Disruptive Classroom Behavior

Harassment includes unauthorized conduct of any kind which interferes with the ability of other students to pursue their education in designated environments (e.g., residences, study areas, classrooms, or libraries), the functioning of faculty or staff, or any other aspects of the University’s educational mission.

Individual instructors have the right to determine whether specific student behavior is disruptive. Instructors may require a student to leave an individual class meeting for disruptive behavior. However, instructors are not authorized to summarily remove a student from the course. Should such removal be deemed necessary, instructors must follow the procedure outlined below. In exceptional cases where a student’s presence is deemed to be an immediate threat to the instructor or other members of the class, instructors should immediately call Campus Safety at 303-871-3000.

If a student has repeatedly disrupted the class, or if a student’s presence represents a significant impediment to the educational process, that student may be removed via an involuntary drop.

The instructor should first meet with the student in an attempt to resolve the issue. Another faculty or staff member (including Student Conduct, Office of Graduate Studies, or Campus Safety staff) may be asked to attend this meeting. If this meeting fails to resolve the situation, the instructor shall inform the student of the intention to seek an involuntary drop and provide the student an opportunity to drop the course voluntarily.

The instructor shall bring the matter to the office of the division or college dean prior to the class meeting following the instructor’s meeting with the student. In consultation with the instructor, the dean or designee shall determine whether to grant the request for an involuntary drop. The decision should be communicated to the student before the next scheduled class meeting and shall be communicated no later than one week from the instructor’s initial meeting with the student.

The student may appeal the decision to the Office of the Provost. This appeal must be submitted in writing no later than one week from the decision. Appeals shall only be considered in the following circumstances:

- The existence of procedural errors so substantial that the student was denied due process
- A decision clearly not supported by the facts presented
- Presentation of new and significant evidence that was not reasonably available at the time of the decision
- The decision is demonstrably arbitrary and capricious

While an appeal is being considered, the student is restricted from attending the dropped class.

The appeal shall be considered and a decision rendered to the student no later than one week from its receipt by the Office of the Provost. This decision shall be final.

Copies of all involuntary drop requests shall be provided to OSC who shall determine whether disciplinary charges should also be filed. OSC shall generally defer to the recommendation of the course instructor. However, if the student has a previous disciplinary record, OSC reserves the right to take appropriate action regardless of the instructor’s recommendation.

The course drop shall be effective from the date of the original decision and for all administrative purposes (e.g., transcripts, tuition refunds, etc.) shall be considered the same as if the drop had been voluntary.

Any questions about this process should be directed to Student Conduct (http://www.du.edu/studentlife/studentconduct).