe, Clearinghouse or Parchment web accounts. If sending via any other method, please call 601-979-6361 for further instructions.

Hand-delivered (must be in a sealed envelope)

Mailed (must be sent in a school envelope)

Mailing Address:

Jackson State University

Undergraduate Admissions

P.O. Box 17330

Jackson, MS 39217

[www.jsums.edu/admissions](http://www.jsums.edu/admissions)

4. If I have taken foreign language credits in high school, do I still need to take a foreign language at JSU?

To receive the foreign language exemption, you must have earned a C or better in two consecutive years of the same foreign language course. Please email your final transcript to [futuretigers@jsums.edu](mailto:futuretigers@jsums.edu)

5. If my transfer courses aren't keyed in, what do I do?

Check your P.A.W.S. account to see if your classes are keyed in. If they are not keyed, send an email to [futuretigers@jsums.edu](mailto:futuretigers@jsums.edu). Please include your student identification number, date of birth, and the name of the college/institution in the email. Note: The transcript must be official. We only key grades of "C" or higher.

6. I attended Jackson State University, but I withdrew. How do I become a readmit student?

To be readmitted into Jackson State University, submit an online application at [futuretiger.jsums.edu](mailto:futuretiger.jsums.edu). Then submit an official transcript for all colleges or universities you have attended since leaving JSU.

7. Can I take courses at another school to contribute to my degree at Jackson State University?

We key transfer courses from regionally accredited colleges/institutions. Please submit an official transcript from the college/institution you received transfer credits from. You may contact Student Success at [studentsuccess@jsums.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@jsums.edu) to determine whether courses may be used towards your degree completion.

8. How do I obtain a Post-Baccalaureate degree or Second Bachelor's Degree?

To apply for a Post-Baccalaureate/Second Bachelor's degree, submit an online application at [futuretigers@jsums.edu](mailto:futuretigers@jsums.edu). Then request your current college or university send an official transcript showing the date of graduation to Undergraduate Admissions. If you graduated from Jackson State University, you do not need to submit any documents.

9. How do I get college credit for my CLEP (the College Level Examination Program, AP (Advanced Placement), IB (International Baccalaureate) or Cambridge exams?

You may email a copy of your exam scores to [futuretigers@jsums.edu](mailto:futuretigers@jsums.edu). The credits will be added for any courses that you have met the requirements. You may see a list of benchmarks at <https://www.jsums.edu/asmissions/files/225/03/Credit-by-Examination-3.12.25.pdf>

10. When should I submit my final high school transcript?

Please submit your final high school transcript by the last day to add a class during your first semester. Failure to provide the transcript will result in a registration hold on your account until the official final transcript is received. Your high school counselor may email the transcript to [futuretigers@jsums.edu](mailto:futuretigers@jsums.edu) or send it electronically through Parchment, eScrip-Safe, Clearinghouse, or other approved electronic methods.

# ANTI-HAZING POLICY

Jackson State University is dedicated to maintaining an environment that promotes academic excellence and the collective responsibility of its community members towards achieving the mission of the university. Therefore, the university has a **zero-tolerance policy for hazing** to protect the safety and well-being of all students.

## Prevention and Awareness Programs Related to Hazing

### Policy Statement

Jackson State University is firmly committed to the eradication of hazing in all its forms. The University has implemented research-informed, campus-wide prevention programs that engage every member of our community—students, faculty, and staff. These programs foster a culture of inclusion, respect, and accountability, and are integral to maintaining a safe and supportive campus environment.

Hazing is strictly prohibited, and any individual or group found in violation of this policy will face appropriate disciplinary action.

Our approach to hazing prevention is comprehensive and proactive. It includes:

- **Ongoing education** tailored to various stages of group membership—prospective members, new members, and chapter leaders.
- **Policy awareness** to ensure all community members understand the consequences of hazing.
- **Accessible reporting mechanisms** to encourage transparency and early intervention.
- **Outreach to families**, including programming during New Student Orientation and Family Weekend, so they too can support our hazing prevention efforts.

This multi-tiered strategy empowers every individual in the Jackson State community to recognize, prevent, and respond to hazing effectively.

### Hazing Defined

The University defines hazing as any action taken or situation or intimidation created, intentionally whether on- or off-campus, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, ridicule, or the breaking of the school's rules. Activities considered to be hazing include two elements: (1) Coercion, either overt or covert, and (2) Production of physical or mental discomfort, in either the participant(s) or spectators. Such activities suggested or ordered by a group or a member of a group to new or trial members will be considered to carry with them covert coercion, even if the activity is defined as “voluntary.” Paddling in any form, physical and psychological shocks and creating excessive fatigue are always considered hazing. Other activities include but are not limited to the following: quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities; wearing apparel in public which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; late work sessions which interfere with scholastic activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with the regulations of the university.

### Mississippi State Law

**Criminality of Hazing:** As defined by Mississippi, hazing is a crime. Persons involved in hazing may be subject to criminal charges as dictated by state law. (Mississippi Code of 1972, as Amended § 97-3-105.)

1. Senate Bill No. 2165:

An act to prohibit hazing in the course of another person's initiation into any organization; to prescribe criminal penalties therefore; and for related purposes. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi:

§ 97-3-105. Hazing; initiation into organization

(1) A person is guilty of hazing in the first degree when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person and thereby causes such injury.

(2) Any person violating the provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$ 2,000.00) or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six (6) months, or both.

(3) A person is guilty of hazing in the second degree when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person.

(4) Any person violating the provisions of subsection (3) of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$ 1,000.00).

(5) The provisions of this section shall be in addition to other criminal laws, and actions taken pursuant to this section shall not bar prosecutions for other violations of criminal law. Miss. Code § 97-3-105

(6)

## **Prevention and Awareness Programs**

Jackson State University offers a range of prevention and awareness programs designed to eliminate hazing and promote a culture of respect, safety, and accountability across campus.

### **1. Research-Informed Programming**

Our hazing prevention initiatives are rooted in evidence-based strategies that emphasize the psychological, social, and legal consequences of hazing. These programs aim to:

- Provide accurate and up-to-date information about the dangers of hazing.
- Highlight the long-term emotional and physical impact on individuals.
- Address legal implications for individuals and organizations involved in hazing activities.

Programs are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect the latest research in hazing prevention and student development.

## 2. Educational Workshops and Training Sessions

We conduct targeted training and education to raise awareness and equip our community with tools to prevent hazing. These workshops promote a campus culture of inclusion and accountability and are designed to reach various audiences, including students, staff, and faculty.

### Key training sessions include:

- **New Member and Recruitment (Membership Intake Program)**  
Focuses on recognizing and avoiding hazing during recruitment and initiation processes.
- **Chapter and Organization Leadership Training**  
Equips leaders with the knowledge and responsibility to foster safe, respectful environments within their groups.(Greek Bootcamp)
- **Leadership Summit (Presidents):** A leadership-focused training for chapter presidents, emphasizing their role in creating a positive, respectful environment within their organizations.(NPHC Board Member Retreat)
- **Peer-Led Initiatives:** Student organizations and peer leaders will play a key role in preventing hazing. The four governing councils will lead discussions, presentations, and campaigns, empowering students to speak out against hazing and support their peers. These peer leaders will be given the tools and resources they need to create a positive campus culture, where all students feel safe, respected, and valued.
- **Informational sessions** led by university staff to provide guidance on how to talk with students about hazing and reinforce a culture of accountability and respect

## 3.Family Engagement in Hazing Prevention

At Jackson State University, we recognize that families play a critical role in supporting students and shaping their college experience. As part of our comprehensive hazing prevention strategy, we actively engage families in our educational efforts.

During **New Student Orientation**, families will receive:

- **Educational Training** outlining the risks, warning signs, and consequences of hazing.

By involving families from the very beginning, we aim to build a united front against hazing. This partnership ensures families are equipped to have informed, ongoing conversations with their students—before, during, and after their time at the University.

#### **4.Reporting and Educational Resources**

Jackson State University is committed to providing safe, accessible, and confidential resources for reporting hazing. We believe that every member of our campus community should feel empowered and supported when taking a stand against hazing.

##### **Confidential Reporting Resources**

We offer multiple avenues for students, staff, and faculty to report hazing incidents securely and without fear of retaliation

- **Online Reporting Form**  
A secure digital form available on the University's website through Maxient, allowing individuals to submit reports anonymously or with their contact information if follow-up is desired.
- **Dean of Students Office**  
Community members can report hazing in person or via email. Staff in the Dean of Students Office are trained to handle these reports with discretion and urgency.
- **Campus Safety and Security**  
Reports can also be made directly to campus police for incidents involving immediate danger or requiring law enforcement involvement.



### **University Student Conduct Rules**

Jackson State University complies with all local, state, and federal laws and upheld its commitment through the University Student Code of Conduct. Participation in hazing subjects the individual or organization to university disciplinary actions and may be punishable by law. Violations of the University's Anti-Hazing Policy are considered a serious offense. Organizations or individuals found responsible for hazing will be adjudicated through the University Student conduct process. Organizations or individuals that are found responsible for hazing will result in a sanction of expulsion from the university.

Any violation of university policy or state law should be immediately reported to Public Safety (601) 979-2580 and/or the Division of Student Affairs (601) 979-2241.

**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**CAREER SERVICES CENTER**  
**FAQ'S**

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**Q: What is the Career Services Center's role in assisting faculty, staff, and students?**

A: The mission of the Career Services Center is to provide career services in a supportive and proactive manner for Jackson State University students and alumni; including information and counseling on career choices, graduate and professional school opportunities, internship, and full-time employment opportunities.

**Q: What are some of the services provided by the Career Services Center?**

A: The Career Services Center assists individuals with writing resumes and application letters, job search techniques, mock-interviewing, on-campus career fairs throughout the school year, on-campus interviews with employers, professional development seminars, free professional attire, online resources, and career counseling and coaching.

**Q: How can I register with the Career Service Center?**

A: To take full advantage of all of our resources, you must activate your "Handshake" account

**Q: Do I need to come into the Career Services Center (CSC) to activate my account?**

A: No. To activate your Handshake account, please visit [www.jsums.edu/careers](http://www.jsums.edu/careers)

**Q: By registering with the Career Services Center through Handshake, will employers be able to view my online documents?**

A: Yes. Once you upload your document, employers nationwide will have access to your information and know how to navigate it to locate qualified job candidates.

**Q: Does the Career Services Center "place" or "get" students/alumni jobs?**

A: No. The center does not serve as an employment agency. The office helps individuals develop the "tools" (resumes, letters, job searching, interviewing, etc.) and provide the necessary resources so that you can find suitable employment opportunities.

**Q: I am nervous about going on a job interview, can career services help?**

A: Yes. We can conduct an in-person or online mock interview utilizing "Interview Stream". Interview Stream will help you successfully prepare for the interview process. Students should dress professionally, have a resume, and an idea of career opportunities interested in.

**Q: What is the "best" way to secure employment?**

A: Utilize all of your resources. Activate Tigers2Work, sign-up for on-campus interviews, begin networking with professional people, go to campus career fairs, start using the Internet job resources, and initiate contact with employers that you wish to work for.

**Q: When should I start using the Career Services Center?**

A: You should start using the career services center starting your freshman year. By starting early, you will have the opportunity to take full advantage of services for full benefits.

**Q: Is it necessary to have an internship even though my major does not require one?**

A: With a very competitive job market, more employers are "expecting" graduates to have some sort of

experiential learning in their profession completed before graduation. Therefore, while it is not mandatory, internships can increase your chances of securing a job.

**Q: When should I start looking for full-time employment?**

A: The best time would be two semesters before you graduate.

**Q: Can my organization schedule a workshop on the services that Career Services Center provides?**

A: Yes. A staff member can speak to organizations on all areas pertaining to career services. Please go to the "request a presentation" link on our home page. (A two-week notice is required)

**Q: Where is the Career Services Center located?**

A: The Career Services Center is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of Jacob L. Reddix Hall, Suite 110

**Q: How do I contact the Career Services Center?**

A: To contact the Career Services Center, please call 601-979-2477 or visit [www.jsums.edu/careers](http://www.jsums.edu/careers).

### **FRAUDULENT JOB POSTING POLICY**

The JSU Career Services Center makes every effort to screen job postings to ensure the validity of the employer. We strongly encourage you to research the postings thoroughly, before sending companies your personal information. However, if the job posting sounds “too good to be true,” it might be a fraud.

Here are a few indicators that a job opportunity you have received via email may be fraudulent:

- Misspelled words and grammatical errors
- Vague references to “your university Career Center”
- Claims of benefits or pay that seem too good to be true
- Vague job descriptions
- Requests for money
- Suspicious contact information
- Pressure to act fast
- Unprofessional interview process, such as no video or phone interview.
- Email domain (all text after the @) does not return a website or returns a poorly maintained page
- Email domain mimics a well-known company but is off by a few characters
- Requests for the recipient to cash a check and return funds to the sender
- Requests for you to share your personal information (contact info, SSN, DOB, etc.)
- Job offers without an interview

You should never be asked to send money as payment for training, initial investment, supplies or company “placement” expenses, nor should you transfer money from one unknown person to another, even if you are first sent a check. Fraudulent money transfers are a common job scam.

## **Handshake**

If you have questions or suspect a job or employer of unethical or criminal behavior, please report it to us at [tigers2work@jsums.edu](mailto:tigers2work@jsums.edu), call 601.979.2477 or come by our office located in the Reddix Building, Suite 110.

**Disclaimer**

While the JSU Career Services Center reviews each company profile and job posting on Handshake, it makes no endorsements, representations, or guarantees about the positions listed on the website and is not responsible for safety, wages, working conditions, other aspects of employment, or for whether the student/alumnus has the requisite training and work experience to qualify for a position.

It is the responsibility of the student/alumnus to obtain all the necessary information concerning the employer and the position and to take all necessary precautions when interviewing for, or accepting positions with any employer.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**ALICE VARNADO HARDEN**  
**CENTER FOR SERVICE & COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING**  
Jacob L. Reddix Building, Suite 110

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### COMMUNITY SERVICE FAQs

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Coordinator for Community Service (601-979-1294)

**Q: How do I sign up for Community Service?**

**A:** Signing up for community service is not required. Simply select a community partner from the pre-approved list available on TigerPulse. External partners can be found under 'Affiliates,' and on-campus partners are listed under 'Subgroups.' Students can also register for an approved service project directly on TigerPulse.

**Q: What if I want to complete community service at a site not listed on TigerPulse?**

**A:** For agencies not listed on Tiger PULSE, the supervisor or volunteer coordinator must complete the online site agreement application to request partnership approval with the Center for Service. This application, along with all required documentation, must be approved by our office before students can engage in service with the agency. [Click here](#) to access the application.

The site/agency supervisor must provide the following:

- **Completed JSU Site Agreement Form**
- **Completed JSU Request for Services Form**
- **Copy of the 501(c)(3) Form** (IRS Award Letter), confirming non-profit status

Upon receiving the required documents, the Alice Varnado Harden Center for Service & Community Engaged Learning will review the submission. The community agency will be notified via email of its approval or rejection status. The approval process typically takes 7-10 business days. **Incomplete packets will not be accepted.**

**Q: How do I check my Community Service and/or Service-Learning hours?**

**A:** Students can review their community service hours by logging into their **Thee Portal** account and accessing their unofficial transcript. Verified community service and service-learning hours are processed and added to students' transcripts at the end of each semester.

**Q: How do I access community service resources? (*Online Site Agreement Application, TigerPulse Project Approval Form*)**

**A:** All community service resources are available on the **Center for Service** website. [Click here](#) to access the website.

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## SERVICE-LEARNING FAQs

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Coordinator for Service Learning (601-979-1294)

**Q: When is the Deadline to submit Service-Learning Hours?**

**A:** The Deadline to submit Service Learning Hours is sent out at the beginning and end of every Service Window. The notification will be sent to students via email and TigerPulse.

**Note: Ask your Professor about the due date for the course. Due dates for Service Learning hours is determined by the professor.**

**Q: Do I have to complete Service-Learning if I have already met the Graduation Service requirement?**

**A:** Yes, even if you have completed the Graduation Service Requirement, if your professor requires Service-Learning hours for his/her course, you must complete the additional hours.

**Q: If I am enrolled in two (2) different courses at the same time that require Service-Learning hours, can I use the same worked hours twice?**

**A:** No, each course requires a different set of hours.

**Q: Can I get paid while I am earning Service-Learning hours?**

**A:** No, students cannot receive pay while completing service-learning hours.

**Q: Can a Service-Learning site be a for-profit or non-profit site?**

**A:** Yes, Service-Learning hours can be acquired at a for-profit or non-profit site upon prior approval of the site.

**Q: What are the steps to get a new site approved?**

**A:** If you wish to perform your service learning hours at a site not listed on our approved agency list, first discuss the proposed site with your professor. Once the professor has approved the site, the site supervisor must complete the Online Site Agreement application. [Click here](#) to access the application.

**Note: Sites must also be approved by the Center for Service office prior to beginning service. If the site meets all requirements for approval, The Alice Varnado Harden Center for Service & Community Engaged Learning for Service will add the community partner to the approved Agency List.**

**Q: How to log your Service-Learning on TigerPulse?**

**Answer:**

**Step 1:** Start on the homepage of TigerPulse (jsums.givepulse.com)

**Step 2:** "Click" Classes

**Step 3:** Select the desired course

**Step 4:** Add impact within the course

**Q: What will NOT be accepted on for Service Learning?**

**A:** Pictures, letters of any kind; Hours that have not been submitted and verified in TigerPulse at by the Service Window Deadline OR by the professor's set deadline.

**Q: How do I check my Service-Learning hours?**

**A:** Students can review their community service hours by logging into their **Thee Portal** account and accessing their unofficial transcript. Verified community service and service-learning hours are processed and added to students' transcripts at the end of each semester.



## Policy and Procedures

### **Student Organizations Community Service Project Approvals**

Any group or organization wishing to submit community service hours for a service project rendered must have the project pre-approved before receiving community service credit.

**Pre-Approval:** The organization's advisor, or president of the organization, must submit the event proposal through TigerPulse at least two weeks prior to the date of the service project.

### **Once the Project Has Been Approved/Denied:**

Once the project has been approved by the Center for Service Staff, the person submitting the request is notified via email of its approval or denial. The organization advisor must verify the student's hours within three (3) days of the completion of the service project. After hours have been verified by the advisor, a staff member of the Center for Service will verify and approve the hours to be posted on the participant's transcript.

### **Students: Community Service**

All impacts must be submitted and tracked through TigerPulse. Service hours must be submitted on the day that service is rendered. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the community partner verifies the hours within 24-48 hours after the completion of service. Service hours should be entered in increments of 15 minutes (15 minutes, 30 minutes, 45 minutes, 1 hour). All other increments will be disputed. Students may not enter more than 8 hours per impact entry. Students may not enter a date range of service hours. Impacts should be submitted for each day of service. All impacts with a date range will be disputed. Students may not submit a timesheet. All service hours must be logged as individual impact. Students may not submit an event in place of logging an impact or, to have a project approved. All service hours must be logged as individual impact. For project approvals, please visit the AVH Center for Service website. Service Hours submitted must be accrued during the semester of service rendered. Hours that are not submitted during the academic semester of the service rendered **will not be accepted. In keeping with federal regulations, students may not volunteer more than 8 hours per day. Service hours will be disputed if students log more than 8 hours per impact or date of service.**

### **Community partners**

Community partners must verify students' volunteer hours within **24-48 hours** after completion of service. Agencies must submit requests for event approvals 2 weeks before the date of the event. Community partners must keep within the guidelines of the Center for Service. **In keeping with federal regulations, students may not volunteer more than 8 hours per day. Service hours will be disputed if students log more than 8 hours per impact or date of service.** Failure to adhere to policies and procedures will result in partnership removal.



### **Students: Service Learning**

All impacts must be submitted and tracked through TigerPulse. Service hours must be submitted on the day that service is rendered. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the community partner verifies the hours within 24-48 hours after the completion of service. Service hours should be entered in increments of 15 minutes (15 minutes, 30 minutes, 45 minutes, 1 hour). All other increments will be disputed. Students may not enter more than 8 hours per impact entry. Students may not enter a date range of service hours. Impacts should be submitted for each day of service. All impacts with a date range will be disputed. Students may not submit a timesheet. All service hours must be logged as individual impact. Students may not submit an event in place of logging an impact or, to have a project approved. All service hours must be logged as individual impact. For project approvals, please visit the AVH Center for Service website. Service Hours submitted must be accrued during the semester of service rendered. Hours that are not submitted during the academic semester of the service rendered **will not be accepted. In keeping with federal regulations, students may not volunteer more than 8 hours per day.** Service hours will be disputed if students log more than 8 hours per impact or date of service.

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### **Student and JSU Community Account Activation Instructions**

All students, faculty, and staff must activate their account with JSU credentials only.

1. Visit: [jsums.givepulse.com](https://jsums.givepulse.com)
2. Click login (top right corner)
3. Click on Login via JSUMS
4. Enter your Net ID information (ex: **Username:** one\JNumber **password:** your Net ID password)
5. Verify information (If information is incorrect, contact our office)
6. Read and Agree to Terms of Service
7. Click Continue
8. Complete Registration

## SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

*(Mental, medical, hearing, visual, and physical)*

If you are a JSU student and have a documented disability, the Accessible Education & Resource Center (AERC) may be able to assist you with obtaining reasonable accommodation in an inclusive learning community at Jackson State University.

The first step in receiving reasonable accommodation is the establishment of a reasonable accommodation plan with the AERC. The reasonable accommodation plan should be established at the beginning of each semester or academic school year.

### Steps to Establish an Accommodation Plan

#### **Step 1: Complete a registration form.**

To further assist you, please select and complete the appropriate accommodations registration form(s). Completing this information will start the process for receiving services. See **Forms and Additional Information** visit: [jsums.edu/disability](http://jsums.edu/disability)

#### **Step 2: Meet with a member of Accessibility Education & Resource Center (AERC) staff.**

Be prepared to discuss how your disability affects your learning and your ability to participate in JSU programs. Compile a list of your questions and concerns prior to meeting. You may schedule an appointment by contacting us at 601.979.3704 or emailing us at [adaservices@jsums.edu](mailto:adaservices@jsums.edu).

#### **Step 3: Be prepared to provide documentation.**

If you are requesting accommodations, you will be asked to provide documentation of your disability (also referred to as third party documentation) and any additional information to support your request. Third party documentation may consist of an IEP/504 plan, recent diagnostic evaluation, or a letter from a qualified professional that explains more about your disability and how your disability impacts your participation in University programs. If you have third party documentation, you are encouraged to present it for the initial appointment or email it to [adaservices@jsums.edu](mailto:adaservices@jsums.edu). ***A Service and Emotional Support Animal Registration packet MUST be completed prior to bringing any animal on campus. Please be advised, it is your responsibility to self-disclose your disability and to submit all appropriate documentation.***

#### **Step 4: Attend New Student Orientation (NSO). (FOR STUDENTS NEW TO JSU)**

At New Student Orientation (NSO), you'll receive a folder containing information about the Disability Center, explanations of policies and procedures and an Accommodations Memo.

#### **Step 5: Meet with your professors.**

Before classes start set up appointments to meet with your instructors, preferably during their office hours, to talk about your disability and review the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities and your Accommodation Plan. Then develop a plan for the semester. If you've been approved to receive exam accommodations, complete the Test Administration Form so your instructors can complete their section. **A copy of your Certificate of Accommodations will be emailed to your instructor from the Accessibility Education & Resource Center (AERC) upon approval.**

#### **Step 6: Renew your Accommodation Plan every semester. (YEARLY FOR HOUSING & PARKING)**

Once you have received accommodations for your first semester, you can quickly and easily renew

your accommodation plan for all following semesters/years. Each semester/year you will need to renew your accommodations by completing a new accommodations registration form. *Students should meet with all professors and present Accommodation Memos at the beginning of each semester.*

## **Documentation Criteria**

If you are requesting accommodations, you must show documentation of your disability. Documentation usually is a letter from a qualified professional that states you have a disability and explains what accommodations you need to participate in university programs. If you are a student requesting accommodations, it is your responsibility to self-disclose your disability and to submit all appropriate documentation.

### **Documentation should include:**

- Credentials of the evaluator
- A diagnostic statement identifying the disability
- Description of the diagnostic methodology and evaluation methods used (Clinical Narrative)
- Description of the current functional limitations
- Description of the expected progression or stability of the disability
- Description of current and past accommodations, services and/or medications
- Recommendations for accommodations and/or services
- Description of criteria for specific diagnosis
- Evaluation methods
- Procedures/Tests
- Dates of administration
- Observations
- Specific results
- One measure of aptitude (**for a learning disability assessment**)
- Measures of achievement in reading, math and written language (**for a learning disability assessment**)

### **Qualified professionals**

Each qualified professional must have expertise in the areas for which he or she is rendering a diagnosis — including the differential diagnosis of the documented medical, physical or psychological condition — and follow established practices in the field. A qualified professional should be fully licensed and credentialed and have no personal relationship with the individual being evaluated.

### **Qualified professionals include:**

- Physicians
- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists
- Optometrists/vision specialists
- Audiologists
- Neurologists
- Oncologists
- Other specialist trained and certified in their respective fields.

## **Student Self-Advocacy**

Good self-advocacy and personal responsibility skills are vital to help you make the transition to post-secondary education and to have a successful college experience. Jackson State University will make a good-faith effort to provide reasonable accommodations and modification, which may be necessary for you to have equal access to educational opportunities. It is the student's responsibility to use your approved accommodations, access other university support if needed, and to work towards academic success.

- Know your disability and how it impacts your learning. You are the expert on how your disability impacts you and it is important that you are able to articulate that impact.
- Be proactive by requesting accommodations early or 30 days prior to the start of the semester or academic school year. Take action immediately if you start to struggle academically.
- Maintain written records. Keep copies of forms and emails; take notes about your contact with instructors and others. This will help you keep track of your efforts to self-advocate.
- Disclose your disability to individuals, as necessary. You cannot be a successful self-advocate if you fail to disclose your disability and needs to those who may be able to assist you.
- Understand your learning style. Understanding your learning style can help you articulate your academic needs and ask for appropriate assistance.
- Know what you need. Students should be able to articulate clearly, what they need so that if those needs are not met, the student can advocate for more assistance that is appropriate.
- Know your rights and responsibilities. Students should be familiar with their legal rights and responsibilities. Knowing your rights and responsibilities will help you advocate appropriately for the assistance you may need.
- Be willing to compromise. Students should be willing to negotiate and compromise when necessary in order to receive the most appropriate assistance in the class. A willingness to compromise and work with an instructor will help build trust and respect.
- Know where to go for support. Everyone needs support occasionally, even those who can successfully advocate for themselves. Become familiar with the assistance provided by Jackson State University, so you know where to go should you need assistance.

**For assistance with the ADA or Section 504 students should contact and address their information to the following:**

**Office of Accessible Education & Resource Center Address:**

**Jackson State University**

**Accessibility Education & Resource Center**

**P.O. Box 17156, Jackson, MS 39217**

**The Accessibility Education & Resource Center is located in the Student Center on the 2nd floor, Suite 2110, Student Center**

**Phone: (601) 979-3704**

**Email: [adaservices@jsums.edu](mailto:adaservices@jsums.edu)**

**Possible Accessibility Education & Resource Center services offered by Jackson State University:**

<b>Diagnosed Disability</b>	<b>Assistive Devices for Students</b> (Student provided or acquired through campus partner(s))	<b>Accommodations</b> (Provided by JSU AERC)
<b>Hearing Impaired</b>	<b>Assistive devices needed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire alarms with visual and auditory alerting systems.</li> <li>• Assistive listening devices (e.g., FM, infrared, loop systems, and/or closed-captioning decoders).</li> <li>• Captioned video training materials.</li> <li>• Real-time captioning for conferences and audio streaming of web teleconferences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpreters provided with note takers in every class and during university events.</li> </ul>
<b>Visually Impaired</b>	<b>Assistive devices needed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optical character recognition system (also known as a scanner with speech output)</li> <li>• Text-based web browser with screen reading software or Braille output.</li> <li>• Accessible company websites – CCTV (Closed Circuit Television System)</li> <li>• iPad</li> <li>• Braille</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large-print materials</li> <li>• Qualified reader</li> <li>• Computer with voice output</li> <li>• Screen magnification product.</li> <li>• Optical magnifier</li> <li>• Large-print label</li> <li>• Raised lettering on room labels</li> <li>• Note taker</li> </ul>
<b>Mobility Impaired</b> (Multiple Sclerosis [MS], Paraplegia, Quadriplegia, Post-polio, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, Repetitive Stress Injuries, etc.)	<b>Assistive devices needed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trackball for easier mouse manipulation</li> <li>• Touch screens</li> <li>• Ergonomic keyboard</li> <li>• Adjustable keyboard tray</li> <li>• Portable cart</li> <li>• Writing and grip aids</li> <li>• Page turners and book holders</li> <li>• Stand/lean stools</li> <li>• Adjustable height desks and worktables</li> <li>• Speech amplification systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note Taker</li> <li>• 15-minute breaks</li> <li>• An extra 5 minutes for class arrival.</li> <li>• Extended time on tests, assignments, and projects.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Cognitive and Developmental</b>  <b>Disabilities:</b> Autism, PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Intellectually or developmentally delayed. (Mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy, neurological conditions, etc.)</p>	<p><b>Assistive devices needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• iPad</li> <li>• Larger buttons on equipment</li> <li>• Memory aids (electronic notebook, pop-up timer on computer)</li> <li>• Communication device</li> <li>• Voice output with optical character recognition to read documents or use a reading pen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note Taker</li> <li>• 15-minute breaks</li> <li>• An extra 5 minutes for class arrival.</li> <li>• Extended time on tests, assignments, and projects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorders</b>  Psychiatric Disabilities</p>	<p><b>Assistive devices needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• iPad</li> <li>• Reading template</li> <li>• Automatic line guide</li> <li>• Computer with voice output</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15-minute breaks</li> <li>• An extra 5 minutes for class arrival.</li> <li>• Extended time on tests, assignments, and projects.</li> <li>• Tape recorder or iPad</li> <li>• Colored labeling</li> <li>• Note Taker</li> <li>• Room partitions or enclosed office space to reduce noise and distractions for testing.</li> </ul>

## Grievances

A grievance is defined as a claim, by a student, that there has been a violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule, policy, or procedure regarding policies or the laws as it relates to the Americans with Disabilities Act. The grievance procedures outlined in the Student Handbook, may be used by any student to resolve grievances related to disabilities. Jackson State University assures prompt and impartial consideration of any and all grievances under this policy. Students are encouraged to submit any grievances in accordance with the procedures outlined below and the use of this procedure should be utilized without penalty or fear of reprisal. Particular attention must be given to the time period shown for each step of the grievance process.

