

## 172-121-120

### Hearing procedures.

The provisions of this section apply to both brief hearings and to full hearings.

(1) General provisions.

(a) Hearing authority: The hearing authority, through the conduct review officers, exercises control over hearing proceedings. All procedural questions are subject to the final decision of the conduct review officer.

(b) Closed hearings: All conduct review hearings will be closed. Admission of any person to a conduct review hearing shall be at the discretion of the hearing authority.

(c) Consolidation of hearings: In the event that one or more students are charged with the same misconduct arising from the same occurrence, the hearing authority may conduct separate hearings for each student or consolidate the hearings as practical, as long as consolidation does not impinge on the rights of any student.

(2) Appearance.

(a) Failure to appear: In cases where proper notice has been given but the respondent fails to attend a conduct review hearing, the hearing authority shall decide the case based on the information available, without the respondent's input.

(b) Appearance: The parties will be provided options for reasonable alternative arrangements if they do not wish to be present in the same room as the other student during the hearing. The parties may appear at the conduct review hearing in person, through telephone conference, or through any other practical means of communication, subject to the limits set forth below in (e) of this subsection. If a party does not appear at the hearing, the hearing authority will decide the case based on the information available.

(c) Advisors: The complainant and the respondent may be assisted by one advisor during conduct review hearings as described in WAC **172-121-105**.

(d) Disruption of proceedings: Any person, including the respondent, who disrupts a hearing, may be excluded from the proceedings.

(e) Telephonic appearance. In the interest of fairness and expedience, the conduct review officer may permit any person to appear by telephone, audio tape, written statement, or other means, as appropriate, if the rights of the parties will not be substantially prejudiced by a telephonic appearance as determined by the conduct review officer.

(3) Standard of proof. The hearing authority shall determine whether the respondent violated the student conduct code, as charged, based on a preponderance of the evidence. A preponderance means, based on the evidence admitted, whether it is more probable than not that the respondent violated the student conduct code.

(4) Sanctions. In determining what sanctions shall be imposed, the hearing authority may consider the evidence presented at the hearing as well as any information contained in the student's disciplinary and academic records. If a student fails to appear for a hearing, then the hearing authority shall review the evidence provided and may consider information available from the student's disciplinary and academic records in determining what sanction should be imposed.

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[Statutory Authority: RCW **28B.35.120**(12) and **42.56.070**. WSR 19-01-047, § 172-121-120, filed 12/13/18, effective 1/13/19. Statutory Authority: RCW **28B.35.120**(12). WSR 17-17-031, § 172-121-120, filed 8/9/17, effective 9/9/17; WSR 15-24-050, § 172-121-120, filed 11/23/15, effective 12/24/15; WSR 13-24-123, § 172-121-120, filed 12/4/13, effective 1/4/14; WSR 09-12-001, § 172-121-120, filed 5/20/09, effective 6/20/09.]