

Trinity College Student Disciplinary Information, Fall 2016–Spring 2020

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To: DiChristina, Joe J. <joseph.dichristina@trincoll.edu>

February 24, 2021

Dear Trinity College Campus Community,

Being part of an academic community such as Trinity College carries many responsibilities for students. To build strong and trusting relationships with one another, students need to show commitment to the values of individual and community responsibility, including respect, empathy, and care. Through Trinity's Student Integrity Contract, the student body "declares its commitment to a code of honor that fosters moral growth and upholds academic and personal integrity," and the college's *Student Handbook* provides regulations for students to follow to be responsible adults.

When students violate these regulations, they are held accountable for their behaviors through a disciplinary process. In general, the discipline of students in an academic setting is part of the teaching and learning process; therefore, when someone's behavior is found to violate institutional standards, we seek outcomes to change behavior through processes that lead to personal growth and the development of skills to be a more socially and intellectually responsible individual. A disciplinary decision may be made to remove a student from campus when that individual's behaviors or patterns of conduct significantly violate Trinity's standards. Although the temporary or permanent removal of a person might not feel as though it is connected to the learning process, it is, at times, an important step in ensuring a vibrant and healthy community for all to learn.

The following aggregate data, attentive to preservation of confidentiality, reflects four years of information regarding student behavior and the associated consequences when students are found to be in violation of college regulations. The information covers the period from fall 2016 through spring 2020; note that spring 2020 included a shift from in-person to remote learning due to the pandemic.

Violations of the Social Code

The following data relates to student behavior regarding violations of the Social Code (most violations were brought forward by Campus Safety and Student life personnel).

1. Two students were expelled and permanently banned from campus—one for a physical assault and a second for discriminatory and harassing behavior in violation of College policy. Expulsions, as a matter of course, are permanently noted on a student's transcript.
2. Eight students total were suspended for one or two semesters—six for physical assaults and two for discriminatory or harassing behavior in violation of College policy violation. Suspensions are permanently noted on a student's transcript.
3. Nineteen students were censured for acts of disorderly conduct, verbally aggressive language, use of harassing language, or arrests by law enforcement, resulting in a notation of the censure on the student's college transcript. Depending on the severity of the incident, college censure is either temporarily or permanently noted on a student's transcript.
4. On average, 98 students per year were given a residential sanction for violating the alcohol

policy.

5. On average, 68 students per year were given a residential sanction for violating the drug policy.

Violations of the Intellectual Honesty Policy

The following data relates to student behavior regarding violations of the Intellectual Honesty Policy (all cases below were brought forward by faculty).

1. Sixteen students were suspended for violations including plagiarism, possession of unauthorized materials, and unauthorized collaboration with peers. Some suspensions involved repeat offenders who violated policy after previously being sanctioned. The length of suspensions covered one to four semesters. Suspensions are permanently noted on a student's transcript.
2. Ten students were censured, resulting in a temporary or permanent notation of the censure on the student's college transcript.
3. In fall 2016, the First Violation Resolution Process was introduced. For the process to be initiated, the faculty member must choose this process, the student must have had no prior college sanctions for violations of the Student Integrity Contract, and the student must admit to the violation and accept the proposed penalty. Ninety-one students were counseled pursuant to the First Violation Resolution Process during the last four years, which involved an educational discussion about how to abide by the standards and expectations set forth in the Intellectual Honesty Policy. Students are given notice that any future violations will result in a disciplinary outcome.

Violations of the Policy on Sexual Misconduct (now known as the Interim Policy on Sexual Harassment)

The data regarding sexual misconduct is kept on a calendar-year basis to be compliant with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act). Data for the calendar years 2017, 2018, and 2019 can be found on the [Clery report](#) that was sent to the community on December 18, 2020.

The College takes allegations of sexual harassment seriously and has established procedures for the reporting and prompt, fair, and impartial adjudication of sexual harassment complaints, from the initial response to the result as outlined in the [Interim Policy on Sexual Harassment](#).

The following data relates to complaints brought forward prior to August 14, 2020 and were investigated and adjudicated according to the pre-existing Trinity College Policy on Sexual Misconduct:

1. Two students were expelled and permanently banned from campus. Expulsions are permanently noted on the student's transcript.
2. Seven students were suspended from campus for a period ranging from one to two semesters.

Suspensions are permanently noted on the student's transcript.

3. Five students were censured, resulting in a temporary or permanent notation of the censure on the student's college, and two of the five were not allowed to participate in college Commencement ceremonies.
4. Twenty-four students were issued no-contact orders to restrict their communications and encounters with other students.

Conclusion

While the information above describes some of the challenges we faced, I recognize that most students on our campus have contributed in a positive way. For example, in November 2018, Student Government and the Inter-Greek Council worked with the college administration to create a [Medical Amnesty and Good Samaritan Policy](#).

This is an important policy that encourages the development of a caring and responsible community. Our alcohol and drug educator has worked with student organizations and individuals from across campus to provide information and awareness regarding appropriate choices that benefit individuals and our community. Further, staff, students, and faculty have worked on the Green Dot initiative to eliminate all forms of sexual misconduct in our community. Students are engaged to bring about change, and I appreciate your sincere and genuine efforts. The staff in Student and Community Life is prepared to continue to work with all of you to create a positive campus culture.

Sincerely,

Joe DiChristina
VP for Student Success and Enrollment Management