### Informal Grievance Procedure (Services for Students with Disabilities)

1. A grievance should be filed in writing, containing the name and address of the person filing it, and briefly describe the alleged violation.
2. A grievance should be filed within sixty (60) days of the alleged violation or such time after the complainant becomes aware of the alleged violation.
3. The investigation shall be conducted by the Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Officer or designee. The investigation shall be informal but will afford all interested persons and their representatives an opportunity to submit evidence relevant to the grievance.
4. A written finding of facts and recommendation as to the validity of the grievance and a description of the resolution, if any, shall be issued by the Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Officer or designee and a copy forwarded to the complainant no later than 10 days after its filing.
5. The Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Officer or designee shall maintain the files and records of Jackson State University relating to the complaints filed.

### Formal Grievance Procedure (Services for Students with Disabilities)

1. If the Informal Grievance Process does not provide a mutually satisfactory resolution of the grievance, then at the written request of the student, the Vice President for Student Affairs may refer the matter to an Administrative Committee for a review.
2. The Administrative Committee shall be comprised of three full-time, non-academic employees appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs. The Administrative Committee shall review the grievance and provide

a written recommendation to the Vice President for Student Affairs within five (5) business days after the committee's review of the grievance.

3. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall review the recommendation and provide a final written decision within ten (10) business days to the student who filed the grievance. The decision of the Vice President for Student Affairs shall be final.



Greetings Scholar!

Welcome to Jackson State University's Emotional Support Animal (ESA) application process. We understand the vital role that Emotional Support Animals can play in providing comfort and assistance to individuals with documented emotional or psychological disabilities. Our commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive campus environment aligns with the provisions outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which mandates reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

To ensure the well-being of our students and compliance with ADA regulations, we have established clear guidelines for ESA applications. It is imperative that all applicants adhere to these guidelines to facilitate a smooth and efficient review process.

The following are must-haves for completing an ESA application:

- 1. Documentation from a Licensed Medical Professional:** All documentation supporting the need for an Emotional Support Animal must come from a licensed medical professional. This documentation should clearly outline the necessity of the animal for emotional support purposes. The Accessibility Education & Resource Center reserves the right to request additional documentation if necessary to ensure compliance with ADA guidelines.
- 2. Complete Application:** The application for an Emotional Support Animal must be filled out in its entirety. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Ensure all sections of the application are accurately completed to expedite the review process.
- 3. Picture of the ESA:** Please include a clear picture of the Emotional Support Animal with the application. This helps verify the identity of the animal and aids in processing the application smoothly.
- 4. Disability Diagnosis on Letterhead:** Include a letter from the licensed medical professional diagnosing the disability or condition necessitating the Emotional Support Animal. This letter must be on official letterhead and signed by the licensed professional. Note that nurse practitioners may not be eligible to sign off on these documents.

By adhering to these guidelines and including all necessary documentation, you can ensure your Emotional Support Animal application complies with ADA guidelines and ready for review by the Accessibility Education & Resource Center at Jackson State University.

Our goal is to provide support and accommodations that foster a positive and inclusive campus environment for all students. Thank you for your cooperation in this process.

Sincerely,

The JSU Accessible Education & Resource Center



## **SERVICE AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

This document describes the procedures for the use of service animals by students and employees and emotional support animals (ESA) by students on the Jackson State University campus. Jackson State University (JSU) complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in allowing use of service animals for students, staff and visitors. JSU complies with the Fair Housing Act in allowing students the use of emotional support animals that are approved as an accommodation. Employees may not bring emotional support animals to work without prior approval of JSU Human Resources.

### **DEFINITIONS**

#### *Disability:*

The term "disability" means, with respect to an individual, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual; a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment. (42 U.S.C.A. § 12102).

#### **Major Life Activities include, but are not limited to:**

Caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working. A major life activity also includes the operation of a major bodily function, including but not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.

#### **“Being regarded as having such an impairment”:**

An individual meets the requirement of "being regarded as having such an impairment" if the individual establishes that he or she has been subjected to an action prohibited under this chapter because of an actual or perceived physical or mental impairment whether or not the impairment limits or is perceived to limit a major life activity. Impairments that are transitory and minor do not qualify. A transitory impairment is defined as an impairment with an actual or expected duration of 6 months or less.

#### *Service Animal:*

A service animal as per the ADA is defined as: “Any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the owner's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.”

*Emotional Support Animal:*

The Fair Housing Act defines an emotional support animal as any animal that provides emotional support, well-being, or companionship that alleviates or mitigates symptoms of the disability; the animal is not individually trained. Emotional support animals are not limited to dogs and can be other species of animal. Emotional support animals are not considered service animals. In order to bring an emotional support animal to campus, the Owner must contact the Accessible Education & Resource Center (AERC) no less than 60 days prior to arrival, in order to permit time to gather all necessary documentation. Animals should not be brought to campus prior to approval being granted.

The University will make an individualized assessment of each proposed emotional support animal. Dogs must also be completely trained and housebroken. The use of “puppy pads” will not be permitted. For dogs under 12 months old that are not already living with the student at the time the ESA is requested, DCS will ask for a statement that the puppy is housebroken from the breeder, adoption agency, or person providing the animal to the student. For animals already known to the student, the student can self-attest to the housebroken status of the animal.

*Pet:*

A domesticated animal kept in the home for pleasure and companionship, rather than for the purpose of assisting persons with disabilities. A pet is not considered a Service Animal or Assistance Animal, and, therefore, is not covered by these requirements and related policies. (24 C.F.R. § 5.306(1)) **Residents are not permitted to keep pets on university property or in university housing.**

*Owner:*

A person with a service or emotional support animal.

*Trainer/Trainee:*

A service animal in training, including puppies in training once they are old enough to remain under the control of the trainer. The animal must be accompanied by a person who is training the service animal (the trainer) and the animal must wear a leash, harness, or cape that identifies the animal as a service animal in training. Trainees are not permitted to reside in campus housing. See the Responsibilities/Requirements sections of this document regarding the registration of trainees.

*Resident:*

As referenced in this Policy, refers to the individual who benefits from the Assistance Animal’s use or Service Animal’s training.

## **QUALIFYING TO HAVE A SERVICE OR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL ON CAMPUS**

For an individual to qualify for having a service animal on campus:

- The student must have a disability as defined by the ADA;
- The accompanying animal must be trained to do specific tasks for the qualified individual; and;
- Students must register with the Accessible Education & Resource Center (OAERC) if the service animal will be housed on the campus so that accommodations can be coordinated.
- The student must contact OAERC and the Housing Director to permit time to gather and review all necessary documentation.

*NOTE:* If the definition of a service animal is not met, then the use of the animal as emotional support may be allowed as a reasonable accommodation.

For a student to qualify to have an emotional support animal in his or her living community:

- The student must have a disability as defined by the ADA;
- The student must be registered with the OAERC;
- The student must have an already established relationship with the animal.
- The emotional support animal must be approved through the OAERC as an official accommodation, in conjunction with other offices as needed.
- The owner must notify AERC if the animal is no longer needed or is no longer residing on University property. If the animal will be replaced, the owner must submit a new request for approval.

Students who require the use of a service animal on campus must contact AERC to register as a student with a disability. Information provided to AERC is confidential and specific information about the disability will not be released without the consent of the student.

Pets and any dangerous, poisonous, unregistered, unlicensed, and/or illegal animals are not permitted. Fish in aquariums of 20-gallon capacity or less are allowed in accordance with the Student Handbook.

## **IMPORTANT DEADLINES**

The student should submit the Request for Emotional Support Animal in University Housing form on or before the following dates for the appropriate semester that the student will first move into on-campus- housing. Documentation may be submitted at any time, but after the deadline dates, the University may not be able to consider a student's preference for assignment (such as area or roommate.)

<b>SEMESTER</b>	<b>REGISTRATION BEGINS</b>	<b>DEADLINE DATE</b>
Summer Session	March 15	May 1
Fall Semester	May 15	July 15
Spring Semester	October 15	December 1

To make a reasonable accommodation for the student's needs, there may be certain situations where housing preferences (such as area or roommate requests) cannot be honored. If a student submits documentation after the dates indicated above, the student will be assigned to an appropriate room assignment as quickly as possible, when acceptable space can be determined. If a student is offered a change to the housing environment, an additional cost may be associated with the resulting assignment or requests. Any reasonable accommodation is considered, but the student must support the accommodation request with a documented need linked to his or her disabling condition.

The student will receive notification within 1-2 weeks after documentation is submitted that will include the accommodation letter. The student will be informed if the ESA as an accommodation has been approved, if a change in room assignment is appropriate, any associated room rate charges if applicable, and other associated information.

The reasonable accommodation takes effect once the determination is made, based upon space available. Documentation cannot be submitted for a future semester without having the assignment for the current semester updated – once a determination is made, the student's room assignment will be updated immediately.

The University reserves the right to reassign the student to a space to accommodate the student and the ESA, if there is a potential impact on the student's roommate(s). This move will only accommodate the student, and not the roommates(s).

A student may submit an appeal to the determination within fifteen (15) days of receiving the letter by following the established grievance procedure.

### **REQUIRED FORMS**

Requests for Assistance or Service Animals in JSU's residential facilities are made by completing the following and submitting to the Department of Housing and Residence Life:

1. **Registration:** Complete the Service and Emotional Support Animal Procedure Acknowledgement and Information Form.
2. **Verification of a disability and accommodation request (Assistance Animal only):** Attending healthcare provider for the disability must complete the attached Assistance Animal Disability & Accommodation Verification Form.
3. **Veterinarian Verification Form:** Veterinarian must complete the attached form, which may then be submitted by the resident.
4. **Personal Attendant Agreement Form:** If applicable, personal attendant must complete the form and the resident submit.
5. **Roommate Acknowledgement Form:** This form is to be completed if the roommate is known; otherwise the form will be forwarded to the resident's roommate(s) for completion prior to finalization of assignments.

### **PROCESS**

The student must complete and submit all of the necessary forms listed above to the Accessible Education & Resource Center and the Department of Housing and Residential Life. Upon receipt of all required information, Housing and Residence Life will forward the documentation to the appropriate persons for further review and required approval.

**Assistance Animal Request:** The OAERC will retain the Assistance Animal Disability & Accommodation Verification form in its files. If the request is approved, the Office will sign the Assistance and Service Animal Registration form and forward the remaining original forms to Housing and Residence Life for final approval. If approved, Residence Life will provide copies of the submitted forms to OAERC for its files.

**Service Animal Request:** The OAERC will review the request and return all original forms to Housing and Residence Life for final approval. If approved, Residence Life will provide copies of the submitted forms to the Accessible Education & Resource Center for its files.

The Department of Residence Life will provide a decal for the room/apartment door once an animal has been registered. The Department of Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to relocate any student requesting to have an emotional support animal.

### **FACTORS CONSIDERED TO HAVE A SERVICE OR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL ON CAMPUS**

Housing and Residence Life may consider the following factors, among others, to assist in housing assignments, and as evidence to determine whether the presence of the Assistance Animal is necessary to accommodate the disability of the resident.

1. The size of the animal is too large for available assigned housing space;
2. The animal's presence would evict another individual from individual housing (e.g., serious allergies);
3. The animal's presence otherwise violates another individuals' right to enjoyment;
4. The animal is not housebroken or is unable to live with others in a reasonable manner;
5. The animal's vaccinations are not up-to-date;
6. The animal poses or has posed a direct threat to the resident or other individuals, including but not limited to, aggressive behavior, which may or may not include personal injuries, toward the resident or others;
7. The animal causes or has caused damage to JSU's Residence Life property beyond what is normally considered reasonable wear and tear.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES/REQUIREMENTS**

#### **SERVICE ANIMALS ON CAMPUS**

*Owner:*

- Is responsible to attend to and be in full control of the service animal at all times. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether unless a) the owner is unable to use a harness, leash or tether, or b) using a harness, leash, or tether will interfere with the animal's ability to safely and effectively perform its duties.
- Is responsible for ensuring that the service animal is wearing a leash, harness or cape that identifies the animal as a service animal when on duty anywhere on campus.
- Is responsible for the costs of care necessary for a service animal's well-being. The arrangements and responsibilities with the care of a service animal is the sole responsibility of

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the owner at all times, including regular bathing and grooming, as needed.

- Is responsible for independently removing or arranging for the removal of the service animal's waste. Waste must be disposed in a sealed bag in the designated trash area of the living community.
- Is responsible for complying with local and state licensing laws for animal rights and owner responsibilities. Service animals should be current with immunizations and wear a rabies vaccination tag.
- Is responsible for paying for any damage to University property caused by the animal.
- Animals must leave campus with the student anytime the student leaves overnight and/or during University breaks.
- The University may prohibit the use of service animals in certain locations due to health and safety restrictions or places where the animal might be in danger. Restricted areas may include but are not limited to food preparation areas, research laboratories, boiler rooms, and other areas prohibited by law.

*University Community:*

- Must allow service animals to accompany their owners at all times and everywhere on campus where the general public (if accompanying a visitor) or other students (if accompanying a student) are allowed, except for places where there is a health, environmental, or safety hazard. The appropriate way to ascertain that an animal is a service animal is to ask (only if it is not apparent) if the animal is required because of a disability and what tasks it has been trained to perform. Specific questions about the individual's disability may not be asked.
- Contact the OAERC if any questions or concerns arise relating to service animals.
- Only two questions can be asked about service animals:
  - Is the Service Animal required because of a disability?
  - What work or task is the dog trained to perform?
- Must refrain from the following:
  - Do not ask questions about the disability.
  - Do not pet or feed a service animal.
  - Do not attempt to separate the animal from the owner.
  - Do not startle or tease a service animal.
  - Contact AERC if faculty/staff have any additional questions regarding visitors to campus who have service animals.
  - Charging a fee for the service animal to reside in the residence hall, but may assess usual fees for any damages incurred.
  - Report any service animals who misbehave or any owners (or other individuals) who mistreat their service animals to the Department of Public Safety.

*AERC:*

- Is responsible for developing the necessary procedures for the University and facilitating the use of service animals by students on campus.
- Assists owners and the University community when questions or concerns arise relating to service animals on campus and seeks legal advice when necessary.

*Trainers/Trainees:*

- Animals in training and their trainers are expected to adhere to the responsibilities and requirements of trained service animals and their owners (see above).
- If the trainer is a student, he or she must register the animal with The Accessible Education & Resource Center, showing documentation of licensing and vaccination and providing information about the overseeing training agency, if not pre-approved.
- Trainees are not permitted to reside in campus housing.
- There is no comprehensive list of approved service animal training agencies. Therefore, AERC will determine on a case-by-case basis whether a specific program provides the proper training, supervision and oversight of trainees and their trainers.

**EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS IN UNIVERSITY-OWNED RESIDENCES:**

*Owner:*

- Must attend to and be in full control of, the emotional support animal at all times. The emotional support animal shall have a harness, leash, tether or be transported in an appropriate enclosure whenever it is outside of the assigned room within campus housing where it will be housed.
- In shared living spaces, the emotional support animal should be in an appropriate container if the owner is not in the room with the animal.
- Is responsible for following all rules related to the restrictions of animals from buildings on the campus other than their living community.
- Is responsible for the costs of care necessary for the emotional support animal's wellbeing. The arrangements and responsibilities for the care of an emotional support animal are the sole responsibility of the owner at all times, including regular bathing and grooming, as needed.
- Is responsible for not leaving the emotional support animal unattended for an unreasonable length of time.
- Is responsible for independently removing or arranging for the removal of the emotional support animal's waste. Waste must be disposed in a sealed bag in the designated trash area of the living community.
- If the comfort animal voids on the floor or carpet anywhere inside a living community, the student is responsible to clean up promptly to the best of their own ability, as well as submit a work request through their Hall/Complex Director with Facilities Management for the area to be properly disinfected. The student must pay all costs associated with such clean up. Dogs must be housebroken and accidents should be infrequent.
- Is responsible for complying with local and state licensing laws for animal rights and owner responsibilities. Emotional support animals should be current with immunizations and wear a rabies vaccination tag if appropriate. We highly recommend keeping this documentation on file with the AERC Office.
- Animals must leave campus with the student if student leaves overnight and during all University breaks if the student leaves campus. (See below ESA Addendum)
- Is responsible for paying for any damage to University property or pest treatment caused by the animal.
- Must abide by all applicable residential policies, including room inspections.
- Is responsible for notifying AERC and the Department of Housing if the emotional support animal is no longer needed.

#### *University Community:*

- Must allow emotional support animals to reside with their owners in their living community room or suite once they are approved as a disability-related accommodation.
- Contact OAERC if any questions or concerns arise relating to emotional support animals, including any additional questions regarding visitors to campus who have emotional support animals.
- Report any emotional support animals who misbehave or any owners (or other individuals) who mistreat their emotional support animals to the Department of Public Safety and AERC.
- Refrain from charging a fee for the emotional support animal to reside in the living communities, but may assess usual fees for any damages incurred.

#### *AERC:*

- Is responsible for developing the necessary procedures for the University and facilitating the use of emotional support animals by students on campus.
- Will contact potential roommates and suitemates to determine if other students have any concerns about potentially living with an animal.
- Assists owners and the university community when questions or concerns arise relating to emotional support animals on campus and seeks legal advice when necessary.
- If other residents raise concerns about the animal and attempts at mediation are unsuccessful, the owner of the ESA will be provided with an alternate living space on campus and expected to move within a reasonable period of time.

### **ANIMAL CLEANLINESS**

1. Residents are responsible for properly containing and disposing of the animal's solid waste (e.g. feces).
  - a. Indoor animal waste, and/or used litter, must be disposed of in an outside trash dumpster. The litter must be changed weekly with pet waste separated from the litter twice each week or more frequently to avoid odors. Litter boxes must be placed on mats to minimize contamination of carpeted surfaces.
  - b. Outdoor animal solid waste must be immediately retrieved by the Handler, placed in a plastic bag and securely tied before being disposed of in an outside trash dumpster.
  - c. A designated pet walk area may be provided in certain residential areas.
  - d. In the event that the resident is not physically able to clean up after the animal, it is then the responsibility of the resident to hire someone capable of cleaning up after the animal. The person cleaning up after the animal should abide by the following guidelines:
    - i. Always carry equipment sufficient to clean up the animal's feces when the animal is on campus
    - ii. Properly dispose of waste and/or litter in appropriate containers, (e.g., an outside trash dumpster).
2. Residents are responsible for providing appropriate cleaning supplies, all basic necessities for the Animal, including food, water, medicines, and all other supplies necessary to ensure its health and safety within the confines of their bedroom/apartment if living alone.
3. An animal's food should be kept in a closed container within the resident's bedroom, or apartment if living alone.



4. If the animal vomits, urinates, leaves solid waste, and/or becomes incontinent, it is the responsibility of the resident to clean and sanitize the contaminated area immediately. If the contamination occurs indoors, clean-up must include disinfectant of the area and carpet or floor treatment to minimize damage to the facility. All matter must be disposed of in an outside trash dumpster. resident must submit a work order request for cleaning to his or her Residence Hall Director. The resident is responsible for all fees associated with having the space cleaned and sanitized.
5. Regular cleaning to avoid significant odors and/or to manage shedding is expected. Handlers may use showers/tubs within the University residential community if they live in a space with a private bath to bathe or clean their Assistance/Service Animal, otherwise an off-campus service must be used.
6. Residents are responsible for taking effective precautions to avoid flea and tick infestations. If the animal is found to have fleas or ticks, the resident will be responsible for eliminating the fur coat infestation and laundering all pet bedding. Residence Life may monitor and inspect for possible infestations. If fleas, ticks or other pests are detected on the animal and/or within the residence it will be treated using approved methods by a university-approved pest control service. The resident will be billed, as are all students, for the expense of any required pest management due to the animal's presence.

### **IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS**

A service or emotional support animal can be asked to leave or not allowed participation on campus if:

- The animal is found by the University to be out of control or disruptive and the animal's owner does not take immediate and effective action to control it.
- The animal is not housebroken or kept in a cage where waste can be managed effectively.
- The animal is found to be neglected or mistreated and prompt corrective action is not taken.
- The animal is physically ill.
- The animal is unreasonably dirty.
- A service animal attempts to enter a place on campus where the presence of a service animal causes danger to the safety of the owner or other students/member of the campus community.
- A service animal attempts to enter any place on campus where a service animal's safety is compromised.

### **The process for handling disruptions to the community is as follows:**

A student will receive a written warning if a complaint(s) is received regarding the animal. Following the first warning, the student will have the opportunity to rectify the situation and correct the behavior. If a second complaint is received, AERC will conduct a further assessment of the situation and the extent of impact to the community. At this point, it is possible that the student with the animal will be asked to switch rooms if there is availability on campus. Following a third complaint or incident, the animal will need to be removed from campus. The student will be required to identify a person who could come to campus to remove the animal if needed within a reasonable amount of time. This person must be identified during the approval process. The individualized assessment of each incident may lead to escalation of this process, up to and including removal of an animal from campus after a first complaint, depending on the severity of any incident involving any service or support animal.

Reminder: Emotional support animals are not allowed anywhere on campus, outside of the living community, where animals are not normally allowed. An ESA may be removed from campus if it is found in any other building on campus, other than the student's living community.

All animal owners must abide by applicable local ordinances. Most state laws require that all dogs over the age of four months be vaccinated against rabies, and be licensed through the local city and town. There are also vaccination requirements for cats and possibly other emotional support animals. Please check Mississippi's State rules and regulations.

Any service or emotional support animals who misbehave or any owners (or others) who mistreat their service or emotional support animals should be reported to the Department of Public Safety.

### Restricted Areas

The University may prohibit the use of a Service Animals in certain locations due to health or safety restrictions. Restricted areas may include but are not limited to food preparation areas, research laboratories or classrooms that contain research animals, areas that require protective clothing, and other areas as required by state or local laws. Exceptions to these restrictions may be requested and will be considered on a case by case basis.

### ***Approved Emotional Support Animals are permitted only in the living communities.***

#### Etiquette around service animals and their owners:

- Do NOT pet, touch or otherwise distract a service animal when it is working. Doing so may interfere with its ability to perform its duties.
- Do NOT feed a service animal. Their work depends on a regular and consistent feeding regimen that the owner is responsible to maintain.
- Do NOT attempt to separate the owner from the service animal.
- Do NOT harass or deliberately startle a service animal.
- Avoid initiating conversations about the student's disability. Some people do not wish to discuss their disability.

#### Significant allergies to animal dander and other concerns.

- Concerns of this nature will be addressed on a case by case basis. The AERC will work in conjunction with The Department of Housing and Residence Life to alert potential roommates of the fact that a service or comfort animal will be present in an effort to address concerns including those related to allergies and objections or fears related to certain types of animals as early as possible in the housing assignment process. Issues or concerns that may arise during the academic year should be reported as quickly as possible.
- Owners who have concerns about any matter affecting their use of a service or emotional support animal should contact AERC.

### Special Situations or Exceptions

Students and employees should contact AERC to discuss any special situations regarding service animals or emotional support animals that are not covered by this policy, as well as any exceptions to this policy that might be requested by a student or employee. All exceptions must be approved in writing by AERC.

## **Service and Emotional Support Animal Agreement Addendum**

**Date: June 1, 2023**

This addendum adds the following paragraphs to the Service and Emotional Support Animal Agreement between owner/resident and Jackson State University.

**A. Purpose of the Addendum:** The Service and Emotional Support Animal Agreement is being amended to include the provisions of this addendum because of previous instances of ESA abandonment and damages occurring from ESAs not satisfied by owners.

**B. Conflict with Other Provisions of the Service and Emotional Support Animal Agreement:** In case of any conflict between the provisions of this Addendum and other sections of the Service and Emotional Support Animal Agreement, the provisions of this Addendum shall prevail.

**C. Terms of Addendum:**

1. Effective August 2023, all students seeking approval for an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) on campus must obtain a renter's insurance policy with a coverage minimum of \$150,000. This requirement is necessary to protect you and the university from liability in the event of property damage or personal injury caused by your ESA.
2. All ESA registration packets must be fully completed and be accompanied by a diagnosis of disability on letterhead, signed by a licensed healthcare professional. The veterinarian information of the animal must also be attached to the documentation.
3. Your renter's policy should be obtained from a personal insurance provider of your choosing. Please understand that your renter's insurance policy must be valid for the entire academic year. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the revocation of your ESA approval until the insurance can be put in place.
4. In the event the owner/resident is removed from campus for any reason (transported to ER, arrested, quarantined off campus, etc.), the ESA will not be allowed to remain on campus until they return. If no local off-campus contact is available for retrieval of the ESA, the animal will be turned over to a shelter. It will then be the responsibility of the student to regain possession of the animal. The university assumes no liability for the handling of the ESA during such occurrence.

*Please ensure all the necessary steps have been followed and you have provided all the required documentation for your application to be considered for approval. Submission of required documentation does not guarantee approval. Therefore, no animals should be brought to campus prior to receiving approval.*

## **THE DIVISION OF ATHLETICS INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS**

### **Athletic Department Value, Mission, Vision, and Strategic Goals**

The Jackson State University Division of Intercollegiate Athletics recognizes a commitment to serve both its student-athletes and the University. Its primary commitment is to provide an opportunity for student-athletes to fully develop their academic and athletic potential. Through practice, training and competition, the department strives to instill in each student-athlete:

- Good sportsmanship and personal integrity;
- Loyalty to the group and the ability to function with others as a team;
- Appreciation for the benefits of hard work, motivation and perseverance in both winning and losing situations; and
- Pride in accomplishments gained through fair and honest means.

A strong athletic program does much to generate pride and enthusiasm in students, alumni, the University as a whole, and the community, which the University serves. The public relations, goodwill and service provided by a strong athletic program benefit Jackson State University in ways which cannot be measured in strictly economic terms.

Through its athletics program, the University's accomplishments and academic goals are made known to the public. Based upon this philosophy and with on-going support from the President and the University, the following values, mission statement, vision statement and strategic goals have been established.

### **VALUES**

- **Integrity:**  
JSU Division of Athletics will exhibit integrity everywhere we go and in everything we do.
- **Excellence:**  
JSU Division of Athletics will demonstrate excellence in everything we do.
- **Loyalty:**  
JSU Division of Athletics will demonstrate loyalty to our University, our state, our teams, and fans.

In order to understand where we are and where we want to be, it is vital to define those qualities that we hold sacrosanct. In understanding those values, the goals and path to achieve those goals will be clearly set out before us. Every decision of the department will reflect these defined values. For questions or inquiries, please contact the Division of Athletics at (601) 979- 2360.

## MISSION STATEMENT

**In supporting and promoting Jackson State University’s mission, JSU Athletics retains the trust and respect of alumni, fans and the State of Mississippi by graduating student-athletes, striving for excellence and competing with integrity.**

Jackson State University is a member of the Southwestern Athletic Conference and affiliated with Division I of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The mission of the Division of Athletics at Jackson State University is to conduct an athletics program that promotes and protects the comprehensive educational welfare of student-athletes, while fostering athletic competitiveness, promoting leadership development, community involvement, and campus integration through idea generation, innovative use of technology, knowledge acquisition and provision of fair and equitable opportunity for all.

Building on the rich heritage and tradition of championship and greatness, the Division of Athletics will serve as a model program, both academically and competitively, for Division I athletics by developing a national reputation of excellence and the ability to attract and retain quality staff and student-athletes.

## VISION STATEMENT

**To be a model program excelling in academics and athletics.**

Our expectation as a department is to reach the highest level of success in all NCAA measures within each sport program. Striving to win the Southwestern Athletic Conference Commissioners Cup recognizing the overall positive production of our total program reflects upon the quality of athletes, coaching and resources provided.

As stated previously in the mission statement, success for our Department means excellence both on the athletic field and in the classroom. Therefore, JSU’s vision is to be among the top institutions in athletics achievement as well as in NCAA academic measures such as student-athlete graduation rates, the Academic Progress Rate (APR) and the Graduation Success Rate (GSR).

## NCAA AND CONFERENCE AFFILIATION

Jackson State University Division of Athletics is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) with Division I programs in 18 sports. As an active member of the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC), JSU’s sports sponsorship log consists of the following sports:

### Women’s Sports

Basketball  
Bowling  
Cross Country  
Golf  
Indoor Track and Field  
Outdoor Track and Field  
Soccer  
Softball  
Tennis  
Volleyball

### Men’s Sports

Baseball  
Basketball  
Cross Country  
Golf  
Football  
Indoor Track and Field  
Outdoor Track and Field  
Tennis

### Co-Ed

Cheerleading

## **Fentanyl Education**

Colleges and universities across the nation are seeing an increase in fentanyl usage. We want to make sure that as students you are equipped with information that assists you in making healthy choices and good decisions. Please review the information below.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is 80 to 100 times stronger than morphine, says the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Originally made for pain management, particularly in cancer patients, its powerful properties can be diverted to abuse. The effects of this drug include an intense, short-term high accompanied by relaxation, euphoria and pain relief. But, when used improperly, can cause sedation, confusion, nausea, vomiting, fainting, seizures and even death.

