

Policy Information

Issuing Office

Registrar's Office

Affected Parties

All Liberty University Faculty, Staff, and Students

Policy Language

To submit an official student complaint, please visit www.Liberty.edu/complaints.

Policy Rationale

The formal procedures are intended to ensure that all formal complaints are addressed fairly, consistently and, wherever possible, resolved to the complainant's satisfaction.

Definition of Glossary Terms

None specified

Procedural Information

Procedures

University Communication to Students about Complaint Processes and Policies

Liberty University communicates to residential and distance education students its complaint processes and policies through multiple avenues. One avenue is through the annual Consumer Information Disclosure email that is sent to all residential and distance education students (over 100,000) and to all employees by the Financial Aid Office. In the body of this email students are advised that a link provided will take them to the Office's Consumer Information Disclosure webpage (<https://www.liberty.edu/financeadmin/studentfinances/index.cfm?PID=21792>) where another link will take them to information about how to file a complaint as well as details regarding complaint policies and procedures. This annual disclosure email is sent electronically and tracked for audit purposes in the administrative software system (Banner) by timestamping the date of the disclosure in the individual's record stored in Banner. Additionally, this annual disclosure provides direct access for students, families and employees to appeal and complaint policies in twelve areas including satisfactory academic progress appeals, scholarships, general appeals, state grants, student loans (including disclosure of Federal Student Loan Ombudsman contact information), complaints to the Office of Inspector General, continuing education benefits, state agency consumer complaint contact information (which includes 109 agencies and contacts among the 50 states and territories), sites for resident and online student complaints, and complaints to the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (the authorized State Reciprocity Agreement/SARA- agency). The Financial Aid Office also communicates complaint process and policy information to all students on its Appeal and Complaint Policies webpage (<https://www.liberty.edu/financeadmin/studentfinances/index.cfm?PID=19260>).

Webpages that contain information about complaint processes and policies may be accessed by on campus students by searching the word "complaint" on www.Liberty.edu or by visiting www.Liberty.edu/complaints. This site instructs students regarding how to submit an official complaint, and it provides a definition /explanation of types of complaints and links to submit official complaints for the following offices: Online Student Advocate Office (general complaints for online students), Resident Student Advocate Office (general complaints for residential students), Financial Aid Office, Student Accounts Office, Office of Disability Academic Support, College of Osteopathic Medicine, School of Law, Registrar Office, and Dean of Students. When a student submits a complaint on this page, it takes the student to a specialized form designed to help track and route complaints across the university. Student complaint process and policy information is also available at this location. Furthermore, information about complaint processes and policies is introduced to all undergraduate students in orientation sessions for new students and reiterated again in new-student coursework such as UNIV 101: University Core Competencies (residential) and UNIV 104: Instructional Technology for Successful Online Learning (distance education).

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Liberty University's Online Student Advocate Office also communicates information about complaint policies and procedures to distance education students through its Student Advocate Office - Forms and Downloads webpage (<https://www.liberty.edu/online/student-appeals-forms-and-downloads/>) and FAQ page (<https://www.liberty.edu/online/prospective-students-faqs/>). Additionally, Liberty's Resident Student Advocate Office has a webpage (<https://www.liberty.edu/sao/>) that contains links to resident to a complaint procedures webpage (<https://www.liberty.edu/sao/index.cfm?PID=38912>) designed especially for answering their questions and it provides information and links to common questions. Both the Resident and Online Student Advocate Office webpages have links that can direct the student to www.Liberty.edu/complaints where they can submit a complaint.

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Official Student Complaint Oversight and Monitoring

Student Complaint Review Committee. To further enhance Liberty University's monitoring and tracking of student complaints, the University has created the Student Complaint Review Committee to oversee and coordinate the regular review of student complaint patterns. The membership of the committee includes staff representing each office noted above that receives students' complaints. This committee meets monthly to review complaint logs, searching for patterns or themes found within the logs, and develops recommendations to University administration and offices that handle student complaints to develop a suitable response or resolution. This committee also examines policies and standards for the review and resolution of student complaints to determine whether adjustments to policies or processes are in order.

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Sanctions

Dependent upon the discretion of Senior Vice President or executive over the respective area.

Exceptions

None