

Whatcom Community Standards

When you enrolled as a student at Whatcom, you agreed to abide by our Student Rights and Responsibilities, but what happens when you make a mistake?

Life of an alleged code violation, starring Batman:

A report is made:

Descriptive photo: Batman standing on a cliff looking at the Bat signal

Anyone in the community can activate the bat signal by submitting an incident report online. An I.R. describes the who, what, where, when and why of any concerning event on campus: crime, suspicious behavior, plagiarism, stranger danger, bad hair day, et cetera.

Once submitted, it gets assigned based on the issue: Office of Community Standards, Campus Safety and Security, Human Resources, or Behavioral Intervention Team.

We investigate:

Descriptive photo: The Bat phone

The assigned staff member makes some calls and talks with witnesses to make sure we have all the details right. Then we call you into the Bat cave for a meeting. We talk about the incident, clarify details, and figure out if the code has been violated.

We take care of it:

Descriptive Photo: Batman running with a giant bomb in his hands

If we determine there is a violation of the code, either by you saying “Oops. Sorry”, or if it’s 50.1% likely based on the evidence, we impose a sanction. This can be anything from a warning to dismissal, but it is important to know that our goal is to be educational. We regularly assign such tasks as an essay, apology, or community service, Reflection on your impact and learning from your mistakes is our ultimate hope.

The circle of life:

Descriptive photo: Batman smiling and waving on the cover of Life Magazine

You complete your sanction, you never violate the code again, and we all go back to being awesome. We keep a file, but it doesn’t go on your academic record.

Investigation? Here's what happens in the Bat cave:

- Review your rights as a student, the purpose of the meeting, and go over the process
- You share your experience
- We tell you what else we've found
- We ask questions of each other
- We make a finding and determine an educational sanction (or not)
- Every case is unique.

Did you know...?

You can appeal if you don't agree. You have ten days after your meeting to do it. The exact details are in the conduct code.

Got it? Still have questions? Just ask!

Community Standards

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