These overdoses are in part driven by the sudden rise in fentanyl sales. According to data from the CDC, fentanyl takes up about 60% of overdose deaths. The reason this percentage remains so high is because of its involvement in “street drugs.” Many individuals who participate in drugs recreationally are typically unaware of the potentially dangerous substances in what they would consider a “safe” drug. *While fentanyl is usually mixed with heroin to increase its effects, cases of fentanyl being found in marijuana have been reported, according to the Mississippi Department of Health. In 2020, opioid-related overdoses resulted in nearly 324 deaths, 113 of which were fentanyl-related. Of these 113 fentanyl-related deaths, 79 were prescription-related, and 45 involved heroin.*

**Source for the following information - Rutgers University (2022)**

### **Why is fentanyl dangerous?**

Fentanyl is a very potent opioid that people can easily overdose on because the tiny amounts needed to have an effect complicates accurate dosing. However, fentanyl is not inherently more dangerous than any other opioid if the correct dose is used. Illegally manufactured fentanyl is not regulated and quality control of these non-commercial—or street-bought—products is poor. While prescription opioids and heroin deaths have not fallen much over the past few years, fentanyl deaths have skyrocketed.

In many areas, fentanyl has nearly completely replaced heroin and is present in many counterfeit prescription opioid and benzodiazepine pills bought on the street. Methamphetamine and cocaine may also contain undeclared fentanyl.

Because it is so potent—meaning a small amount has a large clinical effect—it is easy to take an overdose. In its pure form, well less than a pinhead of fentanyl, even properly administered, can potentially have a fatal outcome.

Adulteration of cannabis with fentanyl has been suggested, but there have been no laboratory-confirmed cases of intentionally fentanyl-laced cannabis, and due to the demographics and expectations of those who use cannabis, this is unlikely to become a prominent concern.

### **What are some myths about fentanyl?**

Some people have reported adverse experiences following an indirect exposure, but this is not due to fentanyl toxicity. Proximity to fentanyl is not an exposure or overdose risk despite what is highlighted in the media. Fentanyl is not volatile, so you cannot breathe in vapors, and one needs to actually inhale the powdered product.

In the forms available on the street, fentanyl cannot be absorbed through the skin in any meaningful time frame. Even with pharmaceutical formulations specifically created for transdermal administration, it still takes nearly a day to reach therapeutic blood levels.

News headlines about an amount of fentanyl recovered in some large drug busts as enough to “kill everyone” living within a certain geographic area are sensationalistic and not factual. Although the math may work, distribution of the drug to an entire city is not practical or possible.

### **How can fentanyl deaths be averted?**

Patients with fentanyl overdose are generally readily reversed by naloxone, which is also known by the brand name Narcan. It is exceptionally rare that higher naloxone doses are required to counteract the direct effect of the fentanyl on the body. However, sometimes patients do not awaken quickly due to the presence of other drugs or medical complications. The most concerning medical complication, short of death, is brain injury due to lack of oxygen. In the absence of naloxone, rescue breathing to provide oxygen to the brain, if appropriate, can help to bide time until help arrives.

No street drug is completely safe, and in some states, people can protect themselves by testing their own substances with fentanyl test strips and adapting their use habits if fentanyl is present. However, given the nearly ubiquitous presence of fentanyl in heroin in many parts of the country, the value of this test is marginal. Testing prescription opioid or stimulants may be reasonable, but it is not clear that users change their use patterns—for example have naloxone available or use less of the drug.

### **How do you recognize the signs of an opioid overdose?**

Opioid overdose can be difficult to recognize without circumstantial evidence of drug use, such as drug product or paraphernalia. Patients are sedate or comatose and may respond poorly to external stimulation. Breathing rate is slow and becomes concerning when below six breaths per minute when counted. Breathing depth also falls, but is harder to assess without medical training. The general safety of naloxone administration should be prompt administration in situations where one is unsure of the diagnosis, and EMS should be contacted (**Rutgers University, 2022**).

### **Fentanyl Can be Hidden in Drugs**

Illegal drugs are more potent and potentially lethal than ever before as many can be mixed or laced with illicitly made fentanyl without a person’s knowledge. Fentanyl, an extremely powerful synthetic opioid that is up to 100 times stronger than morphine, and other synthetic opioids contribute to most opioid-involved overdose deaths. Illicitly made fentanyl is increasingly found in counterfeit prescription medications, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and other illicit drugs. It is nearly impossible to tell if drugs have been laced with fentanyl without the use of [fentanyl test strips](#) because it cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted.

## HEALTH SERVICES

The purpose of the Health Center is to provide professional medical services (physician, nurse practitioner, and nursing) for students experiencing physical illnesses, acute injuries, emotional distress, or chronic disabilities. The purpose is also to promote a healthier and safer campus community by conducting routine screenings for communicable infections and sponsoring health promotional activities.

### LOCATION, HOURS and PHONE NUMBER

The Health Center is located on Prentiss Street across from the Lee E. Williams Athletic & Assembly Center. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The telephone number is 601-979-2260.

The email address is [healthservices@jsums.edu](mailto:healthservices@jsums.edu). Detailed information can be found on the web page at [www.jsums.edu/healthservices](http://www.jsums.edu/healthservices).

### COST

There is no cost for a student to consult with a member of the Health Center staff. However, a nominal charge will be assessed for certain services such as complete examinations, contraceptive services, office procedures, wound dressings, laboratory test and prescription medications dispensed by the physician staff. Any charges will be assessed to the student's bursar account or claimed on the student's personal health insurance plan if applicable.

Employees must be members of the Health Center Plan to utilize the center's services unless seen for conditions related to Workman Compensation. The cost of other services may be billed to the employee's health insurance plan.

### APPOINTMENTS

No appointments are necessary to see a physician, nurse practitioner or nurse. However, students may call the clinic for a telephone screening before coming to ensure appropriate resources are available on arrival. The student may then be instructed to come in at an appointed time. A face covering may be required while inside the clinic.

**NOTE: Students in distress may come to the clinic at any time without an appointment or should call campus police if they feel they have a medical or mental health emergency.**

### PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED PATIENTS

The Health Center is required to accommodate the needs of physically challenged or disabled students. The center's staff encourages all employees and students to develop awareness and sensitivity to the needs of persons living with disabilities.

Physically challenged or disabled students are identified as soon as possible after admission and referred to ADA services so that reasonable accommodations can be made to meet their individual needs.

### SERVICES

Some of the services offered at the Health Center include, but are not limited to:

- Diagnosis and treatment of common medical illnesses
- Diagnosis and treatment of common injuries
- Pre-participation physicals for athletes, ROTC and other programs
- Evaluations and monitoring of chronic medical conditions
- Diagnosis and treatment of common sexually acquired infections
- Free family planning services and contraceptive counseling



- Free STI testing and prevention counseling
- Free HIV testing
- Free pregnancy testing
- Screening for hypertension, diabetes, and other common conditions
- Laboratory services
- Nutritional counseling

In addition to the above services, the clinic now offers rapid PCR and antigen testing for the Covid-19 virus at no cost to students or staff.

## **X-RAY AND LABORATORY SERVICES**

**X-rays:** Students requiring diagnostic X-rays are referred to one of the local hospital outpatient departments or to a private urgent care clinic.

**Laboratory Services:** The clinic staff can perform most basic laboratory tests in the Health Center's lab. For other tests that cannot be performed in the clinic, Jackson State has partnered with Quest Diagnostic Laboratories and the Mississippi State Department of Health Lab to perform diagnostic tests. A small fee is added to the student's fee schedule or billed to the student's insurance for lab tests analyzed inside the clinic. Laboratory tests and X-rays performed outside the clinic are billed directly to the student or to their insurance.

## **PRESCRIPTION SERVICES**

The Health Center has a limited number of prescription medications available in the clinic. These medications are only available to those students seen by the Health Center clinicians and dispensed directly to students by the physician staff. There is a small charge for these medications. However, most cold preparations and analgesics are free.

For medications not available at the Health Center, the medical provider will send a prescription electronically to a nearby pharmacy chosen by the student. Several major pharmacies are located close to the Jackson State University campus.

If the student is traveling, a prescription can be sent to any pharmacy in the United States near the student's home, even if it is located in another state.

## **MEDICAL EXCUSES**

Students at Jackson State University are expected to give their academic obligations first consideration. Regular and punctual attendance is required of all students in all classes and activities scheduled for credit. However, if absence cannot be avoided because of a medical issue, the following policy is observed.

- Any student seen at the Health Center for a condition that requires a medical release from class will be given an excused absence from class for the time required only.
- Any student treated by their private physician or practitioner must get an excuse from that medical facility. The Health Center will not give an excuse to students that are not evaluated by our staff.
- Late-to-class excuses will be given if a student has time to attend class after being seen. Retroactive excuses (for days prior to being evaluated by the staff) are not ordinarily granted and if necessary, may be obtained through the Division of Student Affairs' office.

## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

Any student who is ill or injured with a condition that requires specialized transportation will be transported by ambulance or paramedics. The Department of Public Safety is to be notified of any student deemed to have an emergent condition and the department will call 911, or the Health Center staff can make the call.

Any student with a non-emergent illness or injury whose condition is highly unlikely to deteriorate before receiving medical help will be responsible for arranging their own transportation to medical facilities outside the campus.

EXAMPLES OF CONDITIONS IN THIS CATEGORY WOULD BE:

1. Normal off-campus physician appointments
2. Appointments to a specialist or physical therapy
3. Lacerations that are not bleeding profusely
4. Student that a physician has agreed to work into his/her private practice that day.

**HEALTH CENTER PERSONNEL AND OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE UNIVERSITY ARE PROHIBITED FROM PERSONALLY TRANSPORTING SERIOUSLY ILL OR INJURED STUDENTS.**

### **Immunization Requirements**

Students attending classes on any Jackson State University campuses are required to submit proof of having received two immunization shots for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR). A copy of a shot record documenting these required immunizations is to be submitted to the Student Health Center in one of the following ways:

**Email:** [healthservices@jsums.edu](mailto:healthservices@jsums.edu)

**Fax:** 601-979-9228

Other shots that are recommended but not required are those for meningitis, Covid19, tetanus, and Hepatitis B.

### **INSURANCE**

Insurance is not required to be evaluated or treated at the Student Health Center but may defray the cost of certain medical services provided on and off campus. For example, if a student becomes ill or sustains an injury that requires referral to a specialist or hospital, the substantial costs associated with such illnesses or injuries will be the student's responsibility. Therefore, it is highly advised that all students have personal health insurance. It has been shown that students without insurance are more likely to delay necessary treatment or drop out of school due to medical issues resulting from delayed or incompletely treated medical conditions.

**Special insurance option available for purchase:** The Board for the State of Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning has collaborated with an outside insurance company to offer an optional insurance plan to purchase for any fulltime student enrolled at Jackson State University. Call the Health Center for information (601-979-2260) or refer to the Health Center's web page [www.jsums.edu/healthservices](http://www.jsums.edu/healthservices)

## HIV/AIDS POLICY

Jackson State University strives to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS by providing educational information to students and staff regarding the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the virus. These efforts seek to minimize staff and students' exposure while protecting the privacy of persons living with the virus and related conditions. Therefore, the University implements the following policy:

### Prevention, detection, and counseling

1. HIV/AIDS educational information and programs shall be available to all students.
2. Reasonably affordable or free testing for the presence of HIV and other blood-borne and sexually transmitted infections is available at the Health Center and other campus locations at all times and during health promotional events sponsored by community organizations. All test results are strictly confidential and individuals who test positive are promptly referred for appropriate treatment and follow-up.
3. Persons living with HIV and experiencing psychological stress shall be encouraged to visit the Latasha Norman Counseling Center. These sessions are strictly confidential.

### Privacy and non-discrimination-policy

1. Students shall not be required to provide information regarding their HIV status as a prerequisite to participation in any academic or extracurricular program. However, a student may voluntarily disclose their status to appropriate medical staff to understand that such disclosure is strictly confidential, except as required by law.
2. No person, group, agency, insurer, employer, or institution shall be provided any medical information regarding a student's HIV status without the prior specific written consent of the student, except as required by law.
3. Students' access to public facilities shall not be unreasonably restricted based on the student's HIV/AIDS status, including but not limited to residential communities, apartments, student unions, theaters, cafeterias, restaurants, snack areas, bathrooms, gymnasiums, swimming pools, recreational facilities or other locations.
4. Sick leave, leave of absence, disability, or any other type of leave shall apply to those with HIV/AIDS using the same criteria as any other student with a disability or illness.
5. HIV testing and counseling shall be voluntary and shall not become mandatory. All individuals requesting testing or counseling shall receive such and refer to other health care providers when appropriate.
6. Harassment of a student based on the student's HIV status by fellow students, administrators, faculty, or staff is prohibited. Such conduct may result in disciplinary action against the alleged harasser.
7. The participation in intramural or varsity sports by a student with HIV/AIDS shall be decided on a case-by-case basis based on risk assessment by competent medical professionals.

For questions or inquiries, please contact Health Services at (601) 979-2260.

## Auxiliary Enterprises Student Handbook Inserts

### Auxiliary Enterprises

Auxiliary Enterprises is dedicated to providing the highest quality products and services to the Jackson State University community. Our mission is to align with the goals of the University in providing goods and services to ensure a comprehensive campus community experience for students, faculty, and staff to maximize their success. We work diligently to support the University's mission as we provide the campus and extended communities innovative services through strategic business partnerships that continuously improve the value and enhance the overall campus experience.

Auxiliary Enterprises/Contractual Services oversees over 300+ approved licenses through the Trademark Licensing program; 150+ Supercard merchants, and manages on-campus partnerships such as JSU Campus Store (Follett), Beverage and Vending Services, Dining Services (SodexoMagic), Nail Studio, Barbershop, and ATM's.

### MEAL PLANS

All students residing on campus in university-controlled Housing must have a meal plan. The default plan, **7-Day All Access with \$300 Tiger Bucks**, is assigned to all residential students. This default plan is mandatory for Freshmen residential students. Upperclassmen (sophomores & up having passed 30 credit hours) and Graduate Students can change their meal plans to one of the two (2) other meal options by visiting Auxiliary Enterprises located on the 3rd floor of J.L. Reddix Hall. **Students have the first two weeks of each semester to change their meal plans.**

Student understands that by agreeing to these terms and conditions he/she will automatically be enrolled in the University meal plan program, which is required for all students who reside on campus. Students understand that the meal membership does not cover or apply during fall, winter, or spring break. Summer meal plans are optional, and students must contact Auxiliary Enterprises at 601-979-1325 or [meals@jsums.edu](mailto:meals@jsums.edu) to register.

Meal plans guarantee a student access to the Residential Dining Hall. Meal plan charges are not based on usage.

Residential Meal plans are prorated for residential students moving off campus according to the date the student moves into the campus residential facility and move-out date, with fees based on the schedule below.

Meal plan refunds due to withdrawal from the University (dropping to zero class hours) are based on the date of withdrawal on record in the Registrar's Office and the move-out date in Housing. Approved refunds are processed with any applicable percentage fee deducted, and the remaining balance is credited to the Bursar account and refunded by the Bursar's Office after any Bursar account balances are satisfied. Refunds usually take at least 10-14 days to process.

Participants may not withdraw cash from their meal plan or any ID accounts. Meal Plan Tigerbucks are non-refundable and must be used during the semester they are allotted.

**Meal plan refunds are calculated (computed from the first day of class) using the following schedule:**

First five days of class:	90%
Between 6 and 10 days of class:	70%
Between 11 and 15 days of class:	50%
Between 16 and 20 days of class:	30%
After 20 days of class:	0%

**Dining Dollars**

Dining Dollars are funds students add to their account and can only be used at the University's on-campus dining services.

Students without a balance due to the University can add dining dollars to their accounts to be paid prior to the end of the semester. Students with an overage of financial aid or scholarship awards after their University balance has been satisfied may request to add additional Dining Dollars to be used at any JSU Dining location – Tiger Mart, We Proudly Serve-Starbucks®, Legacy Food Court (Chick-fil-A®, Bistro 1877, and other retail locations ), and the Heritage Dining Hall. **A minimum of \$25 and a limit of \$500 per semester may be requested.**

All requests are subject to approval. Students with balances **over \$200** after all aid and awards have been disbursed cannot add additional fees. Please contact financial aid at [finaid@jsums.edu](mailto:finaid@jsums.edu) with any questions or concerns regarding financial aid and scholarship awards.

Information regarding meal plans can be found on the Dining Services webpage <https://jsums.sodexomyway.com/en-us/> or by contacting Auxiliary Enterprises at **601-979-1325** or via email at [meals@jsums.edu](mailto:meals@jsums.edu).

**JSU™ POSTAL**

The post office box rental fee (\$38.00) is assessed to all students living in university-controlled Housing. Fees are assessed on an academic year basis and are calculated on the time remaining in the academic year. The fee covers box rental for the remainder of the academic year, provided the student remains enrolled.

Only residential students are assigned mailboxes with JSU Postal Services. All student mail and packages must be addressed to their JSU Mailbox. No packages can be directly mailed or sent to the Residence Halls.

For more information regarding JSU Postal Services, please visit <https://www.jsums.edu/postalservices/> or via email at [postal@jsums.edu](mailto:postal@jsums.edu).

## Smart Lockers

The new contactless smart parcel lockers are self-service pick-up and are monitored 24/7. Residential students receive automated alerts of incoming packages to retrieve from the lockers at their convenience.

Postal Services staff deliver packages to a smart locker, automatically triggering a notification and a barcode to the residential student's email.

At the locker, the student scans the access barcode and verifies their identification. The appropriate parcel locker door opens, allowing the student access to claim items. This service is included for residential residents.

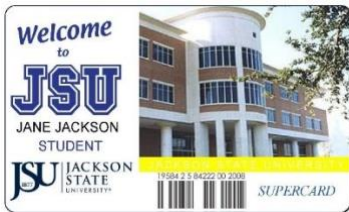
Students have 5 days to claim their items from the locker once delivered. On the 3rd day, a pick-up notification is issued to the student as a reminder that they have a package in the locker. After the 5th day, the item will be removed from the smart locker by (Postal)staff, and the student will then have to come to the office window and show their student ID to pick up their package.

## Third-Party Deliveries

JSU™ Postal Services can't accept food or grocery third-party deliveries. If students have a delivery to campus from any food or grocery third-party service, the delivery should be coordinated directly with the delivery service. Using your campus mailing address is prohibited, as we cannot accept it at our postal facilities.

If **Amazon** or another company (UPS, DHL, or FedEx) notifies you that your package has been delivered, please wait for the Package Notification email from the JSU™ Postal Services, as your package may not have arrived on campus yet.

## SUPERCARD



The JSU™ Supercard is a multi-purpose card. Its primary function is to serve as an identification card for all students, faculty, and staff, and it must be worn and visible at all times. The JSU™ Supercard also provides access to numerous venues throughout and off campus.

Students with an overage of financial aid or scholarship awards after their University balance has been satisfied may request to add funds to their Supercard during registration. The maximum amount of financial aid to be used and added to your card is **\$1,000**.

Students can add funds to their Supercard by following the steps below:

- Log in to your THEE Portal Account
- Click on the *Student P.A.W. S* Icon
- In the upper left corner, click on the Ellucian Menu (four (4) squares)
- Click on Banner
- Click on Student and Financial Aid
- *Click on Registration*
- Click on the *current semester Registration Service (Exp. Spring 2025 Registration Services)*
- *Log into PAWS*
- Click on the *Student tab and then Registration*
- Click on the *current Registration Service (Exp. Spring 2025 Registration Services)*
- Click on *Add Charges*
- See *Current Account Balance in Green and previous balance owed in Red*
- Add the desired amount (Remember the max is \$1000, and once it's on the Supercard, it cannot be reversed)

- Click on *Continue and confirm*

Funds will be applied to your JSU Supercard™ account within 30 minutes, registration must be completed.

## Trademark Licensing

Auxiliary Enterprises is committed to safeguarding the integrity and proper use of the Jackson State University® trademarks through the four (4) P's.

**Protection:** The trademark licensing program serves to protect the reputation of the University by ensuring that only approved representations of the University marks appear before the public and that goods bearing these marks are of approved quality.

**Promote:** Trademark-licensed products bearing logos and graphics that suggest quality and excellence play a significant role in recruiting students and faculty, garnering alumni support, and establishing a distinction among schools.

**Profit:** Royalties generated help offset the costs of the licensing program and provide an added source of revenue to support other programs and operations.

**Preserve:** Secure by registering the marks and maintaining ownership to uphold the history and heritage of the marks, logos, wordmarks, etc.

Items found in violation of the JSU Trademark Licensing Policy may be confiscated. Willful violations of this policy may result in formal disciplinary action.

Any individual, business, or organization seeking to reproduce the Jackson State University® trademarks for merchandise or commercial use must become an officially licensed vendor. Only recognized student organizations are permitted to use JSU™ trademarks in association with their group name.

For more information, please visit <https://www.jsu.edu/auxiliary/get-licensed-trademark-management-licensing/> or [clc.com](http://clc.com).

## Policies & Procedures

### Event Planning for Student Organizations

#### Vending Approval Process

- a. **Approval Request:** Student organizations must submit a request using the University Event Management System (EMS) to gain approval for vending activities on campus. This request should be submitted before the planned vending date (typically at least 2–4 weeks before the event).
- b. **Approval from Student Life/Student Affairs:** The Office of Student Life/Student Affairs is the primary point of contact for student organizations wishing to host vending events. The organization must describe the type of products they plan to sell, the location of the vending activity, and the timeframe.
- c. **Event Coordination:** If the vending is part of a larger event, the student organization must also work with the **Event Management Team** to ensure all logistics (e.g., space reservations, setup, and resources) are coordinated.

#### Food Sales and Distribution

##### Health and Safety Requirements

- a. **Food Sales:** A student organization must comply with local health regulations if it plans to sell food or beverages. This means they must have food handling permits, adhere to sanitation guidelines, and ensure proper food safety measures are in place. The organization or vendor must also provide documentation for any food safety certifications (such as from the **Mississippi State Department of Health**).
- b. **Students may not vend home-baked goods** unless provided by an approved vendor, and all food handling procedures are followed.
- c. **Non-Food Sales:** For non-food products (e.g., t-shirts, books, or other merchandise), the student organization must ensure that all items being sold are in line with the University Trademark Licensing policies and standards. Certain types of merchandise (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, or other prohibited items) are prohibited.

Please visit <https://www.jsums.edu/auxiliary/vendor-approval-form1/> for the Third-Party Vendor Form.



**Main Office Location:**  
Campbell College North  
1400 John R. Lynch Street  
Jackson, MS 39217-0280

**Phone:** (601) 979-2326

**Email:** [housing@jsums.edu](mailto:housing@jsums.edu)

**Office Hours:** Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

## Residential Communities & Contact Information

**Alexander Center (East & West)**

**Email:** [alexandercenter@jsums.edu](mailto:alexandercenter@jsums.edu)

**Campbell College North (Male Residence)**

**Email:** [campbell.north@jsums.edu](mailto:campbell.north@jsums.edu)

**Campbell College South (Female Residence)**

**Email:** [campbell.south@jsums.edu](mailto:campbell.south@jsums.edu)

**Dixon Hall (Male Residence)**

**Email:** [dixonhall@jsums.edu](mailto:dixonhall@jsums.edu)

**One University Place (Co-ed Apartments)**

**Email:** [oneuniversity@jsums.edu](mailto:oneuniversity@jsums.edu)

**Stewart Hall (Male Residence)**

**Email:** [stewart@jsums.edu](mailto:stewart@jsums.edu)

**Transitional Hall (Female Residence)**

**Email:** [transitional@jsums.edu](mailto:transitional@jsums.edu)

**Walthall Lofts (Co-ed Apartments)**

**Email:** [wclofts@jsums.edu](mailto:wclofts@jsums.edu)

To request housing, students must complete a housing intent form and sign electronically via the Student Housing Portal. Those under 18 must also have a parent or guardian sign via email. Students must be registered full-time and complete financial registration and immunization records sent to the University by June 1 or the next business day (or before the Spring semester) or risk losing their housing assignment. JSU may update these terms at any time, with changes posted online. All official housing communication will be sent to the student's JSU email, and students are responsible for checking it regularly. This Agreement grants a license to occupy University housing—it does not create a lease or landlord-tenant relationship. Room assignments are not guaranteed, and housing can be revoked under the terms of the Agreement. Students are expected to read and fully understand the Housing & Residence Life Residential Code of Conduct and the JSU Student Handbook.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for on-campus housing, students must be at least 16 years old by the first day of occupancy, admitted to the University, and remain enrolled full-time (12 credit hours for undergraduates, 9 for graduates unless otherwise authorized). They must be up to date on immunizations, current on all fees, and in good behavioral standing with the University and Housing & Residence Life (HRL). Returning residents must meet specific credit hour requirements for certain residence halls. Registered sex offenders are ineligible and must vacate housing immediately if found in violation. Students suspended or expelled for academic or disciplinary reasons lose housing eligibility. Renewal of housing is not guaranteed, even if eligibility is maintained.

**Period of Residence:** Housing is based on the University's academic calendar and covers both Fall and Spring semesters, with fees aligned accordingly. Residence halls remain open during Thanksgiving and Spring Break. Although Spring semester terms apply specifically to that term, housing agreements are binding for the full academic year. Once a student signs for and receives a room key, they are considered a residential student and will be charged for the entire academic year or the length of their agreement.

**Addendum:** Residents at the Walthall are required to follow the official academic calendar for their period of residence. Check-in takes place at the beginning of each semester, and residents must check out by the final day of the semester. Extended stay during the winter break is only permitted for residents who have fulfilled all financial obligations to the institution.

**Winter Break:** All residence halls close for Winter Break, and residents must move out by the date and time listed in the academic calendar. While students cannot

stay during the break, they may leave their belongings in their specified (assigned) quarters if they are in good financial standing with the University.

**Addendum:** Residents of the Walthall may only remain during the winter break if they have fully met all financial obligations to the institution.

**Summer Housing:** To be eligible for summer housing, residents must be actively enrolled in a minimum of three (3) credit hours during each summer session for which housing is requested. Enrollment must be verified and maintained throughout the resident's stay. Housing is only provided for the duration of the student's active enrollment, and residents are permitted to reside in their assigned space solely during the session(s) in which they are registered. Once a student's summer courses conclude, they are required to vacate their housing assignment within the designated checkout period provided by the Housing Office. Failure to maintain enrollment or to vacate the space at the end of the enrolled term may result in administrative actions, which may include termination of housing, financial penalties, or holds on the student's University records.

**Summer Housing Cancellation:** Residents who cancel their summer housing after the halls have opened will be charged the full cost of the assignment. All cancellation requests must be submitted in writing with proper supporting documentation to be processed.

**Fees and Payments:** Residents must pay for on-campus housing according to the University's official payment schedule. First-time students should regularly check their Future Tiger portal for fee updates. Housing processing fees do not carry over between semesters—returning students must pay a **non-refundable \$75 housing processing fee** during room selection. Students are

responsible for checking their accounts and making timely payments. Any additional HRL charges, like damages or lost keys, will be added to the student's account. If a student withdraws and qualifies for a housing refund, part of that refund may be withheld and returned to the federal agency if financial aid was used.

**Assignment Policy:** This housing agreement provides space within University-owned residence halls but does not guarantee a specific room or building. It is non-transferable—subletting, renting, or allowing anyone other than your assigned roommate to live in the space is not allowed. Violations may lead to fines, termination of the agreement, or other disciplinary actions. Room assignments are made without unlawful discrimination, and HRL may change assignments as needed, especially in cases of roommate conflicts. Residents in suite-style halls are responsible for keeping all areas clean, including bathrooms, bedrooms, kitchenettes, and living rooms. Failure to do so may result in fines for everyone in the suite. All residents must complete a roommate agreement within the first two weeks of each semester to promote clear communication. HRL staff are available to support a respectful and cooperative living environment.

**Single Room Request Policy:** Residents can request a single room, but it must be approved and is based on availability. If approved, the student will be charged the current single room rate and must pay the additional fee upfront.

**Room Change Request Policy:** Residents who want to move to a different room or hall must submit a Room/Hall Transfer form and get written approval from Housing and Residence Life (HRL). Moves depend on space availability, and students will be prorated for time spent in both rooms. Room change requests are accepted after the enrollment census date and include a \$75 fee. To move at the start of spring semester, requests must be made before fall ends.

Unauthorized moves or not following check-in/check-out procedures may result in extra charges. HRL may also reassign rooms for reasons like safety, repairs, discipline, or serious roommate conflicts. Race, color, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or national/ethnic origin will not be the basis for any room changes. **The Department of Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to make administrative changes to room assignments based on the needs of the University.**

**Consolidation:** After the room change period, residents who are still alone in a double occupancy room may need to find a new roommate, move to another room, or keep the room as a private space for an extra fee. If HRL does not get a response to the consolidation notice, they may assign a new roommate or relocate the student. HRL makes the final decision on all moves during this process.

Room and building assignments can be changed by the University at any time, with notice. HRL may also consolidate empty spaces after registration, which could require moving to another floor. **Not following consolidation or cleanliness requests may lead to fines or disciplinary action.**

**Room Reassignment and Relocation Policy:** HRL may reassign a resident to another room or housing unit if needed to maintain a safe, respectful, and orderly living environment. This includes situations where a resident's behavior causes complaints, creates safety concerns, or violates University policies. In serious cases, a resident may be required to leave their housing assignment immediately.

In the event of a roommate conflict, residents are expected to first review their roommate agreement with the assistance of housing staff. If the issue continues, staff will facilitate a mediation. If the conflict cannot be resolved and space is available, a room change may be considered based on the circumstances. HRL is committed to promoting a positive and comfortable living experience for all residents.

Behavior-related concerns may also be referred to the University's conduct process. Based on the outcome, HRL may require the student to move to a different housing assignment.

