

Southern University and A&M College

Student Judicial System At-A-Glance

Disciplinary Violation is Received

- The Office of the Dean of Students receives alleged violations from the Southern University Police Department, the Office of Residential Life and Housing, faculty, or other complaints.



The Accused Student is Notified of the Alleged Violation in Writing

- The alleged student is notified of their violation(s) by letter via hand delivery, SUBR email notification, or the US Postal Service.
- The alleged student may be emergency administratively suspended from the University until the time of their scheduled hearing depending on the severity of their alleged violations.
- The alleged student must be given at least 72 hours notice of their scheduled hearing. The scheduled time of the administrative hearing is listed on the notice of violations.



Accused Student Accepts the Administrative Hearing

- The decision of the Dean of Students (or designee) is final.
- If the alleged student fails to attend the hearing, due process is waived, and a decision is rendered based on evidence and available information.

Sanctions are rendered if the student is found guilty.

Accused Student Requests a Hearing with University Judicial Committee (UJC)

- This is a hearing before a panel of students, faculty, and staff.
- This hearing is scheduled per the availability of the committee.
- The alleged student must be given at least 72 hours notice of the scheduled UJC hearing.
- If the alleged student fails to attend the hearing, due process is waived, and a decision is rendered based on evidence and available information.

Sanctions are rendered if the student found guilty.



Appeals Options

- Though the decision of the Dean of Students and/or UJC is final, students may appeal the findings of a hearing.
- All appeals must be submitted in writing within 48 hours of a decision to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, inclusive of sufficient evidence to warrant an appeal.

Southern University and A&M College Student Judicial System vs. Criminal Justice System

Overview

Students that are accused of violating University policies and the Student Code of Conduct potentially face two types of disciplinary action, 1) the Southern University and A&M College student judicial system and 2) the criminal justice system. In a court of law, double jeopardy prohibits a criminal defendant from being tried twice for the same crime based on the same set of facts. Because Southern University and A&M College does not prosecute criminal offenses and solely enforces University policies and the Student Code of Conduct, double jeopardy does not apply.

What are the differences?

Student Judicial System

- Designed to support student life while fostering a positive learning environment.
- Enforces University policies and the Student Code of Conduct.
- Employs appropriate due process for the guidelines outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Uses a “preponderance of the evidence” standard.
- Accused students must speak for themselves.
- Student records are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Criminal Justice System

- Designed to convict and punish the guilty as form of deterring future criminal behavior.
- Enforces the law.
- Employs the due process guidelines established for criminal courts.
- Uses a “beyond reasonable doubt” standard.
- An attorney is allowed to speak for the accused, and only rarely will the accused speak for themselves.
- Records are generally accessible to the public.

Southern University and A&M College students, once enrolled, are expected to have a thorough understanding of University policies, rules, and regulations. Violating University policies can result in the loss of the privilege of attending Southern University and A&M College. Lack of knowledge of University policies, rules, and regulations does not excuse students from observing them.