

Towson University
Academic Affairs
Civility Code

Objective:

The objective of this code is to establish for all members of the Division of Academic Affairs (i.e. students, faculty, administrators, and staff) a high standard of academic, professional and personal integrity and conduct of ethical behavior, tolerance of differing ideas and traditions, and respect for all individuals in our diverse population.

Vision:

All students, faculty, administrators and staff are committed to collegial and academic citizenship demonstrating high standards of humane, ethical, professional, and civil behavior in all interactions.

All will take responsibility for the relationship between their personal conduct and the quality of campus life. It will become the common realization that what we do and say always has an effect on others, whether we see it or not.

Code:

Academic Affairs values the inherent worth and dignity of every person, thereby fostering a community of mutual respect. At Towson University civility means more than respecting campus facilities and grounds. Civility means consistently treating people with consideration and respect. It means being courteous, polite, and fair. It means recognizing diversity and honoring the right of others to have differing points of view.

We do not assume that it is obvious what humane, ethical, professional, and civil behavior mean under all circumstances, but we believe that an effort to define such standards, and open discussion of the challenges that arise when differing ideas and interests intersect, constitute an essential element of our academic environment and an important component of a meaningful education. Differences provide a source of richness that we can draw on successfully only when we engage them thoughtfully, listen to each other carefully, weigh argument and evidence, and remain alert to the contexts of our words and actions.

Students have the right to a learning environment free of disruptive behaviors. Faculty have the right to define appropriate behavioral expectations in the classroom and to expect students to abide by them. Faculty also have the responsibility to manage and address classroom disruption. Staff have the right and responsibility to define appropriate behaviors necessary to conduct activities free of disruption. Administrators have the right and responsibility to provide guidance and ensure that high standards and expectations are practiced and sustained.

Individuals are responsible for their own conduct, and civil behavior is a collective responsibility. A breach of the principles of this Code should be reported to an appropriate person who will ensure an investigation of the facts and a response within the framework of University policies and procedures. Further information about related policies and codes at Towson University can be found in Appendix F of *Towson University Undergraduate Catalog*.

Adopted: 6 June 2012, Council of Deans, approved by Provost 8 June 2012