In some cases, HRL may place residents in temporary housing due to behavioral concerns or other housing needs. These placements are not permanent and may change with little notice. Once a permanent room is assigned, residents must check in, collect their new keys, and return any keys for the temporary space. All residents are expected to follow move-in and move-out instructions promptly. Failure to comply with relocation timelines or directives may result in losing the housing assignment.

### **Roommate Selection:**

Students have the opportunity to select a desired roommate through the online housing application. In the event roommates are unable to select the same room, a request to be paired with his/her preferred roommate may be submitted to [housing@jsums.edu](mailto:housing@jsums.edu). Every effort is made to pair students with compatible roommates, roommate assignment preference or compatibility is not

guaranteed. JSU will make all reasonable efforts to give preference to a student's request to be housed with a specific roommate, however the University reserves the right to assign student housing as it deems necessary and cannot guarantee that a student request will be granted.

**Roommate Assignments:** Roommates are assigned based on the resident's legal gender in University records. Those needing special housing accommodations for medical or other reasons must submit a request to the office of Accessible Education and Resource Center.

**Special Accommodations & Exemptions:** Residents with disabilities or medical conditions needing housing accommodations should submit their requests to the Office of Accessible Education and Resource Center by July 1.

**Gender-Specific Housing Facilities:** Residence halls and floors are assigned as male or female based on legal gender. Community bathrooms, showers, and other shared facilities are also gender-designated and should be used accordingly.

**Room Accommodations:** The University can assign either single or double occupancy based on current needs, and residents will be charged accordingly. Room furnishings provided include a bed with a mattress, a study area with a chair, and closet space.

**Improper Room Use and Unauthorized Stays:** Residents are not allowed to stay in University housing without prior approval. This includes moving in early, staying past the move-out date, or living in an unassigned space. If a resident occupies a space without permission, a nightly unauthorized occupancy fee may be charged until the space is vacated.

Room changes must be approved in writing by Housing and Residence Life. Moving to another room without approval may result in being moved back, denied future room changes, facing disciplinary action, or having the housing agreement canceled. If a resident takes up more space than assigned, additional fees and cleaning charges may apply.

In shared rooms, vacancies may be filled at any time without notice. Residents must keep vacant spaces clear of personal items and be prepared to welcome a new roommate.

#### **Cancellation by Resident:**

- **Fall Cancellations:**

- *First-time, transfers, readmitted, graduate students* who wish to cancel their housing assignment for the Fall semester may do so without incurring any cancellation fee if the request is made before June 1. However cancellation made after June 1, but prior to the designated move in date will incur a \$350 cancellation fee.
- *Returning students* who wish to cancel their housing assignment, before move in, for the Fall semester may do so and will incur a \$350 cancellation fee. After move-in, students will be responsible for the full housing charges (Fall and Spring), and no prorated adjustments will be made.

- **Spring Cancellations:**

- *First-time, transfers, readmitted, and graduate students* who wish to cancel their housing for the Spring semester must submit their cancellation request by the end of the Fall semester, in accordance with the academic calendar. A \$350 cancellation fee will apply to these students.

- **Summer Cancellations:** For students wishing to cancel their summer housing assignment, a \$350 fee will apply if the cancellation is made before the residence hall opens. If the cancellation request is made on or after the date the residence hall opens, the student will be responsible for the full summer housing charges.

- **No Show Policy:** If a student fails to occupy their assigned housing and does not notify the department in writing before the contract start date, or 48 hours after the move-out date, they will be removed from their assignment and held liable for a \$350 cancellation fee.

- **Extenuating Circumstances:** Students must provide appropriate documentation when requesting a cancellation due to special circumstances. Simply submitting documentation does not guarantee approval. Valid reasons for cancellation include withdrawal from the University, graduation, leave of absence (academic or medical), marriage (with certificate), call to active military duty, birth of a child, study abroad, University internship, death of the student, or long-term hospitalization.

Students are required to return all keys, fobs, and surrender their ID, as well as complete a release form with housing staff to properly close their housing assignment. Each cancellation request will be reviewed, and the student will be notified of the

decision. Cancellations are not automatically approved.

**Cancellation by HRL:** Jackson State University HRL has the right to cancel a student's housing assignment and associated occupancy rights for various reasons. These include:

- **Operational Needs:** The University may cancel a housing assignment if necessary for housing operations, including health concerns like preventing the spread of infectious diseases or following public health guidelines.
- **Failure to Claim Room/No-Show:** Students must claim their room within 48 hours of their assigned move-in date. If not, the room will be canceled and reassigned.
- **Failure to Complete Registration:** If a student doesn't complete registration by the University's deadline, their housing assignment will be canceled, and they will incur cancellation fees.
- **Policy Violations:** If a student violates University policies, is convicted of a felony, or threatens the health and safety of the community, they may be removed without a refund, and they will remain responsible for any and all charges.
- **Sex Offender Status:** Convicted sex offenders are not allowed in University housing. If removed for this reason, the student must vacate immediately, and no refund will be provided. The student will remain liable for all charges.
- **Disciplinary Removal:** Students removed due to disciplinary actions must leave their housing within 48 hours (depending on the offense, move out could be immediately). They will not receive a refund and will remain responsible for all housing fees.
- **Destruction or Unavailability of Space:** If the assigned housing is destroyed or unavailable, the housing agreement will end, and the University may prorate housing payments.

In all cases, the University may adjust timelines or procedures based on the situation. To ensure campus health and safety, failure to follow these terms may result in penalties.

**Approved HRL Cancellations:** The following are approved reasons for housing cancellations, along with the required documentation:

- **Graduation:** Students graduating in December can cancel the Spring portion of their housing contract without a fee.
  - Documentation: Graduation approval email and inclusion on the approved student list.
- **Birth of a Child:** The custodial parent of a dependent child may cancel their housing.
  - Documentation: A copy of the child's birth certificate.
- **Marriage:** Students who are legally married can cancel housing.
  - Documentation: A copy of the filed marriage license.
- **Military Commitment:** If called to active duty, the student may cancel their housing.
  - Documentation: Military paperwork showing the active-duty start date.
- **Death of Resident:** In the event of a student's death, the housing contract will be canceled.
  - Documentation: Death certificate or official notice from a hospital, coroner, or government agency, plus a formal notice from a family member or guardian.
- **Long-Term Hospitalization:** If hospitalized for an extended period (over 30 days), the student may cancel their housing.
  - Documentation: A letter from a doctor or healthcare provider with details of the condition and expected duration, or hospital discharge plan.
- **Student Teaching, Study Abroad, or Internship:** If the activity is outside commuting distance from campus, the student may cancel housing.
  - Documentation: Documentation of the activity's location, acceptance letter for study abroad, or internship confirmation.

**Enrollment Census Drop & Housing Termination:** Students must maintain a full time enrollment status and good financial standing to stay in University housing. If a student is removed for non-payment or failure to meet enrollment status, their housing agreement will be immediately terminated. They will receive notice and must vacate their residence within 48 hours. Students must remove their belongings, clean their space, and complete the checkout process. To avoid extra fees, they must return room keys and complete the Hall Release process, including returning their student ID. Failure to comply may result in additional charges, such as housing fees, cleaning fees, and lock change fees.

**Reinstatement & Housing Availability:** Reinstated residents are not guaranteed their previous housing assignment. Housing availability may change, and they must contact Housing and Residence Life to reapply. To stay in campus housing for the Fall,

students must have a \$0 balance and be in good financial standing. Students with an unpaid balance must vacate their room and remove all belongings until the balance is paid. Failure to comply may result in extra fees. Once the balance is cleared, students can request housing, but their previous room or a specific placement is not guaranteed. Room assignments depend on availability.

**Failure to Move Out:** Residents must vacate their space, remove all belongings, and complete the check-out process by the deadline. Students should monitor their accounts and resolve any unpaid balances to avoid housing issues. If a resident doesn't vacate on time, they will be charged \$50 per hour until the room is cleared. Unauthorized residents found in a closed facility may face legal or University penalties.

**Micro-fridge:** The University does not provide refrigerators or microwaves in residence hall rooms, except for residents in the Walthall Lofts and Campbell College Suites, where full-size refrigerators are provided. The max size for micro-fridges is 3.7 cubic feet.

**Postal Services:** All students living in University housing are charged a post office box rental fee, which is based on the academic year and prorated for the remaining time. The fee covers rental for the rest of the year, as long as the student remains enrolled.

The fee is non-refundable, and boxes are for personal use only, not for business purposes.

Only residential students receive mailboxes with JSU Postal Services. All student mail and packages must be sent to their JSU Mailbox, not directly to residence halls. For more information, visit [JSU Postal Services](#).

### **Laundry Facilities Guidelines**

Laundry facilities are available in all residential communities and are provided for the exclusive use of residents. Washers and dryers may be operated using the student's JSU ID card, if applicable. Residents must follow all posted instructions for machine use to ensure proper function and equipment longevity. All students are expected to contribute to maintaining a clean, safe, and sanitary environment within laundry rooms.

#### **General Use and Access:**

Laundry rooms are generally open **24 hours a day during the academic year**. Service hours are posted within each facility and are subject to change. The Department of Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to restrict access or close laundry facilities at any time for maintenance, emergencies, or disciplinary concerns.

Residents are responsible for their personal belongings at all times. **Housing & Residence Life is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items** left unattended in the laundry facilities.

#### **Rules for Safe and Clean Laundry Facility Use:**

To promote a respectful and functional shared space, residents must adhere to the following rules:

1. Do not sit on or slam the doors of washers or dryers.
2. Do not overload machines.
3. Do not leave laundry or personal items unattended.
4. Hair combing or braiding is not permitted in the laundry room.
5. Do not rearrange or remove furniture from the facility.
6. Vandalism or misuse of equipment is strictly prohibited and may result in fines and/or disciplinary action.

#### **Abandoned Laundry:**

Unattended items will be held for **48 hours**. Residents will be notified via the building group messaging system. Items not claimed within the holding period will be **discarded**.

#### **Helpful Hints for Proper Laundry Use:**

- Clean washer and dryer surfaces and vents before and after each use.
- Clean lint traps after every load.
- Separate white and colored clothing to prevent dye transfer.
- Use the provided trash receptacles for any waste.
- Report malfunctioning equipment promptly to the front desk.

**Important Notice:**

The Department of Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to adjust laundry room access and hours due to maintenance needs, campus-wide crises, or incidents of vandalism and misuse.

**Smart Lockers:** The new contactless smart parcel lockers are available 24/7 for self-service pick-up. Residential students receive alerts when packages arrive, and can pick them up at their convenience.

Postal Services deliver packages to the locker, triggering an automated notification and barcode to the student's email. To retrieve their package, students scan the barcode, verify their ID, and the locker door opens.

Students have five (5) days to claim their package. On the 3rd day, they will get a reminder. After five (5) days, Postal Services will remove the item, and the student must pick it up at the office window with their student ID. This service is included for residential students.

**Third-Party Deliveries:** If you receive a delivery notification from Amazon or another carrier (UPS, DHL, or FedEx), please wait for the Package Notification email from JSU Postal Services, as your package may not have arrived on campus yet.

JSU Postal Services cannot accept third-party food or grocery deliveries. If you're expecting a delivery from a food or grocery service, you must arrange it directly with the delivery company. Using your campus mailing address for such deliveries is prohibited, as we cannot accept them at our postal facilities.

**Meal Plans:** All students living on campus in University-controlled housing must have a meal plan. The default plan, 7-Day All Access with \$300 Tiger Bucks, is assigned to all residential students and is mandatory for Freshmen. Upperclassmen (sophomores and up) and Graduate Students can switch to one of two other meal options by visiting Auxiliary Enterprises on the 3rd floor of J.L. Reddix Hall. Changes can be made within the first two weeks of each semester.

By agreeing to these terms, students are automatically enrolled in the meal plan program, which is required for all on-campus residents. The meal plan does not apply during fall, winter, or spring breaks.

Meal plans guarantee access to the Residential Dining Hall and are not based on usage. If a student moves off campus, the meal plan is prorated based on the move-in and move-out dates.

Meal plan refunds are given for withdrawals from the University based on the withdrawal date and move-out date. Refunds are processed by the Bursar's Office, typically taking 10-14 days, and are credited after any account balances are paid. Cash withdrawals from meal plans or ID accounts are not allowed.

Refunds are based on the following schedule:

- First 5 days of class: 90%
- 6 to 10 days: 70%
- 11 to 15 days: 50%
- 16 to 20 days: 30%
- After 20 days: 0%

**Addendum:** Residents of Walthall Lofts have the option to opt out of a meal plan.

**Parking:** All students, faculty, and staff who drive on University property must register their vehicle with the JSU Department of Public Safety and display a valid registration decal. To get a decal, you must provide proof of insurance, a housing agreement (for residential students), vehicle details (tag number, make, model, color, and county), and contact information (including cell phone number, if available). Residential students must buy a parking decal to park on campus.

It's recommended to remove valuables from vehicles and not walk alone. Designated parking areas are available for both commuter and residential students. Residents cannot park in loading zones, reserved parking spots, or parking spots designated for individuals with a disability, but can park in lots near the residence halls or any non-reserved lot with a valid residential decal.

**ID Card:** Your Jackson State University ID Card is your official photo ID and required for access to the residence halls, ensuring campus security. If your ID is lost, stolen, or damaged, report it immediately to the ID Center. A non-refundable replacement fee will apply. For help, contact JSU Public Safety at (601) 979-2580.

Residents must swipe their ID at designated access points to enter the building or floor. You also need your ID to enter the residence halls, whether you're returning to your room or visiting another resident during visitation hours. If you do not have your ID, you will not be allowed in without verification. Access will only be granted once the correct ID is shown.

For security purposes, students who fail to show their ID will be fined. Always carry your ID to avoid any inconvenience or assessment of extra charges.

**Safety and Equipment Policies:** Air conditioning and heating must be used according to Residential Life guidelines to maintain cleanliness. HRL can inspect and remove any equipment that is unsafe or does not follow the rules, including unauthorized appliances, portable air conditioners, and portable washer/dryers.

**Residence Hall Lobbies:** Residence hall lobbies serve as entry points and shared spaces for residents and their approved guests. All students must carry their JSU ID at all times and be prepared to show it upon request by Housing staff or campus security. Guests must also carry valid identification and follow all guest registration procedures. For the safety and well-being of the community, the Department of Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to limit access to or temporarily close lobby areas due to safety concerns, maintenance needs, behavioral incidents, or other administrative reasons.

**Security of Personal Property:** The security of personal belongings is the sole responsibility of each resident. Students are strongly encouraged to keep their room doors locked at all times—even when stepping out briefly—and to avoid leaving valuables unattended in common areas. All personal items should be clearly labeled with the student's name and contact information. Residents are also encouraged to maintain renter's insurance for added protection. The University is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of personal possessions, regardless of where or how the loss occurs within the residence halls.

**Security Doors:** Security doors are a key part of the residence hall safety system and must remain closed and secured at all times. Residents are not permitted to prop open doors, allow unauthorized individuals to enter, or tamper with locking mechanisms. These actions not only pose serious safety risks but may also result in disciplinary sanctions. Residents who observe damaged doors or suspicious activity near entry points should report it immediately to Housing staff or University Police.

**Medical Condition Needs:** Students with medical conditions that may require specific housing accommodations—such as room modifications, proximity to elevators, access to medical equipment, or emergency response protocols—should notify the Department of Housing and Residence Life as early as possible. Requests must be supported by documentation and coordinated with the Office of Disability Resources to ensure appropriate and timely support. Proactive communication allows staff to address medical needs while maintaining the safety and accessibility of the residential environment for all students.

The Jackson State University Health Center is operated for the benefit of the student body. The Health Center provides outpatient treatment for most common illnesses and injuries under the supervision of its physicians and nurse practitioners. The Health Center is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday-Friday to evaluate common medical complaints, supply basic medications and to refer students to other facilities for services not available on campus. It is expected that all illness and injuries be reported to the Health Center. In case of serious illness or injury, the staff on duty will refer the student to the appropriate person and/or place for treatment.

**Furniture:** Each assigned room comes furnished with one (1) bed per resident, closet space, drawer space, one (1) desk, one (1) chair, and window blinds. All University-provided furniture must remain in the assigned room and may not be removed, relocated to another room, or moved into or out of public or common areas.

Unauthorized movement, removal, or storage of furniture may result in conduct action and/or financial charges for damage, loss, or replacement. Residents are responsible for the proper use and condition of all furniture assigned to their room, and may be held financially responsible for any missing, damaged, or altered items at check-out.

Exceptions to this policy may be granted only in cases of approved disability accommodations or necessary maintenance, and must be



coordinated in advance with University Housing staff.

**Construction and Renovation Disruptions:** Residents should be aware that construction or renovation projects may take place near the residence halls during the academic year, causing, noise, dust, and possible utility shutdowns, moves, or access restrictions. While the University will try to minimize disruptions, these activities may still affect daily life. By agreeing to this contract, residents accept the possibility of these inconveniences.

**Cleaning Services:** Custodial staff cleans the common areas of the residence hall, such as lounges, hallways, and community bathrooms/showers, but residents are responsible for cleaning their own bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, and living areas in suites and apartments.

**Official Check Out:** For check-out, residents must follow all procedures, including signing check-out forms, removing personal items, cleaning the room, defrosting the fridge, and returning keys or fobs. A check-out inspection must be scheduled, or the express check-out option can be used. Failure to follow procedures may lead to assessment of additional fees. By choosing express check-out, residents waive the right to appeal damage charges.

**Student Property Removal & Abandonment Policy:** Student property may be removed from residence halls under certain conditions, following proper notification and University procedures. HRL is not responsible for personal belongings left behind. Residents should monitor their accounts and meet housing deadlines to avoid issues with their housing status.

**Conditions for Property Removal:** Property may be removed for the following reasons:

- Failure to follow check-out procedures (leaving items behind without proper check-out)
- Financial or disciplinary reasons
- Unpaid balances causing contract termination
- Health and safety risks
- Emergency situations requiring immediate room clearance
- Failure to vacate by the move-out deadline
- Items left in common areas (e.g., laundry rooms, lounges) will be discarded immediately. Residents who do not vacate by

the move-out deadline will be charged \$50 per hour.

**Check-Out & Move-Out Requirements:** Residents must vacate by their last exam, the official closing date, or upon suspension. Suspended students must vacate within 24 hours (in-state) or 48 hours (out-of-state). During check-out, students must return keys/fobs, surrender their ID, and complete a hall release form with Housing staff. The time frame is subject to change based on offense or University obligations.

Failure to follow check-out procedures may result in removal fees and property being considered abandoned.

**Notification & Claiming Process:** Before any personal property left behind by students is removed or disposed of, an official notification will be sent to the student's JSU-issued email address regarding the status of their belongings. Students will have fourteen (14) calendar days from the date of the notification to claim their property, unless otherwise specified in the communication. If the student fails to respond or retrieve their items within the designated time, the property will be deemed abandoned and handled in accordance with Abandoned Property Policy.

To retrieve personal belongings, students must schedule an appointment in writing using their JSU email account and must present either a valid JSU Student ID or a government-issued photo ID at the time of pick-up. Walk-ins will not be accommodated, and all appointments must be confirmed in advance.

If a student is unable to retrieve their items in person and wishes to authorize someone else to do so, a formal written request must be submitted at least five (5) calendar days before the intended pick-up date, and no later than the fourteenth (14th) day following the date of the official notification. This request must be sent from the student's JSU email to [housing@jsu.edu](mailto:housing@jsu.edu) and copied to the Executive Director of Housing & Residence Life. The email must include the student's full name, J-number, and a brief explanation for the third-party pick-up. Additionally, the student must provide the full legal name, contact phone number, relationship to the student, and a photocopy of a government-issued ID for the authorized person. The email must also include the proposed date and time of retrieval, which will be subject to approval. The individual collecting the items must present the same valid ID submitted in

advance at the time of pick-up. Failure to present the correct ID will result in denial of access.

Current JSU housing residents are not permitted to retrieve property on behalf of other students to ensure safety, prevent unauthorized access, and avoid potential disputes regarding ownership. In exceptional cases, such as hospitalization, incarceration, or other serious circumstances, the student or their emergency contact must notify the Housing and Residence Life (HRL) office to coordinate alternative arrangements for property retrieval.

All communications related to property claims, retrievals, and authorizations must be directed to [housing@jsums.edu](mailto:housing@jsums.edu) with a copy sent to the Executive Director of Housing & Residence Life.

This policy applies to all residents of housing managed by JSU Housing and Residence Life.

**Storage & Handling of Abandoned Property:** Housing staff will manage the removal and documentation of unclaimed items, including maintaining a log and taking photos for records.

Unclaimed property will be discarded, donated, or disposed of after fourteen (14) days. Students are responsible for all costs related to removal, and the University is not liable for any abandoned items.

**Definition of Abandoned Property:** Personal belongings left behind in a student's room, suite, or apartment after move-out, failure to check out, or not following check-out procedures are considered abandoned. Property is also deemed abandoned if:

- A student fails to check out after their housing contract ends.
- Items are left after eviction, suspension, or withdrawal.
- A student leaves without notifying HRL and does not respond to three communication attempts in two weeks.
- The room appears unoccupied for an extended period without notice.
- Roommates or hall staff report the student has left without taking their belongings, and upon confirmation of abandonment.
- The student's key or access card is returned, but personal items remain.
- Evidence shows the student moved without authorization.

**Resident's Maintenance and Care Obligations:** Residents must keep their room, apartment, suite, and common areas clean and sanitary. They should:

- Sweep, mop, vacuum, or wipe surfaces with household cleaners.
- Quickly remove moisture or condensation from floors, windows, and other surfaces within reach.
- Take steps to prevent mildew buildup in their space.
- Report any leaks, mildew, or maintenance issues to Student Housing.

Residents are not allowed to paint or make permanent changes to the room, nor can they remove, store, or exchange furniture.

At move-out, residents must clear all personal items, leave the room free of trash, and return the room to its original setup.

If the room or common areas are damaged, the resident must pay for repairs or cleaning costs. This includes damages caused by misuse, like plumbing issues from improper use of sinks or toilets.

**Mildew:** Residents must take steps to prevent mold and mildew by keeping their room clean and ensuring proper ventilation, especially in damp areas. Any mold, mildew, or water leaks should be reported to the University right away. Residents are responsible for the condition of their rooms and will be held accountable for any damage caused by neglect.

**Resident Responsibility for Room Condition and Damages:** Residents will not be charged for repairs due to normal wear and tear. At check-in, each resident must complete a Room/Apartment Condition Form and note any existing damages. Throughout the semester, any new damages or maintenance issues should be reported to staff right away.

For emergency maintenance—such as a flood, power outage, or broken lock—residents must contact their residential staff immediately. For non-emergency issues, a maintenance work order request should be submitted.

Residents are responsible for any damage caused by themselves or their guests due to negligence or intentional actions. Examples of negligence include spills left unattended, not reporting problems, misuse of appliances, not locking doors or windows, and improper

trash disposal.

Intentional damage includes vandalism, breaking furniture, making unauthorized changes, fighting, or smoking in non-smoking areas. All such damages will be documented and billed accordingly.

**Health & Safety Room Inspections:** To maintain a safe, clean, and healthy residential environment, HRL conducts Health & Safety Inspections each semester across all on-campus residential communities. In some cases, additional inspections may occur monthly to ensure compliance with cleanliness and safety expectations. Residents will receive a minimum of 72 hours' advance notice prior to any scheduled inspection. At all times, residents are expected to uphold a reasonable standard of cleanliness and comply with housing policies. During these inspections, staff will evaluate room conditions such as proper disposal of trash and uneaten perishable food, the presence and condition of fire safety equipment, and whether air conditioning units are appropriately set between 68–74°F and placed on "Auto." All assigned furniture must be intact and in place, and rooms, including bathrooms, must be reasonably clean—free of excessive grime, trash, or stains. Rooms should also be free of pests, pets, prohibited items, and must have fully functional plumbing and lighting fixtures.

If one or more issues are identified, the student will be notified and the room will be marked as having failed the inspection. Students will have 48 hours to correct the issues. HRL staff will conduct a follow-up inspection within that time frame. If violations remain unresolved during the follow-up, disciplinary action may be taken. This may include fines, educational sanctions, or suspension of on-campus housing privileges. Maintenance concerns discovered during inspections will be properly documented and reported for service by HRL staff.

**Room Entry Policy:** HRL staff reserve the right to enter student rooms under specific conditions, in accordance with university policy. Entry into a student's room is not typically considered a search and does not require prior consent from the resident when entry is necessary to conduct a wellness check, respond to fire, health, or safety hazards, perform maintenance inspections or emergency repairs, retrieve items on behalf of a student's documented immediate family member, or comply with lawfully authorized searches by the JSU Department of Public Safety or other law enforcement agencies. Whenever possible, HRL staff will provide prior notice—preferably in writing—explaining the reason for entry and any actions taken. Maintenance personnel may enter student rooms as early as 8:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, although entry times may vary depending on the urgency or nature of the concern.

**Entry by Civil Authorities:** Civil authorities, including officers from the JSU Department of Public Safety or other authorized law enforcement agencies, may enter a student's room with or without a search warrant. If a valid search warrant is presented, the University does not have the legal authority to prevent the search. Additionally, civil authorities may enter a room without a warrant when supported by proper legal authority, such as exigent circumstances or other lawful conditions.

**Third-Party Retrieval of Personal Belongings:** If a student is unable to return to campus and wishes to authorize someone else to retrieve their personal belongings, the student must send an email to [housing@jsums.edu](mailto:housing@jsums.edu) from their official JSU email account. The email must include the full legal name of the individual(s) authorized to retrieve the items, a list or description of the items to be collected, the contact phone number and email address of the authorized person(s), the requested retrieval date, and a clear photo of the individual's government-issued ID. At the time of pickup, the authorized individual must present a valid photo ID matching the details submitted. If any of the items are located in a shared space with roommates or suitemates, HRL will notify all affected residents in advance and will coordinate a mutually agreeable time for the retrieval when possible.

**Keys/Access Cards and Lockouts:** Residents must not loan or duplicate keys or access cards. If keys or cards are lost or stolen, they must be reported immediately. A fee may be charged for lost or duplicated keys/cards. Keys must be returned when occupancy ends or access is terminated. If locked out, residents can seek help from staff, but a fee will apply for each lockout.

**Resident's Responsibility Communal Property:** University or University-leased communal property includes areas like hallways, bathrooms, stairwells, elevators, lounges, living rooms, utility rooms, trash areas, and kitchens in residence halls or apartments. If any communal property is damaged and the responsible person(s) cannot be identified, all residents with access may be charged an equal share of the repair or replacement costs. These charges will be added to the resident's account.

**Pests:** Residents are responsible for keeping their belongings, such as clothing, bedding, and luggage, free from pests. If pests are found, they must report it to the University right away. If there's an infestation, residents must follow the treatment steps, or they may be charged for pest removal. Personal items with pests may need to be treated or discarded. If pests are caused by the resident or their roommates, they will be responsible for the cost of removal.

**Bed Bugs:** Residents are informed of their rights and responsibilities regarding bed bugs and agree to cooperate with the University

in preventing and addressing any infestations.

Bed bugs are small, six-legged insects about ¼ inch long, ranging in color from red to brown to copper. They do not fly and are usually transported on objects, people, or animals. They can be hard to find due to their size and tendency to hide.

Bed bugs can live for 10 months, with females laying 1-5 eggs daily. They mature into adults in about 21 days and can survive for months without feeding. They typically feed at night while people sleep, often without being noticed. Bite reactions vary by individual and may not appear for several days.

Signs of an infestation include small red or brown spots, discarded skins or eggs, a sweet odor in heavily infested areas, and red, itchy bites. Not everyone shows bite marks, even if bitten.

For more information, visit the U.S. EPA and National Pest Management Association websites.

**Unauthorized Residency and Trespassing Policy:** Anyone suspended, purged from University records, or removed from housing and found in campus housing will be considered a trespasser. This includes former residents not eligible for housing and non-residents. Violators will be removed, and Public Safety will be notified. HRL may change locks, restrict access, and take steps to prevent unauthorized entry. Violators may face disciplinary action, legal consequences, and trespassing charges. Belongings left behind will be stored for fourteen (14) 30 days, then discarded or donated. HRL will conduct checks to ensure only approved residents are in housing. Students must ensure no unauthorized individuals are in their space, as harboring trespassers may result in disciplinary and/or legal action.

**Housing Appeals Process:** Residents who wish to cancel their Housing Contract must submit a Cancellation Request, which will be reviewed by Housing and Residence Life (HRL) staff and a review committee. The committee evaluates requests based on the provided circumstances and documentation, and residents will be notified of the decision via their official JSU student email.

If the cancellation is denied, residents can appeal by submitting a Housing Appeals Form, available from the Housing Office. The appeal should include a detailed explanation and any new supporting documentation. The Housing Appeals Board, chaired by the Executive Director of Housing and Residence Life, reviews appeals every two weeks. Residents are advised to submit their appeal at least one month before the desired cancellation date. All appeal decisions are final.

The following reasons are not valid for canceling the housing contract:

- Roommate conflicts or behavior issues (use mediation or request a room change)
- Removal due to conduct violations (direct appeals to Housing Judicial/Dean of Students)
- Health or medical conditions (request accommodations through the Office of Accessible Education)
- Financial concerns about cheaper housing options
- Not wanting to pay for a required meal plan
- Signing an off-campus lease before receiving approval

If none of these solutions work, students can proceed with a formal appeal, including a typed statement addressing key questions, a completed appeal form, and supporting documentation.

**Resident Conduct Expectations:** Residents must follow all HRL policies to maintain a safe and respectful living environment. This may include rules like mandatory testing or wearing face coverings to reduce the spread of diseases. These policies may change over time, and residents are expected to comply with the terms in their housing contract.

**Laud Activities:** The following activities are strictly prohibited in all residential areas:

- Engaging in illegal activities like consuming alcohol drinking, drug use, or misusing prescription medications.
- Smoking, including e-cigarettes and vaping, in any residential area.
- Violating noise regulations, especially during quiet hours.
- Damaging property or making unauthorized changes to rooms or common areas.
- Misusing appliances that could be safety hazards.

