

Policy on Classroom Behavior

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Introduction

1. The goal of Louisiana Tech University and its faculty and students is to foster a dynamic environment of higher learning where all students develop analytical skills, learn to think critically and communicate effectively, promote inquiry, pursue knowledge, and prepare for productive careers. Behavior in the classroom that impedes teaching and learning and creates obstacles to this goal is considered disruptive and therefore subject to sanctions. The purpose of these sanctions is to create and protect an optimum learning experience for all students. The sanctions should not be considered punitive, either by the student or by the instructor. Disagreement expressed in a civil fashion, eccentricity, idiosyncrasy, and unconventional behavior are not, per se, disruptive to the classroom experience. These sanctions are intended only to preserve the classroom as a place to pursue knowledge, exchange ideas, and share opinions in an atmosphere of tolerance. Students have the responsibility of complying with behavioral standards. Faculty members have a professional responsibility to set reasonable limits on the expression of opinions while treating students with dignity, respect, and understanding while guiding classroom activities. At the classroom level, clear guidelines for behavior and early intervention are the foundation for an intellectually stimulating experience for students and instructors alike. Instructors are encouraged to include in their syllabi guidelines for classroom behavior. Instructors who state these guidelines early and enforce them at the first appearance of disruptive behavior prevent minor episodes of classroom misconduct from escalating into serious confrontations and help transgressors to avoid the more serious consequences of such actions. The instructor has ultimate control over classroom behavior and may dismiss or remove from the classroom any student engaged in disruptive behavior.

Guidelines for Classroom Discipline

1. In the case of an incident involving a disruptive student, the instructor of record for the course will communicate with the student as soon as possible after the first incident of disruptive behavior to clearly address the inappropriate behavior, review the classroom rules, and instruct the student on the behavior that is required in the future. The instructor will document this conversation.
2. If the disruptive behavior continues, as soon as possible, the instructor will provide a written warning to the student identifying the prohibited behavior that occurred, the rules that were violated, and the behavior that is required in the future. The warning could include notice that any subsequent violations of the classroom rules may result in one or more of the following sanctions: removal from the class, grade of F on an assignment,

grade of F in the course, or referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

3. If the disruptive behavior continues or is serious, the instructor will document the disruptive behavior and notify the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity using the following report: publicdocs.maxient.com/incidentreport.php/LouisianaTech. The report should also include a copy of all documentation of the student's previous disruptive behavior. The instructor will notify his/her Department Head and Dean of the matter. The Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Office will be responsible for handling the complaint in accordance with the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Behavior which is located at: www.latech.edu/documents/studentcodeofconduct.pdf. If the student is found in violation of the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Behavior, one or more of the following sanctions may apply: administrative probation, community service, counseling, or removal from the University.