Class Civility

Academic integrity demands that each member of the community treat all others with respect. Dominican scholars are expected to speak their minds openly, fully and responsibly, but they are also expected to listen to professors and each other carefully, critically, and respectfully.

During class discussions students may argue points with passion, and debates may sometimes become heated. Students and faculty are cautioned to treat each other with respect and courtesy. Verbal and non-verbal expressions of disrespect have no place on campus.

It is the responsibility of the faculty member to facilitate the learning of all students, but learning cannot occur in an atmosphere of disorder or fear. Faculty members may establish and enforce behavioral standards for their class. Students who are not responsive to the faculty member, and who continue to be disruptive in class, may be immediately removed from the class and are subject to the charges of Disorderly/Disruptive Behavior or possibly, Intimidation/Harassment.

Removal of a Student from Class for Disciplinary Reasons

The professor has the right to remove a student from the class because of disruptive or offensive behavior. One of the following informal processes must occur before the student may be readmitted to the class:

1. The faculty member and student may meet outside of class to resolve the behavioral issues and return to the normal state of equilibrium.
2. The professor is free to arrange a meeting between the professor, the student, the Division Chair and/or the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, or the Dean of Student Life in order to set conditions for the student’s return to class. This meeting should occur within three days from the date of the offense.

When the professor deems it necessary to remove a student permanently from the class, he/she must bring formal charges against the student and invoke the Academic Disciplinary Hearing Procedure.

Academic Disciplinary Hearing Procedure

It is the responsibility of the faculty to assure that academic integrity prevails. When serious violations of academic honesty, class behavior, or other serious academic offences occur, the Academic Disciplinary Hearing Procedure may be invoked.

In the event that the student indicates fault prior to the enactment of the hearing procedure, the Academic Vice President will determine the appropriate sanction.
The Disciplinary Hearing Procedure

1) The Vice President for Academic Affairs, Undergraduate or Graduate Dean, or designee will inform the student in writing of the alleged violation and the time and place of the hearing.

2) If, in the judgment of the Vice President, the student’s continued presence on campus is thought to be detrimental to the University Community and/or any of its members, the student will be temporarily dismissed from campus until the time of the hearing.

3) The student will be given at least three days from the communication of the violation to prepare a case for the hearing. Within the time allotted, the student may obtain an advisor and witnesses in order to present the case before the committee.

4) This hearing procedure has been designed to afford fair procedures to accused students and to protect the individual rights of every student. It is not the University’s intent to operate the hearing in accordance with the standards or procedures of a formal court of law. Therefore, legal counsel (an attorney) is not permitted. The hearing is intended to support investigation of allegations; to protect the rights, person and property of members of the University community; to assign responsibility and set appropriate sanctions in keeping with the disciplinary philosophy of the University.

5) At the hearing, the violation will be stated, and the student asked to accept responsibility for his/her behavior or not.

6) If the student does not accept responsibility, the course Instructor will present evidence in support of the case. The student will then be given the opportunity to present his/her case.

7) The student and the student’s advisor, and any members of the Committee, will be given an opportunity to question the parties making the charges, the parties charged, and any witnesses.

8) At the conclusion of the hearing, hearing officers will deliberate the facts and arrive at a decision. The presenter of the case against the accused and the accused student will not be present during deliberation.

9) Responsibility will be determined by a majority decision.

10) If the student is found responsible for the violation, appropriate sanctions will be determined by the Vice President or designee.

11) The Vice President will be responsible for notifying appropriate persons of the decision and for enforcing any penalties imposed. Those notified will include the Chair of the student’s academic division.

12) The decision will be final unless the student appeals in writing within five days of being notified of the decision. The decision of the appeal official is final.

References: