

COVID-19 Protocols

Student Code of Conduct  
Briefing Document  
2021–2022



August 25, 2021

## COVID-19 and Student Code of Conduct Briefing Document

The authority for Acadia University's Judicial Process derives from the power granted to the Board of Governors by the Province of Nova Scotia under the *University's Act of Incorporation* in 1891. These powers are exercised on behalf of the Board of Governors by the Executive Director, Student Services or designate, through the Non-Academic Judicial Student Code of Conduct.

The Student Code of Conduct addresses on-campus and off-campus issues through a judicial process. It establishes policies and programs that enhance student sensitivity to the surrounding community.

The *Student Code of Conduct* is Acadia's formal judicial process to ensure that a positive and productive learning environment exists, an environment in which there is fair treatment of individuals, respect for diversity, and respect for University resources and the property of individuals.

Discipline must be considered as a tool, used in conjunction with guidance, rather than a threat. Primarily, discipline should be re-educative and preventative. If certain restrictions or punitive responses aid in the attainment of these goals, then they should be employed. Punishment should never be levied for its own sake. Educational disciplinarians attempt to find out why behaviour occurs. After determining motive, we explain the reason the regulation or rules exist and why the actions were inappropriate. We appeal to a sense of reason and responsibility.

Discipline is used to re-educate, to help a person understand that further infractions are unnecessary, not because a person is afraid of the punitive consequences, rather because of the realization that such actions are not acceptable in that community. This is the basis of the disciplinary function.

COVID-19 presents unique circumstances that require specific actions by all community members to respond to the Province of Nova Scotia emergency declaration and public health directives aimed at protecting the health and safety of everyone.

There will be value in creating stated addendum requirements to the residence agreement and judicial process (Student Code of Conduct) to educate and identify the responsibility of individual students to be aware of and follow the directives as implemented by Acadia University and the Town of Wolfville.

The addendum will take the form of a *Community Wellness Commitment*. Students living in residence will sign the *Community Wellness Commitment* during check-in to residence. Students living off-campus will be asked to review and sign the document and to confirm their off-campus address of residence to aid in contact tracing, should it become necessary.

### Community Wellness Commitment

Students on and off-campus will be asked to review the access to campus procedure daily and to take the necessary steps to protect others by respecting the directives based on the self-assessment.

The Community Wellness checklist will include:

- 1) Be symptom-free. All students are asked to perform a daily self-assessment based on the <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/symptoms-and-testing/>. Follow <https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/en> online if you feel you have symptoms related to COVID-19, and follow the instructions you are given. If you live off-campus, stay home and do not come to campus. Contact Safety and Security (902-585-1103 or email [security.office@acadiau.ca](mailto:security.office@acadiau.ca)). We can help you and coordinate any supports you might need. Notify your instructors to let them know you will not be physically present in class. They can arrange alternatives to keep you informed (remotely or otherwise) about classroom activities and assignments. Information for the public has been posted online at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>.
- 2) Practice appropriate hygiene and increased hand hygiene.
- 3) Ensure to follow physical distancing guidelines.
- 4) Prepare for virtual learning in case you need to isolate.
- 5) Ensure to follow Acadia's Interim Mask Policy
- 6) Limit interactions on-campus and off-campus.
- 7) Respect and care for yourself, your peers, and your community.

The *Student Code of Conduct* will govern the handling of violations of procedures covered in this access to campus plan for students and additional provisions that will be developed during the University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The *Student Code of Conduct* will include the behavioural expectations of students related to communicable disease responses, specifically noting COVID-19 and the associated public health directives, and a breach of those expectations as being an example of an offence of not adhering to the University's Code.

Any alleged violations to this section of the *Code of Conduct* will be investigated and adjudicated with procedural fairness as described in the Code. Disregard for these guidelines that endanger the health and safety of the community is taken seriously and considered a major violation of the *Student Code of Conduct*. Sanctions associated with serious offences with a finding of 'responsible' may result in outcomes up to residence dismissal or University suspension. It is further noted that in addition to sanctions imposed under the Student Code of Conduct, incidents of behavioural breaches may be forwarded to the RCMP for possible charges under the *Nova Scotia Health Protection Act Order* and provincial state of emergency directives.

***Students will be required to agree to the following pledge:***

As a member of the Acadia University community, including the Town of Wolfville and other local surrounding communities, it is my responsibility to help protect those around me by "flattening the curve" and preventing the spread of COVID-19. I recognize that by returning to campus and the broader university community, and attending in-person classes, I am doing so with full awareness that I am accepting the risk that I might contract COVID-19 from a student, an employee of the university, or a member of the public. I also acknowledge that I can spread the virus and impact or endanger the health of others, and that I am responsible to take reasonable precautions to prevent these impacts. Although Acadia University will undertake reasonable

steps, both as a public body and as required by the Nova Scotia Public Health authorities, to minimize all related risks, the risk of contracting COVID-19 cannot be eliminated. I understand and accept my responsibility to do all that is required of me, and to comply with all policies, procedures, and directives that the University may develop from time to time. I will do my best to follow the pledge below and am aware if I break this pledge, I will be subject to Acadia's judicial process through the Non-Academic Judicial Student Code of Conduct. During this ongoing pandemic, to protect myself, preserve medical resources and help protect others (especially those who are most vulnerable), I pledge to:

- Strictly adhere to all Acadia University and NS Public Health Directives, in the community and on campus
- Practice physical distancing of approximately 1 metre, whenever possible.
- Practice physical distancing of 2 metres in the mask-free spaces on campus, whenever possible.
- Participate in routine COVID-19 testing, which will be on campus as Acadia Rapid Testing Clinic, when available and whenever possible.
- Ensure to get my COVID-19 vaccination, if I am eligible to do so, with the goal of protecting myself and those around me.
- Ensure to follow Acadia's Interim Mask Policy whenever I am on campus.
- Perform the daily self-assessment and follow the link below to the online assessment if you are experiencing any symptoms related to COVID-19 (or call 811 if you have no internet access).
- Practice these requirements even if I do not feel sick.
- Practice these requirements at all times, whether I am on-campus or off-campus.
- If you are directed to isolate by Nova Scotia Public Health, stay home or in your residence, and call Acadia's Safety and Security to activate isolation resources.

*I hereby acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to be bound by the COVID-19 student pledge, and I will take all reasonable steps to comply with this pledge and any related policies, directives, and public health orders.*