**Guest & Security Policies:** Residents must adhere to the following follow these guest and security rules:

- All guests must be registered and follow building rules.
- Residents must comply with safety procedures, such as participating in fire drills, following evacuation protocols, and using room locks and keys correctly.
- Propping open doors or allowing unauthorized access is strictly prohibited, as it compromises security. This includes:
  - Leaving doors open or unlocked.
  - Letting non-residents enter without check-in.
  - Using items to disable door locks or security mechanisms.

Violators will be fined, and if the responsible person cannot be identified, the fine will be shared among roommates or suitemates. Repeated violations may lead to further fines, loss of housing privileges, or disciplinary action. Residents should report any security concerns to HRL immediately.

**Fire Safety & Evacuation Policy:** The safety of all residents is a priority. In case of a fire alarm or emergency, residents must:

- Evacuate immediately when the alarm sounds or when instructed by HRL staff or emergency personnel.
- Only re-enter the building after receiving official clearance from HRL staff or emergency personnel.
- Avoid using elevators during evacuation.; Use designated stairwells or exits only instead.
- Not tamper with safety devices unless it's an actual emergency.
- Keep fire extinguishers in their proper locations and only use them in the case of a fire.

Failure to follow fire safety rules may result in a \$200 fine per violation and possible further disciplinary action.

**Respect & Community Standards:** Jackson State University has a zero-tolerance policy for harassment, discrimination, bullying, intimidation, sexual harassment, and assault. These behaviors can lead to serious disciplinary actions. Theft or misappropriation of University property or other residents' belongings is also prohibited. Residents are expected to keep their personal and shared spaces clean to maintain a respectful community.

**Contract Cancellation & Disciplinary Actions:** Violating the Housing Agreement, Residential Code of Conduct, or University policies may lead to disciplinary actions, including the cancellation of the housing contract. If the contract is canceled, HRL will inform the resident of the deadline to vacate. If no deadline is given, the resident must leave within 48 hours of receiving the notice.

The University can cancel a resident's housing assignment and require them to vacate if:

- Their behavior causes other residents to request a move or leave.
- Complaints are received about the resident's actions.
- Their behavior poses a danger to others, staff, or the building.

If a resident's behavior is deemed an immediate threat, they may be required to leave immediately, as determined by the Vice President of Student Affairs, Executive Director of HRL, or their designated representatives.

**Infectious Disease Policy:** If a resident contract a communicable disease, they must leave the residence hall until they are no longer contagious to prevent spreading it. Medical protocols may change based on public health conditions, so residents should stay updated on campus requirements and the Residential Code of Conduct.

**Pets:** Non-poisonous fish can be kept in an aquarium no larger than 5 gallons. Service animals and approved assistance/therapy animals are allowed with proper documentation. Emotional support animals (ESA) and service animals are allowed only if registered and approved by the Office of Accessible Education and Resource Center. The animal must be registered before bringing it to campus, and the student must follow the provided guidelines.

**Solicitation and Commercial Use Prohibited:** The assigned housing space is for living purposes only. Business activities, such as selling, advertising, or offering services, are not allowed in University housing. This includes using housing for business operations,

hosting business meetings, storing inventory, or distributing promotional materials.

Unauthorized business activities may lead to disciplinary action, including removal from housing. Examples of prohibited activities include:

- Selling or distributing illegal drugs, including marijuana where not legally permitted.
- Selling alcohol to underage individuals or in violation of University policies.
- Offering unapproved services for profit, such as haircuts, hair braiding, styling, tattooing, or body piercing.
- Selling homemade food, including baked goods or edibles.
- Renting out or leasing rooms.
- Gambling
- Running any business, such as online retail or services.
- Piracy or selling illegal media.
- Passing out flyers, promoting products, or engaging in door-to-door sales.
- Offering childcare or pet-sitting services.
- Selling prescription medications that were not prescribed.

**Prohibited Items in Housing:** Residents are not allowed to have the following items in University housing:

- **Alcohol & Drugs:** Alcohol and alcohol paraphernalia, drugs and drug paraphernalia, including e-cigarettes for drug use, illegal controlled substances, prescription drugs not prescribed to the person, hookah, cigarettes, cigars, and related items.
- **Weapons & Ammunition:** Ammunition and weapons, including guns, knives (except pocket knives), martial arts weapons, paintball guns, stun devices, explosives, air-powered weapons, slingshots, and anything meant for bodily harm.
- **Electrical Appliances:** Electrical items left plugged in (e.g., curling irons, hairdryers), plug-in air fresheners, space heaters, subwoofers, amplifiers, window or free-standing air conditioners.
- **Animals/Pets:** No pets allowed, except small non-poisonous fish in tanks under 5 gallons. Emotional Support Animals (ESA) and Service Animals are allowed if registered with the Office of Accessible Education and Resource Center.
- **Cooking Appliances:** Crockpots, deep fryers, electric frying pans, George Foreman grills, hot plates, rice cookers, toasters, toaster ovens, waffle irons, and similar appliances.
- **Room Decorations:** Combustible decorations, dartboards, or signs that cover more than 10% of the walls. Certain adhesives and wall treatments that damage walls such as adhesive dots, command Strips, duct tape, nails, heavy-duty shipping tape, mounting putty, transparent tape. Use push pins or thumbtacks.
- **Computer Network Devices/Equipment:** Hubs, switches, wireless routers, and outdoor antennas, and 3D printers.
- **Flammable/Open Flame Items:** Candles, incense, compressed gases, grills, fireworks, and other flammable items. Any device that creates an open flame or uses gas.
- **Furniture:** Bed risers (plastic, cinder blocks), waterbeds, recliners, futons, etc.
- **Lamp/Light Fixtures:** Incandescent, halogen lamps, lava lamps, and similar lighting, LED strips or homemade light fixtures.
- **Transportation Devices with Lithium-Ion Batteries:** Hoverboards, scooters, skateboards, mopeds, or motorized vehicles.

**Note:** Air fryers are allowed, provided they are 2.6 qt models with an auto shut-off feature.

**Violations and Sanctions:** Failure to comply with residence hall policies—including those related to respect for others, noise levels, visitation, and safety—may result in disciplinary action by the Department of Housing and Residence Life. Sanctions may include verbal or written warnings, educational assignments or reflection papers, loss of privileges such as visitation or access to common areas, restitution for damages, housing probation, relocation to another room or building, removal from University housing, and/or referral to the University's student conduct process. The severity and frequency of the violation will determine the appropriate response.

**Guest Policy:** Overnight guests are not allowed.

**Campus Security Video System:** To enhance safety, security cameras have been installed in various locations within campus housing. Any tampering with the security video system will result in serious disciplinary action, which will result in loss of housing privileges.

**Misrepresentation:** Residents are prohibited from falsely representing themselves as any Housing & Residence Life facility, agency, organization, representative, or staff, as well as from using Housing & Residence Life's brand, images, names, or other identifiable information for personal use or gain. Providing false information on the housing agreement may result in the termination of the agreement and other disciplinary actions.

**Contract Violations & Disciplinary Action:** Residents who violate this agreement will face disciplinary action, including fines, eviction from housing, or other sanctions deemed appropriate by the University.

**Indemnification:** The University is not responsible for any loss or damage to your personal belongings, whether caused by other people, utility issues, fire, theft, storms, or similar events. This includes items lost due to unlocked doors or lost/loaned keys. You are also responsible for removing all your belongings when you move out—anything left behind may be discarded. Students are strongly encouraged to get personal property insurance to protect their items.

**Insurance:** The University is not responsible for any damage or loss of your personal belongings. It's your responsibility to get insurance to protect your items. The University strongly recommends that students buy personal property insurance for the entire time they live on campus. You can contact Housing & Residence Life for help or information about insurance options.

**Liability:** Students must follow all housing and University rules and policies. Breaking these rules can lead to fines, being removed from campus housing, suspension, or expulsion. If a student is evicted or suspended, they must get written approval from the Executive Director of Housing before reapplying for housing. Rules and policies are available in the Student Handbook, the Housing Website, and the Resident Student Handbook.

Acts like vandalism, property damage, pranks, or possession of alcohol, drugs, or weapons are not allowed in the residence halls.

Jackson State University is committed to equal opportunity and does not discriminate based on race, color, sex, disability, age, religion, national origin, or veteran status.

**Notices:** Housing and Residence Life will send important updates, deadlines, and housing info to your JSU email. You're responsible for checking it regularly. Missing an email doesn't excuse you from rules or deadlines. The University can update this agreement or its policies at any time, and the online version is the most up to date.

**Photo Disclaimer for HRL:** By living in campus housing, residents agree that Housing and Residence Life (HRL) may take photos or videos of them in common areas for marketing or educational use. These may appear on websites, social media, or printed materials.

If you do not want your image used, you must advise HRL in writing at the start of the school year. However, HRL cannot guarantee you will not appear in public-area photos by accident.

### **Schedule of Fines and Fees**

- Certain fees are subject to increase during the year if there is a rise in material costs.
- Repeated violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- This schedule is not comprehensive; any breach of University policies may result in restitution charges or disciplinary action, including additional fines.

### **Fines and Fees**

For a complete list of applicable fines and fees, please refer to the JSU Website and Residential Code of Conduct.

## The Latasha Norman Center for Counseling Services

The Latasha Norman Center for Counseling Services (LNC) is a mental health and victim services provider for JSU students, faculty, and staff. Services include brief solution-focused individual and couple's psychotherapy, group counseling, crisis counseling/intervention, and on-call rotations. LNC also provides outreach programming and in-service trainings to the campus and surrounding communities on issues related to mental health and interpersonal violence. Additionally, LNC offers volunteer and service learning opportunities for undergraduate students, as well as internship opportunities for graduate students. The center has implemented a Peer Educator Program for students to become involved in addressing mental health and interpersonal violence concerns from a student's perspective. Peer Educators also assist LNC staff in advocating for mental health and interpersonal violence awareness.

LNC was erected in 2007, in honor of Latasha D. Norman, a JSU student who died as a result of domestic violence. The center operates Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and offers up to eight sessions per student. Students needing additional services are referred to off-campus agencies that offer in-person and virtual sessions. On-call staff are available after hours on an as-needed basis. Students who reside on campus can reach out to a resident advisor or their hall director in order to access the center's on-call therapist. For commuter students, please contact Public Safety at 601-979-2580 to access the on-call therapist.

LNC is located in the **JSU Student Center, 2nd floor, Suite 2102**. The Center's telephone number is **601-979-0374**. Students are able to choose how they would like to have their sessions conducted, either in-person, by phone, or virtually. Self-help resources are available at [www.jsums.edu/latashanormancenter](http://www.jsums.edu/latashanormancenter).





### **Department Information**

The Office of Veteran and Military Student Support is a unit within the Division of Academic and Student Affairs. The Office of Veteran and Military Student Support helps eligible student veterans, reservists, and dependents obtain educational benefits in compliance with the procedures and regulations of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

**Mission:** To support the mission of the Division of Student Life through the development and implementation of outreach programs designed to provide student support services focused on the special needs and requirements of today's military veterans, service members, dependents and survivors. The Center was established to improve and enhance the success of student veterans, to help them receive the benefits they deserve, to serve as a liaison between the veteran student community and the University and to increase their academic success.

### **Location and Contact Information:**

The Veterans and Military Student Support Center is located on the 3rd Floor (**Suite 302**) of the Jacob L. Reddix Building. The staff aids student veterans, dependents, and military service members.

**Mailing address:** PO Box 17084; Jackson, MS 39217

**Departmental Email:** [jsuveterans@jsums.edu](mailto:jsuveterans@jsums.edu)

**Departmental Contact Us Form:** <http://www.jsums.edu/veteranscenter/>

**Department of Veterans Affairs:** <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/>

### **Campus Support Services Include:**

**Veterans Work-Study Program:** This program is designed to offer part-time work to veterans, service members, and dependents currently receiving veteran education benefits.

**JSU Air Force ROTC:** This program gives men and women the opportunity to become Air Force officers while completing a degree. **Email:** [afrotc@jsums.edu](mailto:afrotc@jsums.edu) **Phone:** (601) 979-1620

**JSU Army ROTC:** This program gives men and women the opportunity to become Army officers while completing a degree. **Email:** [armyrotc@jsums.edu](mailto:armyrotc@jsums.edu) **Phone:** (601) 979-8600

***For more information concerning G. I. Bill® and Military Funding, contact us today!***

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The absence of the registration symbol ® does not constitute a waiver of VA's trademark rights in that phrase.

## Missing Student Notification Policy

This policy was established in compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, to provide students with procedures and information for reporting a missing person. The policy applies specifically to residential students.

### Definitions

A. Residential Student: a student who resides in on-campus housing under a housing contract/lease and is currently enrolled at the University.

B. Missing: A residential student may be considered missing if she or he is overdue in reaching home, campus or another specific location past the expected arrival, additional factors lead University staff to believe he or she is missing, and a check of the student's residence hall assignment supports that determination.

### Confidential Contact Person

Residential students who are 18 years of age or older or who are emancipated minors have the option, upon moving into the residence hall, to identify a specific contact person who will be notified within 24 hours if that student has been reported missing. The identity of that contact person will remain confidential with the exception of law enforcement and staff designated to respond to missing person reports.

For residential students under the age of 18 and not emancipated, the University is required to notify a custodial parent or guardian within 24 hours of the time a student is reported missing.

### Notification Procedures for Missing Persons

If a residential student is believed to be missing, a report should be made to one of the following:

- Residence Hall Director
- Department of Public Safety

When reporting a missing person, be prepared to provide the following information:

- Your name & contact information
- Name of missing student
- Any/all contact information for the student
- Time & date last seen
- Location last seen
- Last known destination
- Names of acquaintances
- Any additional information that may be important in helping to locate the missing person

When a report is made to the residence hall staff, The Department of Public Safety will be contacted immediately and cooperative efforts will be made. Cooperative efforts may include:

- Welfare check of the missing student's residence hall room
- Contact attempts via cell phone, e-mail, social media, or other means
- Identification of and contact with other individuals who may have knowledge of the missing student's whereabouts

The Department of Public Safety will gather all essential information related to the missing student and conduct a thorough investigation. No later than 24 hours after the missing person report is first received, the Department of Public Safety, in conjunction with Student Affairs personnel, will notify the student's designated contact or (for persons under 18 years of age and not emancipated) the student's parent or guardian to inform them that the resident student is believed to be missing.

Regardless of the student's age, emancipation status or whether the student has designated a contact person, University police will, within 24 hours of the report, notify the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the area where the student is missing.

All inquiries by the media or the general public regarding missing persons will be referred to University Communications. All public statements will be coordinated through that office.

### **Notification Procedures for Missing Persons Living off Campus**

Upon notification from any person that a Jackson State University student may be missing, the university staff member receiving the information should refer the matter immediately to the Department of Public Safety at (601) 979-2580.

Officers will respond to reports of missing students in a timely manner. It is the policy of the Jackson State University Department of Public Safety to thoroughly investigate reports of all missing persons.

If a student is not located, the Department of Public Safety will file a Missing Persons Report with the state of Mississippi and contact any emergency contact persons listed. This information would be disseminated through Jackson State University's emergency response system. The Department of Public Safety will continue an open investigation and advise local law enforcement.

For questions or inquiries, please contact Public Safety at (601) 979-2580 or the Vice President for Student Affairs at (601) 979-2241.

## Procedure on Death of a Student

**Intent:** In the event of a student death, the University community must respond with compassion, thoroughness, and most importantly, with a measure of dignity toward the student and his/her family and friends. The purpose of this policy is to establish certain responsibilities concerning the required notifications to the various campus administrative and service departments in the event of the death of a student and to coordinate such actions expeditiously and sensitively with regard to the emotional needs of the family, relatives, and friends of the deceased.

This policy is intended to assist University personnel who gain first knowledge of such situations and those who by title or by delegation of responsibility become involved in the numerous and necessary University activities borne of such unfortunate events. Such a process also shall ease the administrative burden of other University offices and address the needs of the student and his/her family in a timely manner.

### Definition(s)

**JSU Student:** For the purpose of this procedure, a JSU Student is defined as one who is currently enrolled at JSU or, during the recess period between semesters or the summer period, one who has completed the immediately preceding term and is eligible for re-enrollment. This also includes non-matriculating students (i.e. transient students).

**On-Campus Student Death:** The death of a JSU student shall be regarded as having occurred on campus if it occurs on University property, including any University owned, University operated or University maintained property; on the premises of an organization or group officially recognized by the University; or in connection with an official University function.

### Procedure

#### I. RESPONDING TO A STUDENT DEATH

##### A. When a JSU Student Death Occurs on Campus

In the event of an On-Campus Student Death, the Department of Public Safety should attempt to notify the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee, as well as all other parties outlined in the chain of command within the department.

In the event the death occurs while the student is undergoing medical care at the JSU Health Center, the staff of the Health Center should immediately contact the Department of Public Safety and the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee.

##### B. When a JSU Student Death Occurs Off-Campus

In the event of a JSU student's death occurring off-campus, the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee should be notified as soon as campus staff or faculty receives information about the death. The Vice President for Student Affairs or designee will then confirm the passing of the student. In cases where the death is recent or may be expected to have a significant adverse impact on the campus community, all matters concerning the death shall be referred to the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee for coordination.

In all cases, when a member of the University community learns of a student's death, he/she should contact the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee via e-mail or by telephone at 601-979-2241 during business hours. If after hours, the Department of Public Safety should be contacted at 601-979-2580. The Department of Public Safety will immediately notify the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee, as well as follow the proper chain of command within the department. The Vice President for Student Affairs or designee will notify all necessary divisions, departments, units, and campus entities.

If possible, when reporting the death of a student, the following information should be provided by e-mail to Vice President for Student Affairs or designee:

1. Name of deceased student;
2. Student's J number (if known);
3. Date and approximate time of death;
4. Circumstances surrounding the death;

5. Source of notification of the student's death (friend, call from family, media, etc.);
6. Whether the deceased student was a resident on campus;
7. Whether the death occurred at Campus Housing; and a
8. Copy of the obituary or article related to death (if available).

## STUDENT ASSISTANCE POLICY

### I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

Jackson State University (“the University”) recognizes that from time to time individuals on campus will exhibit signs of mental or emotional disturbances reflective of a mental health condition that may endanger the individual, other persons, or University property. It is impractical, undesirable, and possibly illegal for the University to exert the level of custodial control over the student population sufficient to prevent all incidents of harm resulting from mental health conditions, but the University is committed to creating a reasonably safe learning environment supportive of individuals with mental-health issues while protecting the physical safety of those individuals, other persons, and University property.

### II. CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUALS AT RISK

For University staff, the goal is to identify and report behavior that may suggest an increased risk of an individual harming oneself, or others and not the diagnosis of mental illness. Only professional staff acting in their professional capacity should attempt to diagnose any student. University staff should not improperly confine the individual and should avoid creating a highly-controlled custodial care environment. University staff should avoid doing anything that could likely increase the risk of harm. Three additional preventive measures are listed below:

#### A. Preventive Measures

- a. Students should be informed about the resources available to help them manage the stresses of campus life;
- b. A periodic review of the physical campus environment for features or physical dangers likely to attract an individual seeking to harm him or herself such as tall buildings, bridges, sites of previous attempts, or other physical dangers is recommended; and
- c. Professors in programs that may inadvertently create opportunities for students to disclose suicidal thoughts (freshman composition, psychology courses, etc.) should be informed about available campus resources and be encouraged to consult immediately with professional staff i.e. Latasha Norman Center for Counseling and the Accessible Education & Resource Center or Applied Psychological Service Clinic when they receive any troubling disclosure from a student. It is better to consult with professional staff rather than ignoring risk factors or trying to manage the situation without professional advice.

#### B. Exhibited Characteristics

The following characteristics may be exhibited by individuals at-risk for mental deterioration:

- a. An inability to communicate effectively with others under normal conditions;
- b. An inability to consistently abide by University rules and regulations and/or laws in general. Examples include threatening behavior, creating danger to one’s self or others, and destruction of University property; and
- c. Exhibiting constant or sporadic behavior which causes disruption to the normal activity of the University community or which may result in potential or actual danger to one’s self or others. Non-inclusive examples include sudden episodes of belligerent behavior and an inability to accept reasonable explanations.

#### C. Suicide

The following are some classic signs which indicate a risk of suicide:

- a. Verbal or written expressions that family members, students, or teachers do not care or that life is not worth living;
- b. The world would be better if the individual was dead or gone;
- c. Suddenly giving away personal belongings;
- d. Heavy drug and alcohol use;
- e. Substantial drop in academic performance; and
- f. Loss of attention to personal appearance, friends, and social activities.

### III. CAMPUS ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION TEAM (CAIT)

The University has a Campus Assessment and Intervention Team (CAIT). The CAIT is a multi-disciplinary group of professionals who meet on a regular basis to support the safe and effective functioning of the campus community. The team proactively provides centralized, coordinated, and supportive intervention for behaviorally at-risk students, as well as students with severe medical conditions. Through collaborative consultation, CAIT develops strategies to address students' behavior that is disruptive/threatening or potentially harmful to self and/or others. Additionally, CAIT serves as the assessment team for medical conditions which may lead to a medical withdrawal. The team assesses each situation and determines the best plan for support, intervention, warning/notification and response. The team consists of, but is not limited to, the following entities:

1. Dean of Students Office
2. Public Safety
3. University Health Center
4. The Accessible Education & Resource Center
5. Applied Psychological Services Clinic
6. Latasha Norman Counseling Center
7. Any other pertinent staff members

#### Procedure

The actual procedure for handling situations involving “at risk” students is as follows:

1. An “At-Risk” situation will be defined as any situation where a student is thought to qualify for involuntary evaluation. Involuntary evaluation does not mean the student will be forced to submit to an evaluation, but does mean that the student may face involuntary withdrawal, as explained below within this policy, for failure to consent or comply with the evaluation.
2. In case of a threat of harm to self or others, Public Safety will be called first, followed by the University Health Center and the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee.
3. If the student is not a threat to self or others, but may need a mental health evaluation, the point of contact will be the University Health Center and the Latasha Norman Center for Counseling.
4. Transportation to the University Health Center and/or other facility for the student will be provided by Public Safety when staffing is available.
5. Public Safety will notify the appropriate CAIT member as specified below.
6. The CAIT member will make the necessary assessment of the situation, complete his or her evaluation, and make appropriate recommendations. Non-inclusive examples of recommendations include incarceration (by Police only), counseling, interim suspension/emergency interim withdrawal, referral for treatment, or send student for further evaluation.
  - 6.1 At-Risk students, if referred to the University Health Center, will be evaluated by the University Physician for further evaluation, medical treatment, or referral.
  - 6.2 To receive any University health services, the student must be a registered student. Thus, if the student is graduating or planning to discontinue attendance at the University, it is important that the student notify the University Health Center several months in advance so that suitable arrangements for follow-up care can be made. Only a nurse practitioner, physician, or therapist from the University Health Center or Applied Psychological Services Clinic may refer the student to a psychiatrist on behalf of the University.
  - 6.3 If emergency medication is needed, the University physician or nurse practitioner should be notified so that prescriptions can be written.
  - 6.4 The student may be referred to the Latasha Norman Center for Counseling or Applied Psychological Services Clinic for individual therapy on a one-on-one basis to discuss individual concerns. The individual therapy is of a short-term nature and includes crisis intervention services.
  - 6.5 When appointments for the Latasha Norman Center for Counseling or Applied Psychological Services Clinic are closed, members of the CAIT should be notified so that an alternative source of care can be made.
  - 6.6 Any leave from class must be approved by the University physician or nurse practitioner as well as comply with any other applicable University policies for leave.
7. If a written or verbal request is made to return to classes after having been out for a period of medical leave, the individual must provide documentation, from the agency providing rehabilitative, mental health, or medical services, stating that the individual is competent to function in a normal manner in the University environment. In turn, the University physician will review the

documentation and make a decision from a medical standpoint. Lastly, the CAIT review committee will assess all contributing factors, in order to make the final decision for a student to return. The decision of the CAIT review committee is final.

3. The University Health Center, Latasha Norman Center for Counseling, and Applied Psychological Services Clinic makes every attempt to maintain confidentiality of a patient's medical records. Information is not released to anyone outside of the University Health Center without written permission, except as required by law.

#### **IV. WITHDRAWALS FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS**

The University's withdrawal policy for psychological reasons is set forth for the purpose of maintaining a campus environment that is conducive to learning, protects the University's educational purposes, maintains reasonable order on campus, and protects the rights and safety of all members of the University community. Appropriate action may be taken based upon the student's behavior and an assessment of the potential risk to the student and others. No action should be based upon a student's perceived or actual disability alone.

##### **A. Scope of the Policy**

This policy covers certain behaviors described below under the section entitled "Involuntary Withdrawals" that occur on University Premises and/or at University-sponsored activities but may also address off-campus behavior if the University determines that the behavior, or the continued presence of the student, impairs, obstructs, interferes with or adversely affects the mission, processes or functions of the University in a substantial and identifiable way. "Student" includes any person enrolled for courses through or at the University, both full-time and part-time, and those who attend educational institutions other than the University who reside in University residential communities. The policy also extends to any person who is not officially enrolled for a particular term, but whose University record indicates a continuing relationship with the University, or any person who has been accepted into the University, but has not yet enrolled for courses.

##### **B. Voluntary Withdrawals**

If the student is eligible for and wishes to pursue voluntary withdrawal, a member of the CAIT or other appropriate University designee will:

1. Counsel the student regarding voluntary withdrawal;
2. Consult with the student's academic unit and other units as appropriate;
3. Discuss the circumstances with the student's family, as appropriate (see section "Involving Essential Parties" below);
4. Refer the student to appropriate resources for evaluation or treatment; and
5. Initiate voluntary withdrawal.

##### **C. Involuntary Withdrawals**

An involuntary administrative withdrawal is not a substitute for appropriate disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct. It should not be used to dismiss socially or emotionally "eccentric" students or otherwise inhibit legal free expression as long as the particular student does not otherwise meet the standards for withdrawal as specified in this section. Involuntary withdrawals should only be initiated after reasonable attempts have been made to secure voluntary cooperation for a psychological evaluation or voluntary withdrawal. An involuntary withdrawal is appropriate where the student falls under the scope of this policy and he or she does not adhere to reasonable conditions established for his or her continued presence on campus or in Housing and Residence Life.

In certain situations where the disruptions from a mental health condition are deemed to be of a temporary nature, a medical suspension or leave of absence may be considered as opposed to withdrawal. Eligibility and limitations for a leave of absence are not addressed under this policy. Care should always be given to ensure that an individual with a disability is not being excluded from participation or being denied the benefits of the University's services, or otherwise subjected to discrimination, by reason of that individual's disability status as opposed to focusing upon the individual's actions and community safety.

In accordance with University policy and applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination based on disability, a student may be involuntarily withdrawn from the University and/or Housing and Residence Life, either temporarily or permanently, if it is determined that a student suffers from a mental disorder as determined by a medical professional and as a result of the disorder:

1. Engages, or threatens to engage in behavior which poses a danger of causing physical harm to self or others, and/or
2. Engages, or threatens to engage, in behavior which would cause significant property damage, which directly and



- substantially impedes the lawful activities of other members of the University, and/or
- 3. Demonstrates an inability to satisfy personal needs such that there is a reasonable possibility that serious physical harm or death might occur within a short period of time, and/or
- 4. Commits violations of the University rules and regulations and lacks the capacity to participate in the University's disciplinary process or otherwise is incapable of understanding the nature or wrongfulness of the conduct at the time of the offense, and/or
- 5. The significant risk to the health or safety of the student or other students cannot be eliminated by a reasonable modification of policies, practices, procedures, or the provision of auxiliary aids or services. Determinations of possible accommodations should be based upon an individualized assessment to ascertain the nature, duration, severity of the risk, the probability that the potential injury will occur, and whether reasonable modifications could mitigate the risk.

#### D. Procedure for Involuntary Withdrawals

When it appears that a student's behavior falls under the purview of this policy, an initial interview should take place between the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee and the student. This will not be possible in all situations and the section below entitled "Emergency Interim Withdrawals" may be more appropriate in certain emergency situations.

During the initial interview, the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee should:

- 1. Determine if the student's behavior does not meet the standard for involuntary withdrawal so that the process under this section may be terminated. If warranted, the student's conduct will be handled by the regular disciplinary process;
- 2. Require the student to schedule an evaluation by a qualified, licensed mental health professional within five calendar days. The psychological evaluation report should address:
  - 2.1 The student's ability to function in the University environment and live in student housing, if applicable,
  - 2.2 The student's potential threat to himself/herself or the University community; and
  - 2.3 Any recommendations for continued treatment;
- 3. Allow a student who meets the conditions for involuntary withdrawal to voluntarily withdraw from the University and waive the right to further procedures under this policy. If future reenrollment at the University is an option, conditions necessary for consideration of reenrollment should be provided to the student in writing through the voluntary withdrawal process. The student will also be required to provide documentation from an agency documenting treatment, recommendations, etc.

### V. EMERGENCY INTERIM WITHDRAWAL

An emergency interim withdrawal—the term being synonymous with emergency suspension— may be implemented immediately by a CAIT member, after approval by the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee, if the Response Team member reasonably believes that the student may be suffering from a mental disorder and there is reason to believe that the student's behavior poses a substantial threat of harm to oneself or others, threatens or endangers University property, or disrupts the stability and continuance of normal University operations and functions.

A student may be notified of the emergency interim withdrawal either orally or in writing. It takes effect immediately upon the day it is issued. A student withdrawn on an emergency interim basis will be given the opportunity to meet with a CAIT member or the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee, thereof within forty-eight hours from the effective date of the emergency interim withdrawal to discuss the following issues only:

- 1. The reliability of the information concerning the student's behavior; or
- 2. Whether the student's continued presence on campus poses a substantial threat of harm to oneself or others, threatens or endangers University property, or disrupts the stability and continuance of normal University operations and functions.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee may either uphold or cancel the interim emergency withdrawal. Regardless of whether the emergency interim withdrawal is upheld or cancelled, the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee will direct the CAIT to continue with the involuntary administrative withdrawal process as outlined in this policy. However, if the interim emergency withdrawal is to remain in effect, the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee will make every effort to expedite the process in an effort to minimize any possible negative impact on the student.

### VI. MEDICAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

If a student is medically or administratively withdrawn from the University, the student will receive a letter via e-mail from the Dean of

Students. Medical withdrawals are not granted on a retroactive basis. It must occur within a current semester. Administrative withdrawals are equivalent to medical withdrawals. However, it occurs when classes are not currently in session. The official document will outline the effective medical or administrative withdrawal date, as well as the required plan of treatment, which must be completed, in order for the student to be evaluated for reinstatement. A written request must be made to the Dean of Students to return to classes after having been out for a period of time due to a medical or administrative withdrawal. The student must provide documentation on letterhead from the agency providing rehabilitative, medical, or mental health services, stating that the individual is competent to function in a productive manner in the University environment. In turn, the University physician will review the documentation and make a decision from a medical standpoint. Lastly, the CAIT review committee will assess all contributing factors, in order to make the final decision for a student to return. Once the documentation is received, the CAIT review committee will make a decision within seven (7) business days. The decision of the CAIT review committee is final. There is no appeal process for CAIT decisions.

## **VII. TRANSCRIPTS AND REFUNDS**

A student who under this policy is allowed to voluntarily withdraw or who is involuntarily withdrawn may request a refund of tuition, fees, housing payments and any other amounts. Refunds will be made in accordance with applicable University policies and procedures. Being medically or administratively withdrawn does not automatically dismiss a student's financial obligation to the University. This decision is determined by the Business Office's review of the Academic Calendar, along with the University fee schedule. If a student has been living in the on-campus residential communities and will not continue to do so, the contract will be canceled and fees refunded on a pro-rated basis.

A student who withdraws voluntarily under this policy without completing a specific course should receive a mark (i.e., "W") on his or her transcripts without a special indication of having left for medical reasons. Further, students are prohibited from receiving official transcripts during an active medical or administrative withdrawal period.

## **VIII. RETURNING FROM MEDICAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE WITHDRAWAL**

## **IX. INVOLVING ESSENTIAL PARTIES**

In some circumstances, the University may notify the parents/guardians of the student and appropriate University officials, including academic deans and faculty, of the potentially serious nature of the situation. However, University staff should not disclose confidential medical or educational records, or information gathered through access to such confidential records, even to a student's family members if the student is not a minor, does not consent to release the information, and there is not a direct imminent risk of harm. Therefore, if a staff member believes that disclosing information to a student's family members is appropriate, an attempt should always first be made to elicit the student's consent. If the student will not consent, one should attempt to find out why the student does not want his or her family involved because there may be a legitimate reason why informing the student's family could increase the risk of harm to the student or others.

## **X. MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL RECORDS**

Absences for medical reasons are not excused automatically. Students are urged to submit documentation immediately.

A student's medical records are generally protected from disclosure absent his or her consent or waiver by virtue of the physician-patient privilege as well as other statutory laws. The University may require either (1) the student to sign the appropriate release forms to allow designated staff at the University to consult with clinicians serving the student for the purpose of evaluating the student's ability to function in the University community under this policy, or (2) otherwise be provided with a complete copy of all medical documents or opinions reflective of the student's ability to function in the University community under this policy. The University will treat these records as confidential and only disclose them to University officials as necessary to make informed decisions regarding the just and responsible application of this policy, or as otherwise required by law.

The release of educational records (or personally identifiable information contained therein other than directory information and distinguished from medical records) is subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act which prevents disclosure without the written consent of the student or, if the student is a minor, the written consent of a student's parent. "Records" include electronic information that is directly related to the individual student. An educational record does not include records made or maintained by a physician acting in his or her official capacity or records made, maintained, or used only in connection with treatment of the student where those records are disclosed only to individuals providing the treatment. An exception to the non-disclosure of educational records exists where knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons in connection with an emergency. Such disclosure is limited only to the appropriate necessary persons particular to the facts of each situation. Information pertaining to conduct that poses a significant risk to the safety or well-being of that student, other students, or other members of the school community may be disclosed to school officials or faculty within the institution who have a legitimate

educational interest in the behavior of the student as determined by the institution. Other schools that have been determined to have a legitimate educational interest in the student's behavior may also be informed if a significant risk to safety exists.

## **XI. ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES**

1. In emergency situations, Public Safety should be notified immediately.
2. Reasonable deviation from these procedures due to a crisis and/or emergency will not invalidate a decision or proceeding unless significant prejudice to a student may result.
3. In general, the regular student disciplinary system and its policies are preferred in the adjudication of serious instances of misconduct, without regard to whether there might be a mental disorder present. However, this medical withdrawal policy may be activated prior to issuance of a disciplinary determination where the reason for the student's objectionable behavior appears to be a medical reason subject to this policy. This policy does not supplant any academic performance or discipline-based withdrawal policies maintained by academic units. A medical withdrawal is not considered a disciplinary action, although a prior medical withdrawal may be considered in subsequent conduct hearings involving the student.

## **XI. SUGGESTIONS DURING A CRISIS**

While it is difficult to generalize about responses during the time of crisis, the following are suggestions once it is determined that assistance will be needed:

1. Stay Calm.
2. Notify the Public Safety at (601) 979 – 2580 and provide the following information: your name, precise location, observed symptoms of behavior, and individual's name if known.
3. Until help arrives, be pleasant, considerate, and understanding so as to avoid aggravating the situation.
4. Do not argue with the individual. Try to determine and accept the individual's point of view. Do not confront/detain the individual if violent/combatative. Emergency detention and protective custody should be alternatives only available to police officers.
5. If possible, have someone meet the Public Safety at the entrance to the building and provide up-to-date information.
6. For a psychological crisis of lesser intensity, mediation and encouragement for the student to voluntarily seek counseling.

# STUDENT DECORUM POLICY

Jackson State University's core values include tradition, accountability, learning, nurturing, service, and responsibility. JSU believes that free expression is indispensable to the safeguarding of these values and that personal expression must be encouraged with only those limitations that are necessary to promote the University's mission for the benefit of all of its students.

The Jackson State University Student Handbook sets forth expectations and guidelines for appropriate student decorum, and this policy is put in place as a supplement to clarify and extend the dress code. JSU is committed to fostering an educational environment that, consistent with its academic freedom and mission, prepares its students for success in the classroom and later in their careers. JSU may expect students to adhere to generally accepted standards of conduct. Actions that substantially interfere with the requirements of appropriate discipline or otherwise substantially interfere with the University's educational mission or the rights of other students may be regulated.

This Decorum Policy shall be applied without discrimination in regard to the viewpoint embodied in a student's dress or language, and it shall be applied to all students on an equal basis. Further, this policy is limited in time and place to University events, functions and educational facilities, specifically including classrooms. It is strongly encouraged, but not required, that these guidelines be followed elsewhere in an effort to provide a positive representation of ourselves and the University to the best of our abilities. Administrators, faculty, and staff members who observe student behavior proscribed by this Decorum Policy should report any such disregard or violations to the Dean of Students Office. Lastly, university personnel reserve the right to refuse service if a student is not dressed appropriately.

## Prohibited Dress

Dress standards promote learning by establishing expectations that will reduce educational distractions as well as help prepare students for later success. These restrictions are minimum requirements that will result in a warning or student conduct action if not followed. The University expects and strongly encourages its students to adhere to the higher standards of appropriate dress on campus, which includes but is not limited to attending class, conducting business in campus offices, and at University sponsored events as recommended in the Student Handbook.

Prohibited dress shall include all **lewd or obscene clothing and attire** as well as any clothing or gear that, **substantially interferes with the effectiveness of the educational environment and mission**. Lewd or obscene dress shall include attire or the lack thereof that leaves visible an area of the body that traditionally within the locality has been considered private and indecent to expose publicly, and that also lacks artistic or creative value within a particular University curriculum. Traditional private areas shall mean the breasts, buttocks, or areas proximate to the reproductive organs. Dress or gear that substantially interferes with the educational environment may vary depending on the curriculum and context, but may include items that make distracting noises, such as music players, or attire that creates a visual obstruction to others. The only exemption to this dress code exists in the case of a student who, due to a medical condition or properly identified disability, requires such accommodation. Such accommodation, if reasonable, should be attempted with an effort to minimize any negative effect on the educational environment. This policy applies equally and without regard to the religious or secular nature of the attire.

Some examples of inappropriate dress and/or appearance include, but are not limited to the following:

- Midriffs, tube, mesh, or netted tops (where skin/body parts may be exposed)
- Extremely short shorts (exposing private body parts)
- Sagging pants
- Hair bonnets/Scarves
- "Du rags"
- House shoes
- Visible underclothing

**Speech in violation of State or Federal Law**

Illegal speech is also prohibited. Language usage can violate specific laws depending on the context. Some examples of such laws include disturbing the peace, intimidation, stalking, harassment, defamation, or libel.

**Litter-Free Campus**

Jackson State University takes great pride in the beauty of our campus. Littering is strictly prohibited and a violation of the University. Littering shall include, among other things, the throwing of debris such as cigarette butts, food wrappers, paper, cans, bottles, or other trash on the ground.

No student shall intentionally dispose of refuse of any kind in or near any building owned or operated by the University except in receptacles provided for that purpose. Intentionally discarding such will be seen and adjudicated as a violation of the University Littering Policy. Fines may be imposed in an amount not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

**Student Decorum Policy Student Conduct Procedure**

Documented violations of this policy may result in a \$50.00 fine, which will be placed on the student's account.

# **SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY**

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## **SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY (UPDATES NEEDED)**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

It is the policy of Jackson State University (“University”) not to discriminate against any person on the basis of gender in violation of any applicable law, including but not limited to, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e), the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and relevant sections of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act. This prohibition against gender-based discrimination extends to all University educational programs and activities, as well as to admission into such programs and activities.

The University is committed to fostering a positive working and educational environment in which there exists mutual respect for all University students, faculty, and staff. Harassment of employees or students and discrimination based upon sex is inconsistent with this objective and contrary to the University policy of equal employment and academic opportunity without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. The University is dedicated to enforcing civil rights laws to protect all students from unlawful discrimination and harassment based on sex which includes students and employees who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, asexual, intersex, nonbinary, and individuals who identify their sexual orientation or gender identity in other ways (LGBTQI+). Jackson State University strives to provide a campus learning environment that enables all students to succeed, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation.

Title IX is a landmark federal civil right that prohibits sex discrimination in education. Title IX is not just about sports; it is a prohibition against sex-based discrimination in education. It addresses sexual harassment, gender-based discrimination, and sexual violence. Sexual misconduct is a violation of this policy, and will not be tolerated within the University. Any employee or student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and possibly including separation from the University. Sexual misconduct includes attempted or completed rape or sexual assault, as well as sexual harassment, stalking, voyeurism, exhibitionism, verbal or physical sexuality-based threats or abuse, dating and domestic violence.

Members of the University Community who believe that this policy has been violated are strongly encouraged to report the allegations as promptly as possible. There is no time limit on reporting or filing complaints of violations of this policy, although JSU’s ability to respond fully may be limited with the passage of time.

### **II. SCOPE OF THE POLICY**

This policy applies to all University community members, regardless of the sexual orientation, gender expression, or gender identity of the parties involved, including students, faculty, staff, visitors, and independent contractors, as well as those who participate in the University’s programs and activities, whether on or off campus, including study-away programs. Any such individual may make a report under this policy. Vendors, independent contractors, visitors, and others who conduct business with the University or on University property are also expected to comply with this policy; complaints against such University affiliates will be handled in accordance with existing contracts and agreements. The University will respond promptly and equitably to all allegations of sexual misconduct involving a University community member and will provide resource options for complainant s of alleged sexual misconduct. The University will consider any requests for confidentiality within the context of the University’s obligation to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for all community members. Further details on how requests for confidentiality are handled in cases of sexual misconduct may be found in the “Reports to a Confidential Resource” section of this policy. Pursuant to the requirements of Title IX, the University has an independent responsibility to investigate (apart from any separate criminal investigation by law enforcement) and address sexual misconduct, even in the absence of a complaint by the alleged complainant.

### **III. TITLE IX COORDINATOR**

The University's Title IX Coordinator may be reached by e-mail at [titleix@jsums.edu](mailto:titleix@jsums.edu) or phone at (601) 979-1315; (601) 979-6804; or (601) 927-4766. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that Jackson State University establishes and follows a prompt, thorough, and equitable process for addressing allegations of sexual misconduct and discrimination or differential treatment based on sex. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for providing centralized support for compliance with all requirements under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 (Title IX), the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security 99 Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act), the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and other federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to sex discrimination, harassment, and sexual violence. The Title IX Coordinator serves as the University resource on Title IX requirements and compliance and provides consultation as needed. The university no longer use the "single investigator model" The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for receiving the reports of a sexual assault and forwarding the complaint to an investigator.

### **IV. PROHIBITED CONDUCT AND DEFINITIONS**

"Sexual misconduct" is a broad, non-legal term that encompasses a wide range of behaviors, including but not limited to, sexual harassment, sex/gender discrimination, sexual assault, rape, acquaintance rape, stalking, and relationship violence (including dating and domestic violence). It is a violation of University policy as well as applicable law to commit or to attempt to commit these acts.

Sexual misconduct can occur between strangers or acquaintances, or people who know each other well, including between people who are or have been involved in an intimate or sexual relationship. It can be committed by anyone, regardless of gender or gender identity, and can occur between people of the same or different sex or gender. This Policy prohibits all forms of sexual misconduct.

#### **A. Sexual Assault (including Rape).**

Sexual assault is actual or attempted sexual contact with another person without that person's consent. Sexual assault includes, but is not limited to:

- Intentional touching of another person's intimate parts without that person's consent; or
- Other intentional sexual contact with another person without that person's consent; or
- Coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force a person to touch another person's intimate parts without that person's consent; or
- Rape, which is penetration, no matter how slight, of (1) the vagina or anus of a person by any body part of another person or by an object, or (2) the mouth of a person by a sex organ of another person, without that person's consent.

#### **B. Sex Offenses**

Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent. A. Fondling—The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity. B. Incest—Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law. C. Statutory Rape—Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

#### **C. Sexual Harassment**

Sexual Harassment is any unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it denies a person equal educational access. Reports of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking do not need to meet the description of "severe, pervasive and objectively offensive. Conduct is considered "unwelcome" if the person did not request or invite it and considered the conduct to be undesirable or offensive. Sexual



harassment includes any conduct or incident that is sufficiently serious that it is likely to limit or deny a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the University's educational programs or a faculty or staff member's ability to work, which may include a single incident of sexual assault or other serious sexual misconduct.

#### **D. Sexual Exploitation.**

Sexual exploitation occurs when a person takes sexual advantage of another person for the benefit of anyone other than that person without that person's consent.

Examples of behavior that could rise to the level of sexual exploitation include:

- Recording images (e.g., video, photograph) or audio of another person's sexual activity, intimate body parts, or nakedness without that person's consent;
- Distributing images (e.g., video, photograph) or audio of another person's sexual activity, intimate body parts, or nakedness, if the individual distributing the images or audio knows or should have known that the person depicted in the images or audio did not consent to such disclosure and objects to such disclosure; and,
- Viewing another person's sexual activity, intimate body parts, or nakedness in a place where that person would have a reasonable expectation of privacy, without that person's consent, and for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire.
- Knowingly exposing another individual to a sexually transmitted disease.
- Knowingly assisting another person with committing an act of sexual misconduct.

#### **E. Stalking**

Stalking is a course of conduct involving more than one instance of inappropriate and unwanted attention, harassment, threatening or intimidating physical or verbal contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a person that could be reasonably regarded as likely to alarm or place that person in fear of harm or injury, including physical, emotional, or psychological harm. This includes the use of technology to pursue, harass, threaten, intimidate, or otherwise make unwelcome contact with another person. Stalking may involve people who are known to one another or have an intimate or sexual relationship, or may involve people not known to one another.

Stalking is prohibited by Mississippi law. Stalking can also constitute a violation of this Policy when the conduct involves a Jackson State University student or employee and is gender-based.

#### **F. Relationship (Dating and Domestic) Violence**

Relationship violence is abuse, violence, or intentionally controlling behavior between partners or former partners involving one or more of the following elements: (i) battering that causes bodily injury; (ii) purposely or knowingly causing reasonable apprehension of bodily injury; (iii) emotional abuse creating apprehension of bodily injury or property damage; (iv) repeated telephonic, electronic, or other forms of communication — anonymously or directly — made with the intent to intimidate, terrify, harass, or threaten. Relationship violence can occur in all type of relationships (e.g., heterosexual, same sex, or any other type of relationship). Relationship violence may constitute a violation of this Policy when it involves a Jackson State University student, faculty or staff member, and the conduct is gender-based.

#### **G. Retaliation**

Retaliation is an adverse action or attempt to seek retribution against the complainant, or any person or group of persons involved in the investigation and/or resolution of a sexual misconduct complaint. Retaliation can be committed by any person or group of persons, not just a respondent. Retaliation may include continued abuse or violence, other forms of harassment, and slander and libel.

## **H. Gender-based Harassment**

Gender-based harassment includes harassment based on actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, which may include acts of aggression, intimidation, or hostility, even if the acts do not involve conduct of a sexual nature, when the conditions outlined below are present.

- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of a person's employment, academic standing, or participation in any University programs and/or activities, or is used as the basis for University decisions affecting the individual (often referred to as "quid pro quo" harassment); or
- Such conduct creates a hostile environment. A hostile environment exists when the conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it unreasonably interferes with, limits, or deprives an individual from participating in or benefiting from the University's education or employment programs and/or activities. Conduct must be deemed severe, persistent, or pervasive from both a subjective and an objective perspective. In evaluating whether a hostile environment exists, the University will consider the totality of known circumstances, including the nature, frequency, intensity, location, context, and duration of the behavior.

## **V. OTHER IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS**

### **A. Consent.**

Consent must be informed and voluntary, and can be withdrawn at any time. Consent can be given by words or actions as long as those words or actions create mutually understandable permission regarding the scope of sexual activity. There is no consent when there is force, expressed or implied, or when coercion, intimidation, threats, or duress is used. Whether a person has taken advantage of a position of influence over another person may be a factor in determining consent. Silence or absence of resistance does not imply consent. Past consent to sexual activity with another person does not imply ongoing future consent with that person or consent to that same sexual activity with another person.

If a person is mentally or physically incapacitated or impaired so that he or she cannot understand the fact, nature, or extent of the sexual situation, there is no consent; this includes impairment or incapacitation due to alcohol or drug consumption that meets this standard, or being asleep or unconscious.

#### **Effect of drugs and alcohol on consent:**

Individuals should be aware of, and carefully consider, the potential consequences of the use of alcohol or drugs. Alcohol and other drugs can lower inhibitions and create an atmosphere of confusion over whether consent is freely and affirmatively given. If there is a question about whether someone consented to sexual activity after consuming drugs or alcohol, the University will examine the issue from the perspective of a reasonable person. Specifically, the University will consider whether the respondent reasonably should have known about the impact of alcohol and other drugs on the complainant's ability to give consent.

### **B. Incapacitation.**

Incapacitation is the inability, temporarily or permanently, to give consent, because the person is mentally and/or physically helpless due to drug or alcohol consumption, either voluntarily or involuntarily, or the person is unconscious, asleep, or otherwise unaware that the sexual activity is occurring. Some signs of incapacitation may include, but are not limited to, lack of control over physical movements (e.g., stumbling, falling down), lack of awareness of circumstances or surroundings, the inability to speak or communicate orally, or the inability to communicate for any reason.

It is a violation of this Policy to engage in sexual activity with a person who is incapacitated, regardless of whether the person appeared to be a willing participant. It is especially important, therefore, that anyone engaging in sexual activity be aware of the other person's level of intoxication.

### **C. Force.**

The use of force to cause someone to engage in sexual activity is, by definition, non-consensual contact, and is prohibited. Force may include words, conduct, or appearance. Force includes causing another's intoxication or impairment through the use of drugs or alcohol. Under this Policy, force includes the use of any of the following:

- Physical Force, Violence, or a Weapon
- Threats
- Intimidation and Implied Threats
- Coercion. Coercion is to force one to act based on fear of harm to self or others. Means of coercion may include, but are not limited to, pressure, threats, or emotional intimidation.

### **D. Hostile Environment.**

A hostile environment exists when sexual or sex-based harassment is sufficiently serious to deny or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the University's programs or activities or has the effect of unreasonably interfering with an employee's work performance or altering the terms and conditions of the employee's employment. A hostile environment can be created by anyone involved in a University program or activity (e.g., administrators, faculty members, students, and campus visitors).

In determining whether sex-based harassment has created a hostile environment, the University considers the conduct in question from both a subjective and objective perspective. It will be necessary, but not enough, that the conduct was unwelcome to the student who was harassed. But the University will also need to find that a reasonable person in the student's position would have perceived the conduct as undesirable or offensive in order for that conduct to create or contribute to a hostile environment.

To determine whether a hostile environment exists for a student or employee, the University will consider a variety of factors related to the severity, persistence, or pervasiveness of the sex-based harassment, including: (1) the type, frequency, and duration of the conduct; (2) the identity and relationships of persons involved; (3) the number of individuals involved; (4) the location of the conduct and the context in which it occurred; and, (5) the degree to which the conduct affected the student's education or the employee's employment.

The more severe the sex-based harassment, the less need there is to show a repetitive series of incidents to find a hostile environment. Indeed, a single instance of sexual assault may be sufficient to create a hostile environment. Likewise, a series of incidents may be sufficient even if the sex-based harassment is not particularly severe.

### **E. Prompt, fair, and impartial proceeding**

A prompt, fair, and impartial proceeding includes a proceeding that is:

- Completed within reasonably prompt timeframes.
- Conducted in a manner that
  - Is consistent with the institution's policies and transparent to the accuser and accused;
  - Includes timely notice of meetings at which the complainant or respondent, or both, may be present;
  - Provides timely and equal access to the complainant, the respondent, and appropriate officials to any information that will be used during informal and formal disciplinary meetings and hearings; and
  - Conducted by officials who do not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against the complainant or the respondent.

## F. Proceeding

All activities related to a non-criminal resolution of an institutional disciplinary complaint, including, but not limited to, fact-finding investigations, formal or informal meetings, and hearings. Proceeding does not include communications and meetings between officials and victims concerning accommodations or protective measures to be provided to a victim.

## G. Result

Any initial, interim, and final decision by any official or entity authorized to resolve disciplinary matters within the University. The result must include any sanctions imposed by the University. Notwithstanding section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g), commonly referred to as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the result must also include the rationale for the result and the sanctions.

## H. Personally Identifying Information

Defined in Section 40002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) as individually identifying information for or about an individual, including information likely to disclose the location of a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, regardless of whether the information is encoded, encrypted, hashed or otherwise protected, including:

- A first and last name;
- A home or other physical address;
- Contact information (including a postal, e-mail or Internet protocol address, or telephone or facsimile number);
- A social security number, driver's license number, passport number or student identification number; and
- Any other information, including date of birth, racial or ethnic background, or religious affiliation that would serve to identify any individual.

## I. Miscellaneous Definitions

- **Complainant:** The person making the allegations or report of sexual misconduct.
- **Respondent:** The person against whom a complaint of sexual misconduct has been made.
- **Reporter:** A person who has information that sexual misconduct may have been committed by a University student or a participant in a University Program and who initiates a complaint.

## VI. REPORTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Jackson State University encourages all survivors to report incidents of sexual misconduct as promptly as possible so that the University can respond effectively. Students may report sexual misconduct to the Dean of Students, the Title IX Coordinator, or JSU Department of Public Safety. Faculty and staff must report incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. The University recognizes that student complainants may be most comfortable disclosing sexual misconduct to a University employee they know well, such as a faculty member, coach, or resident adviser ("RA"). Students are welcome to speak with them, but should understand that these individuals and many other faculty and staff members are considered "responsible employees" or "mandatory reporters" of the University. If they receive a report of sexual misconduct, they are required to inform the University about the incident. The University defines a "responsible employee" or "mandatory reporters" to include supervisors and officials with significant responsibility for student and campus activities including, but not limited to, academics, student residences, athletics, discipline, and campus safety. Employees whose positions legally require confidentiality (e.g., counseling staff and clergy) are not "responsible employees." Before a student discloses an incident of sexual misconduct, University faculty and staff will try to ensure that the student understands the employee's reporting obligations and, if the student wishes to maintain confidentiality, direct the student to confidential resources. Similarly, before a faculty or staff member discloses an incident of sexual misconduct, the person to whom the disclosure is to be made will ensure that the faculty or staff member understands his or her reporting obligations.

## **A. Reports to a Non-Confidential Resource:**

The University has designated the Title IX Coordinator to evaluate requests for confidentiality and oversee the University's response to reports of sexual misconduct where the complainant has disclosed an incident of sexual misconduct to a "responsible employee" (who must report the incident) and also requested that his or her identity not be disclosed or that no action be taken.

In such cases, the Title IX Coordinator, in consultation with a small number of key University administrators, including the Dean of Students, the Department of Public Safety, and the Office of the General Counsel, will weigh the request against the University's obligation to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all students, including the complainant. When weighing a request that no investigation be pursued or the complainant's identity not be disclosed, the Title IX Coordinator and the appropriate University administrators will consider a range of factors, including whether:

- The respondent is likely to commit additional acts of sexual or other violence, such as;
  - There have been other sexual misconduct complaints about the same respondent;
  - The respondent has a history of arrests indicating a history of violence;
  - The respondent threatened further sexual misconduct or other violence against the complainant or others;
  - The sexual misconduct was committed by multiple respondents;
- The sexual misconduct was perpetrated with a weapon;
- The complainant is a minor;
- The respondent is a Jackson State University employee;
- The University possesses other means to investigate the sexual misconduct (e.g., security cameras or personnel, physical evidence);
- The complainant's report reveals a pattern of perpetration (e.g., via illicit use of drugs or alcohol) at a given location or by a particular person or group.

The presence of one or more of these factors could lead the University to investigate and, if appropriate, pursue conduct action against the respondent. If none of these factors are present, the University will likely respect the complainant's request.

In some cases, the University may not be able to honor a confidentiality request in order to adhere to its obligation to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for the JSU community. If the Title IX Coordinator determines that the University cannot maintain a complainant's confidentiality, the Title IX Coordinator will inform the complainant prior to starting an investigation and will only share information with those University officials responsible for handling the University's response.

## **B. Reports to a Confidential Resource:**

For the purposes of this policy, confidentiality means that designated campus or community professionals cannot reveal identifiable information shared by an individual to any other person without express permission of the individual, or as otherwise permitted or required by law. Individuals designated as confidential are prohibited from breaking confidentiality unless (i) given permission to do so by the person who disclosed the information; (ii) there is an imminent threat of harm to self or others; (iii) the conduct involves suspected abuse of a minor under the age of 18; or (iv) as otherwise required or permitted by law or court order.

Those Confidential Resources include:

The LaTasha Norma Counseling Center (601) 979-0374,  
Applied Psychological Service Center (601) 979-3381,  
Campus Ministries (601) 979-2241.

## **C. Interim Measures and Support.**

Jackson State University provides a range of support services for survivors of sexual misconduct, including interim measures. Interim measures are available to provide for the safety of the complainant and the campus community while the University is investigating an allegation of sexual misconduct. Requests for interim measures can be made by or on behalf of the complainant to the University Title IX Coordinator. Students may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office. The Title IX Coordinator will work with the appropriate office(s) to ensure that any necessary interim measures are promptly provided. Upon the receipt of a report of sexual misconduct, and until any investigation into the report has been completed, the University will provide reasonable protective measures and interim support to provide a

safe educational and work environment and to prevent additional acts of sexual misconduct, even when there is no specific request for protective action.

The University may impose any measure that can be tailored to the parties involved to achieve the goals of this Policy. In addition, the University will maintain as confidential any accommodations or protective measures provided to the complainant to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the University to provide the accommodations or protective measures.

An individual's failure to comply with restrictions imposed by interim measures is a violation of this Policy and a basis for disciplinary action.

Outside the University, a complainant may also be entitled to obtain remedies under applicable law, such as a judicial restraining order. The University can assist in contacting law enforcement or legal service organizations to learn about these remedies.

#### **D. Amnesty for Students Who Report Sexual Misconduct.**

Jackson State University encourages the reporting of all concerns regarding sexual misconduct. In some instances, students may be hesitant to report sexual misconduct because they fear they may be charged with other policy violations, such as underage alcohol consumption or violation of the University's drug policy. Because JSU's primary interest is in protecting the well-being of its community and remedying sexual misconduct, a person who reports sexual misconduct, either as a complainant or a third-party witness, will not be subject to disciplinary action by the University for his/her own personal consumption of alcohol or drugs at or near the time of the incident, provided that any such violations did not and do not place the health or safety of any other person at risk. However, the use of alcohol or drugs does not excuse sexual misconduct and a person who has been incapacitated through the use of alcohol and drugs (or by any other means) cannot give effective consent to sexual activity. The University may initiate an educational discussion or pursue other educational remedies regarding alcohol or other drugs.

#### **E. Anonymous Reports and Reports from Third Parties.**

Any person may make an anonymous report concerning an act of sexual misconduct. A person may report the incident without disclosing his/her/their name, identifying the respondent, or requesting any action. Depending on the level of information available about the incident and the people involved, however, the University's ability to respond to an anonymous report may be limited. Anonymous reports may be made to the University Title IX Coordinator.

