

Christopher Newport University

Policy: Conduct Violation – Degree Conferral and Graduation Policy **Policy Number: 9055**

Executive Oversight: Vice President of Student Affairs
Vice President of Enrollment and Student Success

Contact Office: Student Affairs and Title IX/EO

Frequency of Review: Biennial

Date of Last Review: May 2023

A. PURPOSE

This policy establishes how the university will treat a student who is alleged to have violated the Honor Code, the Discrimination, Harassment & Sexual Misconduct Policy (Title IX/EO offenses) [1], or the Student Code of Conduct when the student has completed all degree requirements.

B. POLICY STATEMENT

The University has established standards to which students must adhere. When students fail to observe these standards, the university may take action through established processes.

A student whose conduct is under review by the university for an alleged violation of the Honor Code, the Discrimination, Harassment & Sexual Misconduct Policy (Title IX/EO offenses), or the Student Code of Conduct at the time of degree conferral may have the conferral of their degree deferred until the completion of the investigation, subsequent conduct process, applicable appeals, and associated requirements. Any such student may not participate in graduation-related activities or ceremonies.

C. PROCEDURES

Allegations made against students expecting to graduate for an alleged violation of the Honor Code, the Discrimination, Harassment & Sexual Misconduct Policy (Title IX/EO offenses), or the Student Code of Conduct shall be handled as promptly as possible, without compromising due process, in an effort to avoid degree deferral. However, when a student is alleged to have violated the Discrimination, Harassment & Sexual Misconduct Policy and the allegation is under review at the time of degree conferral, the Director of Title IX/EO shall make an initial review of the information available and determine whether the allegation(s) requires resolution before a degree will be conferred. If so required, the Director shall notify the Registrar who shall remove the student from the list of degree candidates.

When a student is alleged to have violated the Honor Code or the Student Code of Conduct, and the allegation is under review at the time of degree conferral, the Director of the Center for Honor Enrichment & Community Standards in consultation with the Associate Dean of Students shall make an initial review of the information available and determine whether the allegation(s) requires resolution before a degree will be conferred. If so required, the Associate Dean of Students shall notify the Registrar who shall remove the student from the list of degree candidates.

In either of the above circumstances, the student whose conduct is under review may only receive a degree from Christopher Newport University after the investigation, applicable conduct process, appeal and any sanction-related requirements are complete.

Once the appropriate adjudication process is completed, a student whose conduct is found to be so egregious as to justify dismissal shall be dismissed from Christopher Newport University without conferral of a degree, regardless of academic standing at the time of dismissal.

D. APPROVAL AND REVISIONS

Approved By: Policy Committee, May 10, 2017

Revision 1: Policy Committee, March 4, 2020

Revision 2: Policy Committee, May 30, 2023

E. NEXT REVIEW DATE: Spring 2024

¹ Pursuant to the U.S. Department of Education’s Title IX Regulations effective August 14, 2020, withholding a degree conferral is not available for allegations falling under Process A if the resolution process including any appeal is still ongoing at the time of degree conferral.