

REFUSAL TO WEAR FACIAL COVERINGS OR MAINTAIN PROPER SOCIAL DISTANCE

In an effort to keep everyone on campus as safe from COVID-19 infection as possible, the policy of Wilmington College requires everyone on campus to wear a multi-layered facial covering over the nose and mouth, except when they are in the privacy of their residences or when socially distanced outside of campus buildings. Students who have a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a facial covering must present documentation of such conditions to the Office of Disability Services. The Director will issue letters of accommodation if necessary. This policy also requires proper social distancing (minimum of 6 feet) when gathered in groups.

Student violations of these policies will be first treated as a disciplinary matter as defined and described in several sections of the Student Handbook, including the Code of Conduct. Multiple specific instances noted in the Handbook relate to classroom conditions in which violations may occur. Under the Academic Affairs: Academic Code of Conduct section, part F identifies:

Disruptive or disrespectful classroom behavior – Causing a disturbance in the classroom, interrupting instruction, speaking rudely or threatening students or faculty. This includes use of a cell phone during class.

Under the Student Code of Conduct, item B, includes as violations:

Disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, college activities, including public-service functions on- or off-campus, or other authorized non-College activities which occur on College premises.

Under the Student Code of Conduct, item O, includes as violations:

Violation of published College policies, rule, or regulations.

Under the Student Code of Conduct, item O, includes as violations:

Violation of federal, state, or local law or any state or local mandate on College premises or at College sponsored or supervised activities.

With these in mind, if a student presents in class without a facial covering the instructor should determine the reason. The instructor may require the student to retrieve a covering if forgotten or to leave the classroom for the duration of the session if a covering is not immediately available. If the refusal to wear a facial covering is persistent or hostile, the instructor should report the issue either through the NURO early alert system or directly to Judicial Affairs through Vice President Sigrid Solomon and may require the student to leave

the classroom until the matter is resolved. This process will also be used for violations involving social distancing.

Please note, this policy is inclusive to the entire campus.

Escalation to this level may well impact the student's academic performance and constitute Academic Misconduct as defined in the Faculty Handbook, Appendix 1.18. If so, the incident(s) should also be reported to the Academic Standards and Appeals Committee through the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.