#### **F. Reporting of Crime and Disciplinary Statistics.**

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act ("Clery Act") is a federal law that requires the University to record and report certain information about campus safety, including the number of incidents of certain crimes on or near campus, some of which constitute sexual misconduct under this Policy. JSU employees who receive reports of sexual misconduct are required by the Clery Act to notify Department of Public Safety about such incidents for statistical reporting purposes, without the inclusion of personally identifiable information, as defined by VAWA (see definitions). These notifications may include the classification and location of the reported crimes, but, in the case of employees with "confidential" status, do not identify the parties involved.

The Clery Act also requires the University to issue a "timely warning" when it receives a report of certain crimes that pose a serious or continuing threat to the University community. This warning will not contain any biographical or other identifying information regarding the victim of the crime. Immediately threatening circumstances include, but are not limited to, recently reported incidents of sexual misconduct that include the use of force, a weapon, or other circumstances that represent a serious and ongoing threat to JSU students, faculty, administrators, staff, or visitors.

## VII. HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

A complainant or reporter may submit a paper (hard copy) or electronic complaint to the Dean of Students Office, Department of Public Safety, or the University's Title IX Coordinator. Although the report form should contain sufficient information to permit the respondent to understand and respond adequately to the charges being brought, it may not reflect every detail related to the allegations in the complaint, as additional information may be discovered during the investigation.

A complainant may also call or meet with the Title IX Coordinator to initiate a complaint.

University Title IX Coordinator  
Administration Tower, 8th Floor  
**(601) 979-1315; (601) 979-6804 or [titleix@jsums.edu](mailto:titleix@jsums.edu)**

Dean of Students Office  
Student Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 3200  
**(601) 979-2329**

Department of Public Safety  
**(601) 979-2580**

## VIII. PROCEDURES FOR RESOLUTION OF COMPLAINT

The following procedures will be used to investigate and resolve all complaints of sexual misconduct against Jackson State University students (undergraduate, graduate, full-time, and part-time). Jackson State University's Procedures for the investigation, adjudication, and resolution of sexual misconduct complaints brought against students are designed to be accessible, prompt, equitable, and impartial. Throughout this process, both the **complainant and respondent have the following rights:**

- To be treated with respect, dignity, and sensitivity.
- To receive appropriate support from the University.
- Privacy to the extent possible, consistent with applicable law and University policy.
- Information about the University's Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy.
- The presence of an Adviser throughout the process.
- To participate or to decline to participate in the investigation or complaint resolution process. However, a decision not to participate in the process either in whole or in part will not prevent the University from proceeding with the information available.
- A prompt and thorough investigation of the allegations.
- Adequate time to review documents in the Dean of Students Office following the investigation.
- To appeal the decision made or any sanctions imposed by the Dean of Students to a Hearing Panel of the University Board on Student Conduct.
- To challenge a Hearing Panel member(s) for a possible conflict of interest.
- To refrain from making self-incriminating statements.
- Notification, in writing, of the case resolution, including the outcome of any appeals, and the final determination.
- For the complainant, to report the incident to law enforcement (including the Department of Public Safety or with the police department in the jurisdiction in which the sexual misconduct occurred) at any time.

Jackson State University will disclose information about its investigation and resolution of sexual misconduct complaints only to those who need to know the information in order to carry out their duties and responsibilities. It will inform all University personnel participating in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing that they are expected to maintain the privacy of the process. This does not prohibit either a complainant or respondent from obtaining the assistance of family members, counselors, therapists, clergy, doctors, attorneys, or other resources.

### **A. Timing of Complaints.**

If the respondent is a current Jackson State University student (undergraduate or graduate, full-time or part-time), there is no time limit for filing a complaint to initiate these procedures. However, students are strongly encouraged to report sexual misconduct in a timely manner to maximize the University's ability to gather evidence, and conduct a thorough, impartial, and reliable investigation.

### **B. Parallel Investigations.**

The filing and processing of a complaint of sexual misconduct is separate from and independent of any criminal investigation or proceeding. Jackson State University will not wait for the conclusion of any criminal investigation or proceedings to begin its own investigation although the University may delay temporarily the fact-finding component of the investigation while the police are gathering evidence. Neither law enforcement's determination as to whether or not to prosecute a respondent nor the outcome of any criminal prosecution is determinative of whether sexual misconduct occurred under the University's Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy.

### **C. Adviser.**

The complainant and respondent may each choose and be accompanied to any meeting or hearing related to these procedures by an Adviser, who may provide support during such meeting or hearing. During meetings and interviews, the Adviser may quietly confer or pass notes with the party in a non-disruptive manner. The Adviser may not intervene in a meeting or interview, or address the Title IX Investigator and/or the Title IX Coordinator. Consistent with the University's obligation to promptly resolve sexual misconduct complaints, the University reserves the right to proceed with any meeting or interview, regardless of the availability of the party's selected Adviser.

The complainant and respondent shall also have an advisor to conduct cross-examination of the complaining and responding parties and any witnesses during a live hearing by University officials. Cross-examination will be conducted by advisors for the parties, including legal counsel, but not the parties themselves. If the complainant or respondent is unable to obtain an advisor for cross-examination, the University will provide an advisor.

### **D. Declining to Participate.**

A complainant and/or respondent may decline to participate in the investigative or complaint resolution process. The University may continue the process without the complainant's and/or respondent's participation. In most cases, a refusal to participate in the investigative process will preclude a complainant or respondent from appealing any determination. The Dean of Students will make this determination.

### **E. Time Frame for Complaint Resolution.**

The University will seek to resolve every report of sexual misconduct in a reasonably prompt time frame. Time frames may vary depending on the complexity of a case, the availability of witnesses, and at certain times of the academic year (e.g., during breaks, study periods or final exams). The University may extend any time frame for good cause, with a written explanation to the complainant and respondent.

### **F. Prohibition on Retaliation.**

It is illegal and a violation of the University's Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy to retaliate against a person for filing a complaint of sexual misconduct or for cooperating in a sexual misconduct investigation. Any person who retaliates against a person for reporting sexual misconduct, filing a sexual misconduct complaint, or participating in a sexual misconduct investigation is subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.



## **G. Notice.**

The Title IX Coordinator will give the complainant and respondent, respectively, a written explanation of their rights and options, and any available accommodations, as soon as possible after a complaint is reported. The University will provide evidence related to allegations to parties and advisers at least ten (10) days prior to requiring a response. Parties are not prohibited from speaking about the allegations. The Investigator will ensure that both the complainant and respondent are updated throughout the investigative process, including timely notice of meetings where either the complainant's or the respondent's presence may be required.

## **IX. INTERIM MEASURES**

Upon the filing of a sexual misconduct complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will review the allegations and determine the necessity and scope of any interim measures to prevent further acts of harassment, misconduct, or retaliation and to provide a safe educational and work environment. The range of interim measures may include, but not be limited to:

- Moving the complainant's or respondent's residence.
- Adjusting the complainant's or respondent's work schedule, assignment, or location for University employment.
- Changing the complainant's academic schedule, allowing the complainant to take an incomplete in one or more courses, allowing the complainant to drop (or retake) a course without penalty, or attend class via web conference.
- Changing the complainant's transportation arrangements or providing an escort to ensure safe movement between classes and other activities.
- Allowing the complainant to extend deadlines for examinations or other assignments without penalty.
- Reassigning the respondent to another section, if the complainant and respondent are enrolled in the same lecture, discussion class, academic team, or project group.
- Providing access to tutoring or other academic support.
- Issuing an administrative "no contact" directive.
- Interim suspension of the respondent.

The University will maintain as confidential any accommodations or protective measures provided to the complainant to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the University to provide the accommodations or protective measures.

An individual's failure to comply with restrictions imposed by interim measures is a violation of University Policy and a basis for disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the University.

## **X. RESPONDING TO A COMPLAINT**

### **A. Notification of Respondent.**

The person alleged to have committed sexual misconduct is the respondent. Unless the complainant requests and is granted confidentiality, the respondent will be notified in writing that a complaint alleging sexual misconduct has been filed against him or her. The respondent will be advised that he or she may have an Adviser accompany him or her to any meeting or interview related to the investigation and complaint resolution process.

### **B. Information for Respondent.**

Within seven (7) calendar days of receiving notice of the complaint, the respondent must arrange to meet with Title IX Coordinator. At that meeting, The Title IX Coordinator will:

- Provide the respondent with information regarding the Rights of the Complainant and Respondent.
- Provide the respondent with a copy of the complaint.
- Explain the prohibition against retaliation.
- Discuss the nature of the complaint.
- Explain the rights and responsibilities of the complainant and respondent.
- Explain the process for investigating and resolving the complaint (including the available appeal procedures).

- Instruct the respondent not to destroy any potentially relevant documentation in any format.
- Give the respondent a copy of the relevant policies.
- Provide the respondent with a list of on-campus and off-campus support resources.

If the respondent fails to meet or cooperate with the investigation, the resolution of the complaint will proceed without input from the respondent. If interim measures have been imposed, The Title IX Coordinator will explain the scope of those measures and the respondent's duty to comply with the interim measures.

### **C. Acceptance of Responsibility.**

After reviewing the complaint and meeting with the Title IX Coordinator, the respondent may choose to end the complaint resolution process by accepting responsibility for the conduct alleged in the complaint. If the respondent accepts responsibility for the conduct alleged in the complaint, the Dean of Students will determine an appropriate sanction for the respondent. If the respondent disputes the allegations of the complaint, the matter will proceed to an investigation.

At any point in the process, the respondent may accept responsibility for the conduct alleged in the complaint. In such cases, the Dean of Students may impose sanctions for violations of the Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy.

## **XI. INVESTIGATION OF A COMPLAINT**

### **A. Investigators.**

The Title IX Office has an investigator specifically trained in sexual misconduct investigations to conduct a prompt, thorough, and fair investigation.

### **B. Investigation Process.**

The investigation will include one or more interviews with the complainant, the respondent, and any witnesses. The investigation will include the gathering of physical, documentary, or other relevant and available evidence, including law enforcement reports. As part of the investigation, the University will provide an opportunity for all parties to present written statements, identify witnesses, and submit other evidence.

### **C. Standard of Proof.**

In resolving complaints pursuant to the Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy, the University will use a "preponderance of the evidence," standard, which is whether the evidence gathered and information provided during the investigation supports a finding that it is more likely than not that the respondent violated the Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy.

### **D. Investigation Finding.**

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Investigator will prepare a report (the "Investigative Report") summarizing the relevant facts determined through the investigation, with reference to any supporting documentation or statements. Before the Investigative Report is finalized, the complainant and respondent will be given the opportunity to review their own statements and, may also be provided with a written summary of other information collected during the investigation.

A complainant or respondent must submit any comments about their own statement, or on any investigation summary that might be provided, to the Investigators within ten (10) calendar days after the statement or summary was provided.

Following the receipt of any comments submitted, or after the 10-day comment period has lapsed without comment, the Investigators will address any identified factual inaccuracies or misunderstandings, as appropriate. The final Investigative Report will provide a summary of the Investigator's impressions, including context for the evidence and a recommendation, but will not make a final determination as to whether a violation of the Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy occurred.

### **E. Adjudication**

The Title IX Coordinator, along with the Dean of Students, will appoint a Hearing Panel of three to five (3-5) adjudicators and will appoint one of these members as the Panel Chair. The Hearing Panel will not include any person who has

participated in any effort to resolve the same complaint. The Hearing Panel members will receive the names of the complainant, the respondent, and all witnesses, and must withdraw from the proceedings if their relationship to a party or witness, or other circumstances leads them to believe that they cannot judge the matter fairly. Adjudicators shall serve a term of two years except that the term for student members shall be one year. Members appointed to fill a vacancy on the panel shall serve for the duration of the term.

If, during the summer or during any other period, sufficient members of the Hearing Panel are not available to create a Quorum, the Title IX Coordinator, at the request of the Dean of Students, may designate individuals to serve as an interim adjudicator for the purpose of serving on a Hearing Panel. All Adjudicators must participate in training. In addition, each year, returning adjudicators must receive refresher training. In addition to training on how the adjudicatory process works, the training will include specific instruction about how to approach students about sensitive issues that may arise in the context of sexual misconduct.

The Title IX Coordinator will provide the complainant and respondent with simultaneous, written notice of the Panel's recommendation regarding the resolution of the sexual misconduct complaint including, the determination of responsibility, the sanction imposed, if any, and any additional steps that the University has taken to eliminate the hostile environment and prevent any recurrence of any sexual misconduct. The Letter of Determination will include a description of the right to appeal for both the complainant and the respondent.

## **XII. SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATING THE SEXUAL MISCONDUCT/TITLE IX POLICY**

If the respondent is found responsible for violating the Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy by the Hearing Panel, the Panel will recommend a sanction designed to eliminate the misconduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects, while supporting the University's educational mission and Title IX obligations. Sanctions may also serve to promote safety or deter students from similar future behavior. The following, individually or in combination, are potential sanctions for violations of the University's Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy. Where appropriate, the statement of the sanction includes the duration, any conditions to be observed during that period, and the conditions for termination of the sanction.

### **Major Sanctions:**

- Expulsion from the University or a program of the University.
- Suspension from the University or a program of the University for a specific period of time.
- Deferred suspension from the University or a program of the University.
- Denial of graduation, diploma, or degree.
- Deferral of graduation, diploma, or degree for a specific period of time.
- Revocation or withdrawal of diploma or degree previously credited, awarded, or conferred.

### **Other Sanctions:**

- Expulsion from a University residence.
- Suspension from a University residence for a specific period of time.
- Deferred residence expulsion (with or without relocation to a different residence location).
- Disciplinary probation. Disciplinary probation may involve counseling with faculty or administrative staff; restriction of student privileges; prohibitions against participation in University activities or events, including athletic or non-athletic activities; and prohibitions against holding office or participating in student organizations or residence, school, or college organizations or activities.
- Residence probation. Residence probation may involve periodic meetings with a member of the residence staff and/or restriction of specific residence privileges.
- Disciplinary reprimand or warning.
- Restitution. The student will reimburse the University and/or other appropriate party for damage to or loss of property or for costs or expenses incurred by the University or other party. Restitution will be made at full cost of replacement or repair, and other expenses.

As part of the sanctioning process, the Title IX Coordinator may require that existing interim remedies stay in place for a prescribed period of time. In consultations with the Title IX Coordinator, the Dean of Students may also impose new

remedies or administrative actions such as no contact orders, housing placement, or academic accommodations based upon the investigation and resolution of the case.

### **XIII. APPEAL PROCESS**

The respondent may appeal the adjudication panel decision to the Dean of Students. All appeals must be submitted in writing (typed) from the student via e-mail to the Dean of Students Office within 2 business days following the initial decision letter date to a student. As a reminder, students are expected to check their JSU student email account daily. The appeal needs to be distributed to deanofstudents@jsums.edu with the subject line: Title IX. The e-mail must include supporting documentation along with the appeal letter. The appeal request must state the specific grounds on which the student should be granted an appeal as described in the previous section. The appeal request must also be clear and specific. The Dean of Students or designee is not obligated to confer with the student, and may choose to review only the written information in making a decision.

After the letter of appeal has been received, it will be determined whether there are grounds to grant an appeal. In turn, notification will be distributed to the student within seven (7) business days after receipt of the student's appeal request. If a conference is needed to consider the matter further, the notice shall include the time and place at which the student is to be present. The aforementioned advisor procedures will be consistent with the original adjudication process.

The decision of the Dean of Students is final, except in those cases involving expulsion from the University. In cases involving expulsion, the student may appeal the sanction to the Vice President for Student Affairs, in writing via email to studentaffairs@jsums.edu, with a copy to the Dean of Students (deanofstudents@jsums.edu) within 2 business days following the date on the appeal decision letter from the Dean of Students. Appeal requests of this nature must also be typewritten. Similarly, the Vice President for Student Affairs is not obligated to confer with the student, and may choose to review only the written information in making a decision. An appeal to the Vice President for Student Affairs is the final step in an appeal for an expulsion. Once a decision is made, it is final. If an expelled student chooses not to request an appeal within the specified time period, the decision of the Dean of Students or designee is final. It is, therefore, imperative that the student abides by the stipulations of his/her sanction(s).

### **XIV. PREVENTION AND EDUCATION**

Jackson State University expects all community members to take reasonable and prudent actions to prevent or stop an act of sexual misconduct. Taking action may include direct intervention, calling law enforcement, or seeking assistance from a person in authority. Members of the JSU community who intervene to prevent or stop sexual misconduct will be supported by the University and protected from retaliation.

### **XV. TRAINING**

In connection with its obligations under Title IX, Jackson State University is committed to ensuring appropriate training for its Title IX Coordinator, law enforcement personnel, "responsible employees," victim advocates, and others involved in responding to, investigating, or adjudicating sexual misconduct. Jackson State University will train all personnel involved in the Title IX process and publish training materials on their websites. Training must involve review of the definition of sexual harassment and the scope of the application of Title IX to college programs and activities, how to conduct a formal or informal process, and how to "serve impartially," including avoidance of "prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias. In addition, Jackson State University will offer a comprehensive awareness and prevention training to faculty, staff, and students to assist them in recognizing sexual misconduct, teach them how to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, and ensure that they are aware of available on and off campus resources. Staff must be trained on relevant technology to conduct remote investigations and hearings. Live hearings will be recorded, by transcript or audio visually, and will be made available to parties and maintained in college records for at least seven years.

## **Resources:**

### **On Campus:**

Title IX Office/Diversity and Inclusion  
Student Center, Suite 2125  
**601-979-1315**

Campus Police  
Department of Public Safety  
**601-979-2580**

Dean of Students Office  
Student Center, Suite 3200  
**601-979-2329**

Campus Ministries  
Reddix building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
**601-979-1318**

Student Health Center  
Prentiss St.  
**601-979-2260**

Applied Psychological Services Center  
College of Liberal Arts, Suite 327  
**601-979-3381**

LaTasha Norman Counseling Center  
Student Center, Suite 2102  
**601-979-0374**

Human Resource (Faculty and Staff)  
College of Business, Suite 530  
**601-979-2015**

### **Off Campus:**

Catholic Charities  
Shelter for Women and Children  
**601-366-0222**

Hinds County Sheriff Department  
**601-974-2900**

Jackson Police Department  
911 (in case of emergency)  
**601-960-1234** (non-emergency call)

St. Dominic's Hospital  
969 Lakeland Dr. Jackson MS  
**601-200-2000**

University Medical Center  
2500 N. State St. Jackson MS.  
**601-984-1000**

Baptist Medical Center  
1225 N. State St. Jackson MS  
**601-968-1000**

### **Hotlines:**

Domestic Violence: **1-800-898-3234**

Sexual Assault: **1-800-565-HOPE (4673)**

**To assure University-wide compliance with this policy and with federal and state law, the Title Coordinator must be advised of all reported incidents of sexual misconduct and their resolution.**

**IX**

# JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

## UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT TRAVEL

This Policy applies to the travel of enrolled undergraduate and graduate students to attend activities or events that are organized and/or sponsored by Jackson State University (“University”). Its purpose is to provide procedures which promote student safety, minimize University risk, and improve accountability.

### A. Policy Statement

All enrolled undergraduate or graduate students who travel to and from activities and/or events that are within the scope of this Policy must comply with the University policies and practices for safe student travel. Individuals classified as undergraduate students traveling to workshops, presentations, conferences, etc. must be accompanied by an advisor, regardless of age. An individual classified as a graduate student may travel with an advisor, but is not required to do so. However, a faculty/staff contact person must be listed on the required travel form as the point of contact in case of an emergency. The Travel Request for Authorization Form, the Authorization for Medical Treatment Form, and the Release and Indemnification Form must be completed for each student traveling, regardless of classification. Travel forms are not required for internships, co-ops, extensive academic opportunities, etc. Travel forms should be submitted at least 14 days prior to travel. All required signatures must be received prior to departure.

Student travelers are required to abide by all applicable federal and state laws relating to operation of a motor vehicle while traveling. Additionally, students traveling to and from University-organized and sponsored activities or events may be required to use various modes of travel as well as meet certain conditions. Each form of travel requires the student to follow particular safety precautions.

### B. Scope

This Policy applies to student travel associated with representing the University in athletic or academic competitions, any and all student travel sponsored by the University, student travel with a University official utilizing a vehicle owned or leased by the University, certain student travel in connection with academic courses, including international travel, and certain student travel associated with student organizations. This policy only applies to travel that includes a destination that is more than thirty (30) miles from the University’s main campus located at 1400 J.R. Lynch Street in Jackson, Mississippi.

This policy does not extend to organized events in which the University does not have any supervisory capacity. For example, this policy would apply to academic field trips which are chaperoned by a faculty member, but it does not apply to students traveling in their own vehicle to their individual courses or individual internships. It does apply to student-athletes traveling to competitions in which they represent the University, but it does not apply to non-student athletes traveling to a sporting event, unless the travel for the event also meets the definition of a sponsored event. All sponsored events are within the scope of this policy. International student travel in connection with a University academic program is included in this policy, although other policies may also apply to travel abroad.

### C. Definitions

An **organized event** is one that is initiated, planned, and arranged by a member of the University's faculty or staff in their official capacity with the University, or by the members of a recognized student organization, and the event is formally approved and authorized by an appropriate administrator of the University acting within his or her official capacity with the University. Organized events in which the University does not have any supervisory capacity and which are organized by an organization independent from the University are not covered by this Policy.

A **sponsored event** or activity is one that the University endorses by supporting it financially, and/or by sending one or more students to participate in the event primarily as an official representative of the University.

An **enrolled student** is an individual that has been admitted to and is attending classes at the University, either in person or on-line.

An ***appropriate administrator*** is a vice president, dean, department chair, or director/coordinator of an administrative unit, or their designee, who has actual authority to provide authorization.

A ***recognized student organization*** is an organization that is acknowledged by the Student Government Association and/or the Pan Hellenic Council. Such organizations are separate entities from the University but shall abide by University policies.

#### **D. Expectations**

Students are representatives of Jackson State University whenever they participate in an off-campus activity that is funded fully or in part by the institution. As such, the students' behavior at off-campus activities is reflective of the University and therefore, it is the expectation of the University that the students recognize this and exhibit appropriate conduct. Students should maintain an environment that sustains the educational goals of the travel as well as respect the security and property of individuals and the University. Students must adhere to the University's Student Code of Conduct at all sponsored events as well as the laws and policies of the facility, university, or country to which they have traveled.

#### **E. Student Responsibility**

Any student conduct while engaged in travel or at the destination which results in additional costs will be at the student's sole expense. Neither the University nor any employee of the University, including chaperones, is responsible for providing expenses or costs, including legal assistance or bail, arising from a student being detained by proper authorities. Individuals evicted from their place of lodging are personally responsible for obtaining alternative lodging for themselves at their own expense. Any damage by a student to a student's lodging is the direct responsibility of the student and not the University. If damage occurs to a room, the student or students assigned to the room will provide payment arising from the damage.

When transportation is provided by the University, any student's actions causing an unreasonable risk of injury to the student, others, or property, as determined by the University may lose the privilege of being afforded such travel by the University. If the University makes this determination, the student will become responsible for securing his or her alternative travel arrangements at no expense to the University, regardless of any inconvenience. However, students who - lose their travel privilege due to misconduct will not be left stranded in any area in which there is a foreseeable risk of physical harm to that student.

#### **F. Insurance**

The University will not provide insurance coverage for all types of harm that may occur to all students while traveling, and students should therefore not rely on the University sole to provide all required insurance coverage on behalf of the student. Therefore, all student travelers are strongly encouraged to secure private insurance coverage.

All motor vehicle insurance for students is the responsibility of the individual and not the University. When the University is aware that a student may be driving in connection with an organized or sponsored event, proof of automobile insurance must be provided. Proof of individual health or medical insurance is generally not required, but may be required depending on the program or event.

As required by NCAA legislation, injuries to a student resulting from travel in connection with the student's participation as a member of a University athletics team would result in a claim under an insurance policy purchased by the University and/or supplemented by the NCAA. However, student athletes are not permitted to drive his or her self, or his or her teammates, to official athletic competitions, including practices and games, which are greater than 30 miles from the University. Any students who drive themselves or other students any distance to an organized or sponsored event assume all associated risks and must complete the indemnification agreement.

## **G. Funding Approval**

University sponsored student travel expenses may, in many but not all instances, be paid for by the University. Requests for funding should be handled by the student advisor and, when appropriate, a program director or the administrator over the account from which funds will be expended.

Funding for University travel should be requested by the authorized individual at least one month prior to the date of departure and processed through the appropriate University authority. For example, Study Abroad requests would be processed through the faculty member, department chair, dean, and vice president, in consultation with the Study Abroad office. Student Government Association requests would be processed through procedures outlined in the SGA constitution. Funding is not guaranteed and students are responsible for submitting all requests timely.

If hotel or airline services are required, the staff/faculty advisor should make the arrangements well in advance, and the appropriate administrator will authorize special check requests, purchase orders, and/or other necessary documents. Only University-approved travel agencies may be used.

If a student, faculty, or staff member requires expedited approval, an authorized faculty/staff member may complete a Student Travel Request for Authorization form to expedite approval and funding by forwarding it to the appropriate director, chair, dean, and vice president. Only authorized administrators can agree to expend University funds, and no promise of funding is binding unless proper authorization is obtained.

## **H. Travel Authorization**

In order to ensure that the events or activities that involve student travel are within the scope of the University's mission and public purpose, travel undertaken pursuant to this Policy must be authorized in advance by an appropriate administrator. All University sponsored trips must be approved prior to departure.

The following applies to this process:

1. To request authorization, individual students and/or students who are members of recognized student organizations who organize activities covered by this Policy, must submit a completed Student Travel Request for Authorization form to the Vice President for Student Life. The form specifies which required documents must be attached (i.e., an agenda, a bus contract) in order to receive approval. Whenever possible, the request should be submitted at least one month prior to the activity or event.
2. The following information/documents must be submitted with the Student Travel Request for Authorization Form:
  - a. A list of student travelers, including their names, local addresses and phone numbers, as well as the names and phone numbers of persons to contact in case of an emergency;
  - b. The name and phone number for the responsible University employee(s) who will be available to the students at all reasonable times during the travel and activity;
  - c. Trip Itinerary (one for the entire group);
  - d. When required, a copy of current medical insurance certificate, or both sides of a current group insurance membership card, for each student who wishes to participate in the activity or event;
  - e. Completed and signed Release and Indemnification Agreement Form for each student; and
  - f. Completed and signed Authorization for Medical Treatment Form for each student.
3. Course Field Trips (to include but not limited to conferences, presentations, and workshops)
  - a. When leading group trips, faculty or staff members should carry emergency contact information, proof of medical insurance coverage (if provided), and the authorization for emergency medical treatment for each student.



- b. Faculty members who teach courses that involve frequent field trips should collect the following information from students at the beginning of each semester and keep it on file with the appropriate administrator for use throughout a semester:
  - i. Proof of current medical insurance
  - ii. Completed and signed medical authorization forms
  - iii. Completed and signed release and indemnification agreements (a single release and indemnification agreement may be used if a single description fits all the proposed trips)
  - iv. Proof of a valid vehicle operator's license for students who will operate vehicles
- c. A one-time approval can be provided for multiple trips led by faculty or staff members that involve the same locations and same students. However, a separate approval must be obtained if the location changes. If a person authorized to travel does not go, this must be promptly reported as stated in Section J below, but if any additional person (not yet authorized) wishes to travel, he or she must receive authorization before being allowed to travel. A person cannot substitute for another without going through the process.

4. The Student Travel Request for Authorization Form, the Authorization for Medical Treatment Form, and the Release and Indemnification Agreement Form are available at the office of the Vice President for Student Life.

5. The International Form must also be completed for travel outside the continental United States. Students traveling internationally in connection with an academic course of study should inquire with their academic department and advisor to ensure other requirements for international travel are met. For international travel where the student is also an employee, or a faculty or staff member is traveling, additional statutory requirements and approvals will apply.

## **I. Commercial Travel**

Students traveling by commercial transportation, whether domestic or international, must comply with all applicable international, federal, and state laws regulating travel and the policies and regulations of the specific carrier.

## **J. Travel by Motor Vehicle**

### **1. Compliance with Applicable Laws and Policies**

- a. Motor vehicles used for travel covered by this policy shall have a current liability insurance card evidencing the required liability insurance and a valid state inspection certification.
- b. Individuals utilizing University-owned vehicles for travel must comply with the policy, procedures and all other requirements of Jackson State University. The University Vehicle Request Form is available from the Department of Facilities and Construction Management, Phone: 601-979-2522. Pursuant to the Jackson State University Transportation Policy and Procedural Manual:
  - i. The driver must be a University employee who must possess a valid driver's license appropriate for the vehicle being driven. In addition, the University driver must carry an insurance card and vehicle registration at all times.
  - ii. Prior to the operation of any University vehicle, it is the responsibility of the University driver and/or the department supervisor to inspect the vehicle for body damages before and after use.
  - iii. University vehicles must be legally parked with the engine off and doors locked when left unattended. The operator of the University vehicle responsible for the violation shall pay any and all fines due to traffic/parking violations as well as other tickets.

- iv. In accordance with Mississippi law, the University driver and all passengers must use seat belts when traveling. All fines resulting from the failure to wear seat belts will be the sole responsibility of the driver or passenger.

## 2. Travel by Privately Owned Vehicles

The use of personal vehicles by undergraduate student travelers to sponsored and organized events over 30 miles from the University is not permitted. Graduate students are permitted to travel over 30 miles with proper travel documentation on file. In addition to submitting the information described in Section G, when requesting authorization for travel that involves the use of personally owned vehicles the requestor shall also submit a copy of a current liability insurance certificate evidencing liability insurance coverage for any vehicle to be used for the proposed travel. No individual will be authorized to travel in a personal vehicle for a sponsored event unless such proof of insurance is provided. The University does not require transportation by private vehicle, and it does not assume any risks or responsibilities associated with an individual's election to use a private vehicle. When traveling in a private vehicle to a destination within 30 miles from the University in connection with a sponsored or organized event, the Student Release and Indemnification Agreement must be signed by the traveling student or students, the driver must provide proof of insurance, and an appropriate administrator or coach must consent.

