UNIVERSITY RULES AND PROCEDURES

VCU seeks to foster insight, imagination, creativity, resourcefulness, diligence, honesty and responsibility as well as the education of the men and women enrolled in its graduate programs. Such an enterprise can take place only where the highest standards of academic integrity exist.

Each member of the VCU community has certain responsibilities, rights and privileges. These are stated in some detail in the VCU Rules and Procedures (http://policy.vcu.edu), and all students are responsible for being familiar with provisions of this document. This document also provides for the process whereby disciplinary action, including separation from VCU, may be taken against a member of the university community as a result of behavior that is in violation of the prohibited conduct as stated in the VCU Rules and Procedures.

• The Division of Student Affairs publishes an index of policies, guidelines and procedures (http://www.students.vcu.edu/policies.html).
• The VCU Integrity and Compliance Office maintains the latest versions of all universitywide policies and procedures on its Policy Library website (http://policy.vcu.edu).
• The VCU Graduate Bulletin documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at VCU. It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the Graduate Bulletin, as well as the academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites; however, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published in the Graduate Bulletin and on the Graduate School website (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu), take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

VCU Honor System

VCU recognizes that honesty, truth and integrity are values central to its mission as an institution of higher education. Therefore, all students are subject to the VCU Honor System (http://www.students.vcu.edu/studentconduct/vcu-honor-system). All graduate students are responsible for being familiar with provisions of this document.

Academic dishonesty is the giving, taking or presenting of information or material by students with the intent of unethically or fraudulently aiding themselves or others on any work that is to be considered in the determination of a grade or the completion of academic requirements. Students in doubt regarding any matter related to the standards of academic integrity in a given course or on a given assignment should consult with the faculty member responsible for the course before presenting the work.

Grade review procedures

Graduate students at VCU have a right to appeal actions of an academic nature. If such action involves a course grade, the Grade Review Procedures as published in the Rules and Procedures should be followed. If such action involves computing, the Computer and Network Resources Use Policy (http://www.ts.vcu.edu/askit/policies-and-publications/technology-policies-guidelines-standards/computer-and-network-resources-use-policy) should be followed.

Dismissal from a graduate degree program

In addition to those standards of conduct described in VCU Rules and Procedures and the VCU Honor System, students enrolled at the university may be dismissed from the academic programs in which they are enrolled for failure to meet prescribed academic program requirements. Students appealing dismissal from their graduate degree programs should first pursue appeals at the program/department and/or the school level. After receiving the program/department and/or school decision, students have the option of filing an appeal with the graduate dean in the process outlined in the Appeal process for students dismissed from a VCU graduate degree program (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/general-academic-regulations-graduate-students/appeal-process-students-dismissed-vcu-graduate-program).

Other university policies that might impact graduate students include, but are not limited to, the following:

• Alcohol and Drug Policy
• Care and Ethical Use of Animals in Research and Education at VCU
• Employee-Student Consensual Relationships
• Information Security Policy
• Intellectual Property Policy
• Misconduct in Research and Scholarly Activities
• Non-discrimination on the Basis of Disability
• Prohibition of Sexual Harassment
• Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship
• VCU IRB Written Policies and Procedures

External agencies with policies that might impact graduate students include, but are not limited to, the following:

• State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (http://www.schev.edu) – SCHEV
• Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (http://www.sacscoc.org) – SACS-COC

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University Graduate Council