

Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQs”)  
Regarding Announcement About Safety and Security Policies for Students

Q: How has the jurisdiction of the University Hearing and Appeals System (UHAS) and the Sexual Assault Hearing and Appeal System (SAHAS) changed?

A: UHAS jurisdiction has been expanded such that it applies not only to conduct occurring on University premises and at University functions, but also to conduct occurring (i) in the off-campus residence of any University student or on any street or area contiguous to such a residence, and (ii) on premises subject to the jurisdiction of University Police whether on or off University property. The only change to SAHAS jurisdiction was to expand that jurisdiction to include premises subject to the jurisdiction of University Police whether on or off University property. The UHAS and SAHAS jurisdiction provisions now mirror one another and are designed to be consistent with one another, but cases brought under SAHAS are still excluded from UHAS jurisdiction.

Q: Why was the jurisdiction of UHAS and SAHAS changed?

A: A significant number of students live off-campus and, for several years, many have requested that University Police be allowed to patrol their neighborhoods to provide an extra measure of safety and security. Until recently, University Police did not have jurisdiction in some of those neighborhoods. In May, the Evanston City Council granted Northwestern University Police extended jurisdiction in the city. In response to a recognized and documented student safety concern and to support University Police in their effort to address student behavior that has an impact on the University community, the jurisdiction of UHAS was revised essentially to be congruent with University Police jurisdiction and with earlier versions of SAHAS jurisdictional provision.

Q: Does UHAS and SAHAS jurisdiction in off-campus areas include only those areas that fall within the jurisdiction of University Police?

A: No. UHAS and SAHAS jurisdiction includes all premises subject to the jurisdiction of University Police, but, perhaps more importantly, it also includes the off-campus residence of any University student and any street or area contiguous thereto, regardless of whether those areas fall within University Police jurisdiction. This provision of UHAS and SAHAS addresses student-on-student violations of the code of student conduct and gives students another means to confront personal safety and civility issues.

Q: Does the extension of UHAS and SAHAS jurisdiction to include certain off-campus areas mean that UHAS and SAHAS can be used to enforce all local and state laws and ordinances?

A: No. UHAS and SAHAS are designed to resolve alleged violations of University rules and regulations. Some violations of local or state laws or ordinances may also constitute a violation of one or more University rules or regulations while others may not.

Q: Does this mean that I can be subject to both a civil or criminal proceeding and a UHAS or SAHAS proceeding if my behavior is in violation of both a local or state law or ordinance and a University rule or regulation?

A: Yes. As has always been the case, the University's disciplinary system operates independently of any civil or criminal process. For example, a student may be subject to criminal charges and also be subject to a UHAS or SAHAS proceeding if the conduct at issue also violates a University rule or regulation.

Q: Under the UHAS and SAHAS procedures can only the University bring complaints?

A: No. As has always been the case, students can also bring complaints. This is an important and essential provision of the code of student conduct, in that, it gives all students an option to address violations that have effected them personally instead of or in addition to taking criminal or civil action against another student. From section III of the UHAS procedures in the *Community Guide: 2003-04 Student Handbook*, "A student, group of students, student organization, or the University may file a complaint against a student, group of students, or student organization."

Q: How will the Civility, Mutual Respect, and Unacceptability of Violence on Campus Policy increase safety for students?

A: The policy describes behavior that is unacceptable and states that sanctions may be imposed on those who violate the policy. A clear message is conveyed to the whole community about the importance of civil behavior and treating other members of the University community with civility and respect. By making it possible to impose sanctions, students who violate the policy may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including separation of the offending party from the University if the circumstances warrant.

Q: Does the expansion of UHAS jurisdiction to include certain off-campus areas mean that students can no longer host or attend off-campus parties or other social gatherings?

A: No. There is no University rule or regulation that prohibits students, as a general matter, from hosting or attending off-campus parties or other social gatherings. However, both students who host such gatherings and those who attend them are subject to all applicable University rules and regulations, including but not limited to those regarding (i) alcoholic beverages, (ii) alcohol-drug abuse, (iii) firearms, weapons, and explosives, and (iv) noise.

Students are also subject to all applicable local and state laws and ordinances, including but not limited to laws that prohibit causing a public disturbance or having a disorderly house, as well as laws regarding the provision of alcohol. City of Evanston ordinances can be found at [www.cityofevanston.org/Government/citycode.html/](http://www.cityofevanston.org/Government/citycode.html/). There are also numerous state laws about the legal drinking age, which can be found at the Secretary of State's site, [www.sos.state.il.us/](http://www.sos.state.il.us/).

In addition, we urge you to be respectful of your neighbors when hosting or attending a party or other social gathering. For example:

- Let neighbors know you are hosting an event. Ask them to let you know if the event presents any problems for them.
- Remind your guests to be respectful of your neighbors (coming and going quietly, placing trash in containers, etc.).

- Minimize noise by keeping guests inside, off the porch and the public sidewalks; keep music volume so that it cannot be heard outside of the residence.
- Provide trash containers and check the area for litter as early as possible the next day.
- Remember when serving alcohol at an event, you have responsibilities and potential liabilities under civil and criminal law regarding the safety and behavior of your guests. Social host liability is a serious matter and you may face legal action if you have a guest who is injured or causes harm to others as a result of consuming alcohol at your party. Your future and the health and safety of your guests should not be put at risk.