Starting the academic year is both exciting and challenging. It is exciting to have the opportunity to create new friendships and experiences, but it can be challenging to be in new spaces with many different people. Our hope is to create an atmosphere where everyone can learn, grow and thrive. One way that we create this environment is by establishing and enforcing policies and procedures. It is important for students to read and understand the university policies that are introduced to them at orientation.

Community Standards

We have created clear codes and policies on numerous campus issues, which are spelled out in Loyola Marymount University's Community Standards booklet. This important document includes the Student Conduct Code and other relevant university policies. It is essential that your student know the Code and understand its policies.

The Student Conduct Code clarifies the standards of behavior essential to the university's educational mission and its community life. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Underage possession/use of alcohol and being in the presence of alcohol
- Possession/use of controlled substances, illegal drugs (including marijuana), misuse of prescription drugs and/or drug-related material
- Engaging in a physical altercation with a member of the LMU community
- Possession/use/storage of any weapon on campus or reasonably adjacent or proximate to campus
- Communication of verbal, written or electronic threats
- Unlawful downloading or use of patented, copyrighted or trademarked works

Students are expected to communicate these policies to guests and visitors, because they are responsible for the behavior and conduct of their guests. Ignorance is not an acceptable justification for violations of university policies.

Consider the Consequences
The LMU judicial process is designed to be educational in nature. It provides learning experiences for students who are found to be responsible for violating the Student Conduct Code. All suspected Student Conduct Code violations are referred to the Department of Judicial Affairs. If it is determined that there is sufficient evidence to charge the student with a potential Student Conduct Code violation, the student will be assigned to meet with a Judicial Officer to discuss the case.

During the hearing, the Judicial Officers hears the student's account of the alleged violation(s) to determine whether the student is responsible for the charges brought against them. If the student is found not responsible for all the charges, the case is dismissed. If the student is found responsible, the Judicial Officer(s) determines appropriate sanctions to be completed by the student. Additionally, any Judicial Officer or Hearing Board disciplinary action may be appealed by the student to the Student Conduct Committee.

Sanctions for Student Conduct Code violations may include, but are not limited to, disciplinary warning, educational programs, community service, the assessment of fines, removal from campus housing, disciplinary probation, suspension or dismissal from the University.

In addition to sanctions, there may be other consequences for violations of the Student Conduct Code. Students placed on disciplinary probation may not be allowed to participate in study abroad programs; hold ASLMU, Resident Advisor or other leadership positions; participate in student leadership programs or be considered for certain student employment positions.

The Department of Judicial Affairs strives to help students grow into more responsible and community-minded persons. This is accomplished by holding students accountable and providing them opportunities to learn from their experiences.

Be on the lookout for our next article “Safety on Campus,” in which we share information about the Department of Public Safety and the ways they help your student stay safe on and off campus. Also, don’t forget to check out Parent Pride for additional information and resources!

Until next time!

Lisha Maddox
Associate Director of Student Success