

Law School Standards of Conduct and Commentary

THE STANDARDS

University of Michigan Law School students are expected to maintain high standards of:

Academic conduct in all academic relationships with the Law School and the University, from the application for admission through graduation;

Professional conduct while functioning in a lawyer-like capacity at any time between matriculation as a Law School student and graduation; and

Personal conduct in all matters that touch or affect the Law School, the University, and any member or guest of the Law School or University communities.

These standards apply without regard to possible civil and criminal liability for the same conduct. But an adjudication of civil or criminal liability may establish or support a finding that a student has engaged in misconduct.

A standard may be violated by an unsuccessful attempt to engage in conduct that would be a violation if completed. Assisting another person's violation or attempting to conceal it also may be a violation.

ENFORCEMENT

Departures from these standards of conduct are subject to discipline under the Law School Student Disciplinary Procedures and also under the University Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities, accessible at <http://www.oscr.umich.edu/statement/>.

COMMENTARY

These Standards of Conduct are expressed in general terms, not as defined rules. A standard often will be given specific content by more detailed rules and policies adopted by the University, offices and programs within the Law School, individual members of the Law School faculty, or the courts and bar associations that regulate lawyers. Beyond such rules and policies, the Standards depend on tradition and an understanding of shared academic and professional values. Most forms of academic and personal misconduct are readily recognized by an honest person exercising common sense and ordinary understanding.

The same conduct may violate more than one standard. Violation of library rules, for example, may in some circumstances violate the academic conduct standard as well as the personal conduct standard. And conduct that violates any one standard may give rise to concerns about fitness to practice law that will be reported to bar authorities.

Academic Conduct

The most readily recognized forms of academic misconduct include these:

