



CHECS – For Parents & Family - FAQ

1) Why is a particular rule or policy in place? Policies are designed to support the university's educational mission and to ensure a safe environment where all members of the University community can work, study and live without undue interference. Policies are also designed to build and support the academic and social community by teaching students responsibility and interdependence.

2) My student received a Charge Notice, what is it and does he/she have a chance to explain him/herself?

A Charge Notice is written notification to a student that he/she may have violated a university policy. Every student is afforded the opportunity to explain what happened during the incident.

3) My student was charged criminally. Why does he/she have to go through the university judicial process too?

Members of the CNU community and their visitor's are subject to all University rules and regulations, including those written in the Student Handbook. Additionally, those individuals are also simultaneously subject to all local, state or federal laws. As an administrative response to alleged policy violations the University's judicial process does not constitute “double jeopardy” for situations in which a student is facing concurrent criminal proceedings.

4) Why do I have limited access to my student's college records when I'm paying his/her college expenses?

As a parent or legal guardian you can have access to student records with their consent. The best way to get information about your son/daughter's disciplinary record is to ask them.

5) What is the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)? & How does it impact me as a parent/family member? The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is a Federal law that provides students with access to inspect and review their educational records and protects students' right to privacy by limiting access to the educational record. The Center for Honor Enrichment & Community Standards (CHECS) will not release student disciplinary records to an outside third party (including parents/family members) without students consent, unless directed by a court order.

6) What records does FERPA cover? The privacy protection FERPA gives to students is very broad. Part 99.3 of the FERPA regulations gives privacy protection to all students “educational records.” Education records are defined as “[t]hose records that are directly related to a student and [are] [m]aintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution.” Examples of student records entitled to FERPA privacy protection are grade reports, transcripts, and disciplinary files.

7) How can I help my student navigate the judicial process?

Discuss with your student about their poor choices and how they can improve their decision making skills. Be sure that you and your student understand the process and listen and support your student as they proceed through it. If the student goes forward to a panel hearing or an honor council, you can serve as an advisor for them.

8) How are sanctions decided?

Sanctions may be imposed independently or in combination with other sanctions. Sanctioning is determined on a case by case basis and takes into account the needs of the individual student, the student's judicial history, and the impact of the student's behavior on the CNU community.

9) Does a judicial outcome go on my student's record?

A student's disciplinary record is separate from his/her academic record. The only time that a student's academic transcript may reflect a judicial outcome is if the decision included suspension or dismissal from the institution.