## 3. Volunteer Drivers and Passengers

Nonstudent/nonemployee drivers and passengers who accompany students on travel covered by this Policy must sign the **Release and Indemnification Form** and the **Authorization for Medical Treatment Form** prior to the trip. No passengers are allowed unless they conform to this requirement.

## 4. Mechanical Breakdowns and Towing

If a University vehicle becomes inoperable off campus or becomes unsafe to drive, the Department of Public Safety should be contacted immediately at 601-979-2580.

## 5. Accidents

- a. All accidents involving University vehicles must be reported to Jackson State University Department of Public Safety by the assigned driver immediately, but no later than 24 hours after the accident occurred. The assigned driver is responsible for contacting the proper law enforcement agency as a completed written police report must be obtained, and the police report file number must be given to the Jackson State University Department of Public Safety Department.
- b. In the event that a police report cannot be filed, the following information must be obtained from the other driver: owner's name, address, and home telephone, driver's license number, vehicle description and plate number, insurance company name, phone number, and policy number.
- c. Students participating in a University activity or event that sustain a personal injury as a result of a motor vehicle accident related to participating in the activity or event under this policy, must report to the University Health Center, Phone: 601-979-2260 immediately, but no later than 24 hours after the injury, unless doing so is impossible. If the injury was sustained at an hour during which the Health Center is closed, students should report injuries as soon as the Center reopens during normal business hours.

## K. Record of Student Travelers

The University administrator authorizing the student travel is responsible for ensuring that the individuals traveling are authorized to travel according to this policy. A record shall be made and forwarded to the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee if there is any difference in the individuals authorized to travel to the event and those individuals who do travel. In that no unauthorized individuals should be traveling; record supplements should only have to be made when some students who were authorized to travel in fact did not do so on that particular date. However, if an unauthorized

person travels the pertinent administrator or designee must report such travel, including the individual's name, and submit it as a supplement to the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee.

## **Completing Request for an Excused Absence Form**

- Go to [www.jsums.edu](http://www.jsums.edu)
- Go to Student Affairs on the JSU Web Directory
- Go to the Dean of Students Tab
- Drop down to the Student Information link
- Download and complete the Request for an Excused Absence Form
- Instructor signatures are required for each course
  - Multiple forms with instructor signatures will be accepted (where applicable)
- Forward the completed form(s) and supporting documentation to [jackie.a.nash@jsums.edu](mailto:jackie.a.nash@jsums.edu)
  - Supporting documentation includes but is not limited to obituaries, doctor notes, etc.
- Approved forms will be returned to the student for their record

## University Withdrawal Procedures and Guidelines

This procedure applies to the withdrawal of enrolled undergraduate and graduate students. Its purpose is to provide and define procedures for allowing students to withdraw from Jackson State University.

### A. Statement & Process

A student who wishes to withdraw from the University during any academic term will begin the process by completing the Student Withdrawal Survey. To access the Student Withdrawal Form through TheePortal, follow the steps below:

- Step 1 Visit the Jackson State University website at [www.jsums.edu](http://www.jsums.edu)
- Step 2 Click on TheePortal located at the top of the page
- Step 3 Sign in using your User ID & Password
- Step 4 Click on the Student PAWS icon then click the Banner icon Menu, located in the top, left corner
- Step 5 Click Student and Financial Aid from the dropdown menu
- Step 6 Select the Undergraduate or Graduate University Withdrawal Form

Once the withdrawal form is completed and submitted, contact the appropriate office below for additional information:

Students	Location
On-Campus Residential and Commuters	University Academic Advisement Center H.T. Sampson Library, 2nd Floor 601-979-2127 <a href="mailto:advising@jsums.edu">advising@jsums.edu</a>
Student Athletes	Tiger Center for Student-Athlete Development and Academic Services H.T. Sampson Library, 1st Floor 601-979-8880
Online Degree Students	JSUOnline <a href="mailto:jsuonline@jsums.edu">jsuonline@jsums.edu</a> 601-979-0779
Graduate Students	Graduate School Henry P. Jacobs Administration Building, 1st Floor 601-979-2455

### B. Procedures

- If a student must withdraw from all classes during the semester for personal reasons, he or she should consult with their advisor in the appropriate office. The withdrawal of any student will be effective as of the date the official withdrawal is approved, or in the event of a retroactive withdrawal due to emergency or serious illness, the date assigned by the appropriate advisor. The effective date of withdrawal will determine the students' financial obligation to the institution. Please review all official dates in the University Academic Calendar.

- A student who is officially withdrawn from the University will receive grades of “W” for each course scheduled.
- Students should be aware that withdrawing, officially or unofficially, can adversely affect financial aid for the next term of attendance. The withdrawal procedure is outlined in the university’s catalogs and student handbook.
- Financial aid recipients who withdraw or drop a course may not receive a refund as a result of the tuition adjustment. The refund will be credited to the appropriate source of fee payment which includes the following: (1) Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan; (2) Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan; (3) Federal PLUS Loan; (4) Federal Direct Stafford Loan; (5) Federal Direct Plus; (6) Federal Perkins; (7) Federal Pell Grant; (8) Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant; (9) other Title IV aid; (10) other federal sources and (11) state, private or institution aid.
- Students who leave the campus without withdrawing through regular channels or who attempt to withdraw late without extraordinary reasons may receive *F* grades for all unfinished work, which may result in failing some or all courses for that semester.
- Failure to attend classes, or abandonment of an on-campus housing space to which one has been assigned, or one’s non-return to classes for an upcoming semester for which one is already academically and financially registered in advance, does not constitute official withdrawal. Students must contact Housing/Residence Life (Campbell College Suites, 601-979-2326) in order to officially withdraw from residential communities.

### **C. Retroactive Withdrawals**

Students who leave the campus without initiating the withdrawal process with their appropriate advisor during the semester of departure or who fail to withdraw through regular channels or who fail to withdraw for extraordinary reasons may apply for a retroactive university withdrawal only if they can provide evidence of the following:

1. The student had a debilitating illness or injury that significantly limited his/her capacity to withdraw in a timely manner; or
2. The student was forced to leave the University abruptly due to a health or safety emergency within his/her immediate family.
3. The student had erroneous charges incurred due to administrative or technical errors.

4. The student was forced to leave the University abruptly due to military service obligation.

To apply for a retroactive University withdrawal, the following criteria must be met:

1. The student must submit a retroactive withdrawal request form to their appropriate advisor within one calendar year of the last day of the semester for which the withdrawal is sought. ***Requests made outside of this timeframe may be considered on a case-by-case basis.***
2. The student must include his/her name, JNumber, date(s) for the requested retroactive withdrawal, and supporting documentation to verify claims of illness, injury or emergency which precluded the student from applying for a University withdrawal during the semester of departure.
3. The appropriate advisor will assign the official date of the retroactive University withdrawal.

Requests for a retroactive withdrawal are considered only if sufficient documentation is provided to support claims of extraordinary illness, injury, emergency or administrative/technical errors. The review process will be limited to a review of documents and student records. A decision will be provided to the student upon the final decision from the Academic Standing Committee.

## **COVID-19 Student/Student Organization Manual (where applicable)**

Jackson State University (JSU) is closely monitoring the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. As the situation continues to change rapidly, our top priority remains the health, safety, and well-being of our community, on and off campus. We are planning for several contingency scenarios and taking decisive, informed action to limit the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring the continuity of our teaching and research mission. The University remains open and operational with appropriate measures to protect the health of the community. We will continue to update the community regularly to keep you informed of additional measures (JSU Website, 2020).

This serves as a general guideline and guidance for Jackson State University® student/student organization meetings, gatherings, forums, student activities, etc. COVID-19 is a complex, challenging, and fluid situation that continues to evolve rapidly. All information within this manual is subject to change as deemed necessary by University leadership in accordance with guidance and recommendations issued by federal, state, and local public health and government officials. This includes recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Consequently, the Division of Student Affairs reserves the right to revise this manual as often as needed.

### **COVID-19 & Social Distancing**

#### **Staying Safe**

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to grow, public health officials warn that people of all ages can be affected by the virus — including young people — and urge everyone to follow social distancing precautions (JSU Website, 2020).

#### **Social Distancing**

Social distancing is critical to help curb the spread of the coronavirus and avoid overwhelming the nation's health care system. Public health officials ask people to stay at least six feet away from others (JSU Website, 2020).

The CDC (2020) continues to study the spread and effects of the novel coronavirus across the United States. We now know from recent studies that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (“asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (“pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms. In light of this new evidence, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission (CDC, 2020).

It is critical to emphasize that maintaining 6-foot social distancing remains important to slowing the spread of the virus (CDC, 2020). CDC is additionally advising the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure (CDC, 2020).

#### **Why practice social distancing?**

According to the CDC (2020), COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact (within about 6 feet) for a prolonged period. Spread happens when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, and droplets from their mouth or nose are launched into the air and land in the mouths or noses of people nearby. The droplets can also be inhaled into the lungs. Recent studies indicate that people who are infected but do not have symptoms likely also play a role in the spread of COVID-19 (CDC, 2020).

The CDC (2020) reports that it may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. However, this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. COVID-19 can live for hours or days on a surface, depending on factors such as sunlight, humidity, and the type of surface. Social distancing helps limit opportunities to come in contact with contaminated surfaces and infected people outside the home (CDC, 2020). Although the risk of severe illness may be different for everyone, anyone can get and spread COVID-19. Everyone has a role to play in slowing the spread and protecting themselves, their family, and their



community (CDC, 2020). In an effort to protect the health and safety of all JSU™ students and Registered Student Organizations, the following rules, regulations, and guidelines have been implemented.

### **Discrimination**

Students have the right to be free from all forms of discrimination. Jackson State University® does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, national or ethnic origin, disability, or veteran status in its educational programs, activities, admissions or employment practices.

### **Types of Registered Student Organizations (RSOs)**

The Center for Student Engagement and Leadership (CSEL) maintains current information on each registered student organization, its officers or authorized representatives, and its purpose. The CSEL also provides event approval stamps for event advertisement(s). The process for event approval is below.

1. **Academic** -- Honor societies / groups recognizing high levels of academic performance and requiring demonstrated interest in a particular field of study or academic discipline. These are departmental clubs, honor societies, and special interest organizations for almost all of the academic disciplines.
2. **Class Council** -- Represent the four undergraduate classes in the student governance process.
3. **National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)** -- Private, national or international social Greek letter, voluntary associations which meet all of the following criteria.
  - The sponsoring bodies are legal corporations.
  - They have organizational goals which are social/ service / fraternal rather than honorary, professional, religious or political. The emphasis of these groups is the personal development of members.
  - They may select members according to subjective criteria consistent with the nondiscrimination policies of the University. They may be entitled to single sex membership if they meet the provisions of Section 86.14 of the regulations promulgated under title IX of the U.S. Education Act Amendment of 1972.
4. **Religious** -- Religious organizations serve as spiritual outlets for students of various denominations.
5. **Residential** -- Organizations representing the needs and concerns of University housing groups.
6. **Special Interest** -- Organizations whose mission is to promote a common interest; to foster participation in a specific interest or activity, and to provide an interactive environment for its members.

# STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

**Wash your hands  
often with soap  
and water for  
at least 20 seconds.**



[cdc.gov/COVID19](https://cdc.gov/COVID19)

CS114000A, March 12, 2020 (04/19)

# HOUSING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

## **Main Housing Office Guidelines**

All office staff are available Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. via phone or email. As a precaution, all students or visitors are required to wear a face covering before being allowed access to the Housing Office.

## **Designated Quarantine Spaces**

Each residence hall has designated rooms on each floor equipped with an in-suite bathroom. These rooms are electrostatically sanitized prior to and after a student has completed quarantine.

Quarantined students are still held to the same Housing and Residence Life guidelines as non-quarantined students. All quarantine spaces must be left in their original condition. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in a fine being assessed to the students' accounts.

## **Move-In Guidelines**

Students must obtain proof of a negative Covid-19 test result at least 3 days before arrival to campus to be permitted to move into the residence halls. Students are provided a link a week prior to move-in in order to upload test results; however, students may also provide a physical copy of the test results upon arrival to campus.

Students who do not provide this document will not be allowed to move into the residence halls. The JSU Student Health Center will review the document for a negative result, at which time the student will receive an email from housing clearing them for move-in.

Students who arrive on campus and have not uploaded the document will be required to test on campus between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. before being allowed to move into the residence halls.

Residential students who test positive must be quarantined for the fourteen required days then tested again after this period for a negative result. Once a negative test result is received, the student should upload their test result document and obtain clearance to move into their residence hall.

## **Guests on Move-in Day**

Each student will be allowed **ONLY** two individuals to assist them with moving in. Those two individuals must show proof of a negative COVID-19 test result dated at least 3 days before their student's move-in date. Proof of ID must be submitted with the test results upon arrival to campus. All guests will receive a pass to proceed on campus. If a guest cannot provide a negative test result, they will not be allowed in the residence halls.

## **Students Who Test Positive After Arriving on Campus**

Each student is given a temporary quarantine room in his or her designated residence hall. If a space is unavailable in the assigned residence hall, the student will be given a space based on availability. The temporary assignment is given to the student shortly after we have received confirmation from the JSU Health Center.

Students whose permanent address is within five hours of campus are advised to quarantine at home. In extenuating circumstances, these students are allowed to quarantine on campus.

Covid-19 Positive students are given two hours to access their room and retrieve ten days' worth of clothing and other items that may be needed. Students are instructed to report directly to their temporary room and they may not exit unless an emergency occurs.

Each student is also provided with a JSU Tiger Pantry care package and a PPE kit. Students are advised to have additional cleaning supplies and face coverings while in quarantine.

## **COVID-19 & General Guidelines for Student/Student Organization Events**

### **Attendee limits**

**\*Note: The President's Office will determine the current campus event status, which may range from all virtual events to 25% event capacity. 100% capacity would be equivalent to normal operations with no impact from a pandemic.**

### ***Virtual Events***

*When the President's Office has deemed it necessary to hold virtual events for the campus community during a pandemic, the following guidelines must be followed by all students and student organizations. The President's Office must approve all exceptions.*

1. All virtual events sponsored by RSOs must be registered through the Center for Student Engagement and Leadership (CSEL). Virtual event submissions should be submitted to [jsuengage@jsums.edu](mailto:jsuengage@jsums.edu). A virtual event is not approved until an approval email has been received by the respective RSO.
2. All virtual events sponsored by RSOs **must** be attended by the organization's advisor, meaning the advisor must be present on the virtual platform throughout the entire event.
3. The Student Handbook remains the guiding principle for all virtual events. Therefore, expectations relating to illegal drugs, alcohol, technology presence, and other associated student conduct expectations should be considered when planning, as well as executing virtual events. The visual presence of prohibited items during RSO sponsored events is prohibited.
4. Invitation only events are allowed for student organization executive board/leadership team meetings, as well as National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) members' only meetings. However, advisor presence is required on the platform during the entire meeting time.
5. Virtual event attendee limitations may be limited according to the desired platform selected. As a result, RSOs should be mindful of this restriction while planning events.
6. During student leadership election periods, virtual events must be registered through the CSEL. In turn, a Jackson State University® professional staff member must be present on the platform for each event.
7. Outside programming, including table set up, is prohibited during this time.
8. Through the Campus Activities Board (CAB), Registered Student Organizations have access to funds to assist with costs associated with the new guidelines.
9. All programs and events are limited to JSU™ students ONLY.

### **Guest Speakers (appearing virtually)**

In accordance with the Campus Speakers Policy, registered student organizations may invite persons of their own choosing for campus appearances. Such invitations must be submitted to the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee for review and approval before arrangements for the campus visit are finalized with the guest. This also includes events in which student organizations desire to invite dignitaries (Elected Officials, other higher learning institution Presidents, etc.) to campus for any reason. Invitations of this nature must be submitted to the Vice President for Student Affairs and approved by the University President. Requests of this nature should be submitted to the Vice President for Student Affairs ([studentaffairs@jsums.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@jsums.edu)) and the CSEL ([jsuengage@jsums.edu](mailto:jsuengage@jsums.edu)). Student organizations should allow 5 business days for review and approval. Student organizations are advised to plan accordingly.

Guest appearances must not interfere with the University's regular instructional, research, and service activities and programs. Except for ceremonial occasions, invited speakers should be prepared to participate in reasonable public activities. Such public discussions may include classroom visits, attendance at receptions and related functions, media appearances, and participation in community activities, programs and projects.

Invited speakers are afforded the courtesy and protection appropriate to a University community. The institutional control of campus facilities and the integrity of the academic environment are not to be used as a device of censorship. Sponsorship of guest speakers does not imply approval or endorsement of the views expressed, either by the sponsoring organization or the institution. For more information, consult the Campus Speakers Policy and the Free Expression Policy.

### **Social Distancing Requirements**

Limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Social distancing, also called "physical distancing," means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home (CDC, 2020). To practice social or physical distancing stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.

Students are expected to maintain 6-feet social distancing when interacting with other students, administrators, faculty, and staff while on any Jackson State University® owned property. Social distancing remains important to slowing the spread of the virus.

### **Face Covering Requirements**

Students are expected to wear a face covering when interacting with other students, administrators, faculty, and staff while on any Jackson State University® owned property. Proper face covering use includes covering one's mouth and nose. This expectation also applies to traveling throughout campus by foot or any mobile device, besides a motor vehicle (when interactions with others outside of the vehicle is not occurring), as well as common space areas within academic and non-academic support buildings. Further, students are required to wear face coverings when entering campus/administrative office spaces.

### ***Face-to-Face Events***

1. All campus spaces, including satellite campus locations, listed in the Events Management System (EMS) must be reserved through the Department of Events. Additionally, all reservation guidelines must be met. When reservations are available to host face to face events during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Department of Events will follow the campus event status issued by the President's Office. The following chart will be used when events may not exceed 25% capacity for event spaces. *Please be mindful that this chart does not include the 6 feet social distancing expectation, which will decrease the exact attendance limits.*

Buildings	Room Description	Standard/ As Is	Theatre	Banquet	Classroom
Campus Grounds	Amphitheater A	125	25		
	Amphitheater B	125	25		
	Gibbs/Green Plaza	500			
	Centennial Area	8			
	Tiger Park	50	25	25	
Charles F. Moore	Lecture Room 100	27			
COFO	Lecture	19	19		
College of Business	COB Grounds	375			
	Winston R. & Alma Dent Auditorium	71			71
	Rotunda	33		15	
College of Liberal Arts	Courtyard	25			
	Lecture Room 146	25	26		
	Lecture Room 166/266	75			
College of Science, Engineering and Technology	Auditorium	7			
	Lobby	38		19	
F.D. Hall Music Center	Auditorium	87			
	Gallery	19		13	
H.T. Sampson Library	Outside Fountains	100		63	
Jacob L. Reddix	General Purpose Room	88	75	74	60
	Jacksonian Lounge	100	100	40	48
Joseph Jackson College of Education	Lecture Room 100	18			
JSU Student Center	1st Floor Patio	5			
	Ballroom A	88	100	50	30
	Ballroom B	38	50	30	15
	Ballrooms A&B	125	150	80	45
	Senate Chamber	16	16		
	Theater Room	48	48		
Lee E. Williams AAC	Arena	2000	2000	2000	
	Sports Hall of Fame	13			
Rose E. McCoy	Auditorium/Green Room	342	342		
T.B. Ellis	Gym Court 1,3	100		100-150	
Tennis Courts	Courts 1-12	1			
Walter Payton Center	Courts 1-3			375	
	Suite C	13	13	12	13
	Studio D	25	25	26	20
	Entire Gym				
Welcome Center	Conference Room	3			

## 2. Event Registration and Approval

- a. The Department of Events is responsible for the overall management of all campus events and logistics. An “event” is defined as any gathering within a campus facility that is not an academic course offering or interdepartmental meeting held within a department’s own conference room during normal campus work hours. All events must be entered into the Event Management System (EMS) for proper tracking and approval by either the Department of Events or the respective facility manager. Any event that is held in a university facility without proper approval will be shut down by the Department of Public Safety.

### Contact Information

Office: 601.979.0883

Email: [eventsinfo@jsums.edu](mailto:eventsinfo@jsums.edu)

Website: <https://www.jsums.edu/jsuevents/>

3. All face-to-face events sponsored by RSOs **must** be attended by the organization's advisor.
4. The Student Handbook remains the guiding principle for all student/student organization events.
5. Face coverings **MUST** be worn by all participants.
6. All participants are required to practice social distancing and remain 6 feet away from others.
7. Invitation only events are allowed for student organization executive board/leadership team meetings, as well as National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) members' only meetings. However, advisor presence is required.
8. Contactless sign-in methods are required. The use of hard copy paperwork is prohibited.
  - a. Students must provide an active Student ID.
  - b. Screenshots of PAWS account information is prohibited.
9. Events are only open to currently enrolled Jackson State University® students.
10. Event attendance regulations
  - a. Standard meetings: Advisors are required to regulate meeting attendance to ensure capacity does not exceeded based on the current event status.
  - b. Educational/Social events: Student/Student Organization gatherings outside of standard meetings must incorporate the presence of the Department of Public Safety to regulate attendance.
11. Outside programming is allowed, including table set up.
12. Through the Campus Activities Board (CAB), Registered Student Organizations have access to funds to assist with costs associated with the new guidelines.

# Important Information About Your Cloth Face Coverings

Print Resources Web Page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cloth-face-coverings.html>

As COVID-19 continues to spread within the United States, CDC has recommended additional measures to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. In the context of community transmission, CDC recommends that you:



Stay at home  
if possible



Practice social  
distancing  
at least 6 feet  
from others



Clean your  
hands often



In addition, CDC also recommends that everyone wear a cloth face covering, when leaving their homes, regardless of whether they have symptoms of COVID-19. This is because, based on evidence that people with COVID-19 can spread the disease, even when they don't have symptoms. Cloth face coverings do not protect on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

## How do cloth face coverings work?

Cloth face coverings may prevent the person wearing the mask from spreading respiratory droplets when talking, sneezing, or coughing. If everyone wears a cloth face covering when out in public, such as going to the grocery store, the risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 can be reduced in the community. Since people may spread the virus before symptoms start, or even if people never have symptoms, wearing a cloth face covering may protect others around you. Face mask coverings worn by others may protect you from getting the virus from people carrying the virus.



## General considerations for the use of cloth face coverings

When using a cloth face covering, make sure:

- The mouth and nose are fully covered
- The covering fits snugly against the sides of the face so there are no gaps
- You do not have any difficulty breathing while wearing the cloth face covering
- The cloth face covering can be tied or otherwise secured to prevent slipping



Wash your cloth face covering after each use in the washing machine or by hand using a bleach solution. Allow it to completely dry.

For more information, go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cloth-face-coverings.html>



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



**Students and student organizations must adhere to the following guidelines, as previously describe within this document.**

- All Solicitation – Outside Vendors
- Trademark Guidelines
- Resale and Other Commercial Use of University Logo

### **Event Advertising**

- Consider key audiences of the university.
  - Be mindful that all content (words, photos, etc.) are reflective of Jackson State University®.
- Include the date, time and virtual platform to be used.
  - Make sure that days of the week matches the date, if included in advertisement.
  - Inform the campus community of how the virtual platform login information will be provided.
    - Double check for misspellings and grammatical errors.
    - Spell check is recommended, but remember there are limitations to this function.

#### *When posting your advertisement:*

- Advertisements must be approved by the CSEL.
  - Event advertising should be submitted via email, in Microsoft Word or PowerPoint format. Organizations should submit their advertisement at least 3 weeks prior to their event.
  - Wait until you have received an approval stamp prior to posting to social media pages or distributing electronically, in any capacity. Printed posters/flyers must also receive an approval stamp.
- Advertisements must be posted in appropriate areas.
  - Advertisements may only be posted on designated bulletin boards within campus facilities.
  - A bulletin board is under the jurisdiction of the college, school, department, or administrative office that maintains it. Approval shall be sought for permission to use a bulletin board prior to each posting.
- Advertisements MAY NOT be posted on any JSU™ buildings, doors, walls, poles, or any other surface.

### Removal of Advertisements

An organization should remove each of its signs no later than 48 hours after the date of the event to which it relates has ended.

### Violation of Sign Posting Policy

All improperly posted signs are subject to removal. Violations of the sign posting policy are subject to review and potential disciplinary action for the student organization.

### T-Shirt Policy

Organizations selling or distributing t-shirts that use JSU™ trademarks without permission are subject to review and potential disciplinary action.

## **COVID-19 & Student Conduct**

All students who represent the University through affiliation with any Jackson State University® organization, or any University sponsored activity, are required to be in good standing as a Jackson State University® student. Depending upon the severity of offense(s), and/or decisions rendered by the hearing officer(s) or Student Affairs Conduct Committee, students, student groups, and/or student organizations found responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct, and are sanctioned to student conduct probation may lead to University representation restrictions. Representation includes, but is not limited to the following: Student Government Association, athletics, band, clubs, fraternities, sororities, and organizations.

### **COVID-19 related student conduct violations**

**2.60 FAILURE TO COMPLY.** Failure to comply with a proper order or summons when requested by authorized University officials; failure to comply with the directions of University officials (including residence hall staff) acting in the performance of their duties; failure to appear before a student conduct committee upon request; failure to provide student identification upon request; failure to abide by or comply with University policies and procedures, including student leadership, organization, and/or membership requirements; failure to comply with an ordered student conduct sanction.

This includes direct disobedience of a lawful order of a University official, as well as failure to evacuate a building during a fire alarm, drill, or when otherwise so ordered by a University official, fire department staff, or local law official.

COVID-19 Pandemic: Failure to comply with University safety policies and guidance regarding wearing a face covering (including failing to wear it properly over one's nose and mouth) on campus, practicing social distancing/physical distancing, and exceeding campus gathering limits.

**2.80 GUEST'S BEHAVIOR.** Students are responsible for the behavior of their guests when accompanying a student or student organizations while on any University property. Charges may be brought against a student when guests are left unattended for any reason. If a guest is found to be in violation of the Student Code of Conduct while in the company of the student host or with the student host's knowledge, applicable charges will be brought against the guest, as well as against the student host or the host student organization.

COVID-19 requirement: Students are responsible for ensuring their guests comply with University safety rules, including practicing social distancing and wearing face coverings while on University property.

**3.05 HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS.** Any behavior which creates a risk or danger to others of the University community, including but not limited to riding hover boards or devices similar in nature in residential communities, academic or support buildings, propping open doors to residential communities, throwing objects from windows or balconies, failure to keep one's room in a condition that is safe and sanitary, or failure to maintain reasonable standards of cleanliness and safety as defined by the University. Also includes failure to remove trash from residential communities.

This includes the possession of flammable liquids, fireworks, weapons, illegal or controlled substances, illegal cooking appliances, open fires, candles, and incense burners.

COVID-19 Pandemic: This policy also relates to University safety policies and guidance regarding wearing a face covering (including failing to wear it properly over one's nose and mouth) on campus, practicing social distancing/physical distancing, and exceeding campus gathering limits.

**3.70 SAFETY CODE MISCHIEF.** Tampering with safety equipment is a serious violation of the Student Code of Conduct and is subject to criminal prosecution. Turning in a false fire or bomb alert, by any means including a telephone call or by a warning device, theft, removal of, or tampering with fire extinguishing or safety equipment, exit signs, smoke alarms and detectors, fire hoses, sprinkler systems, hoses, fire mischief, or violation of University guidelines regarding fire safety, or standard safety (e.g., failure to follow evacuation procedures or obstructing the evacuation of a building during a fire, fire drill, or any other type of emergency) is strictly prohibited.

COVID-19 requirement: Tampering with or intentionally damaging items required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the health and safety of all. Stealing, discarding, or purposely tampering with roommate, suitemate, or campus COVID-19 safety items. Deliberate failure to abide by any health or safety standards for any University related function (campus events, classroom operations, etc.).

**4.10 TECHNOLOGY.** Students and recognized organizations are cautioned that any material posted on the internet, including social networking sites and internet blogs will not be considered private or protected information. Students may be held accountable for inappropriate or unauthorized content posted in this manner and information obtained from such sources may be considered in cases of misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, LinkedIn, BlogSpot, GroupMe, and YouTube. This charge also includes content included in communication threads via texts, e-mails, group chats, etc. This policy also applies to any forms of phone or technology device usage.

COVID-19 Pandemic Requirement: This policy also applies to student conduct/behavior associated with technology use, as a health and safety measure, throughout the pandemic. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Zoom Bombing (By Students and Non-Affiliated Parties)
- Online Class Disruptions/Virtual Hearing Disruptions
- Classroom/Virtual Events & Program Chat Behavior

#### **COVID-19 & Student Conduct Sanctioning**

Sanctions will be determined based on the level of severity of the violation, repeated offenses, or intent. Reports, along with supporting documentation, would be submitted to the Dean of Students Office via email ([deanofstudents@jsums.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@jsums.edu)).

*Note: This does not apply to how faculty operate their classes. Of course, suspension is never the goal. However, the intention or impact would be based on non-compliance.*

- **First Violation:** Fine: \$75 plus educational sanctions or possible suspension based on the severity.
- **Second Violation:** Fine: \$150 plus educational sanctions which includes loss of privileges (depending on the associated incident) or possible suspension based on the severity.
- **Third Violation:** Loss of housing privileges (if residential student); Possible suspension for blatant disregard for policy and health concerns of the campus community.

## **STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION**

Jackson State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award bachelor's, master's, specialist's, and doctoral degrees. Degree-granting institutions also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Jackson State 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](http://www.sacscoc.org)).

Routine inquiries about the institution, such as admission requirements, financial aid, educational programs, etc. should be addressed directly to Jackson State University and not the SACSCOC office. All campus sites, regardless of location or mode of delivery, are incorporated in the institution's self-assessment and its determination of compliance with standards. SACSCOC accredits the institution as a whole and not specific degrees or programs.

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

