

# Conduct Corner

## Office of Community Standards



Dr. André L. Clanton  
Director

### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings Laker Nation! Welcome to a new edition of the Office of Community Standards **CONDUCT CORNER** Newsletter. This newsletter will serve as your go-to source for information, updates, and resources related to student conduct and community standards at Clayton State University.

Our office exists to foster a campus environment where every member feels respected, supported, and empowered to achieve their goals. We uphold the values of integrity, accountability, respect, and social responsibility as the foundation for student success and a thriving university culture. This newsletter is one way we bring those values to life. By creating a reliable and accessible platform for sharing knowledge, answering questions, and providing guidance, we hope to support the university's vision and mission of social mobility. Within each issue, you'll find:

**Policy Highlights & Clarifications** – to keep you informed about the standards outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

**Educational Opportunities & Events** – workshops, trainings, and programs that promote responsible decision-making and conflict resolution skills.

**Community Spotlights** – stories and examples of individuals or groups demonstrating leadership, integrity, and a commitment to our shared values.

**Practical Resources** – tips for navigating common challenges, understanding processes, and connecting with support services on campus.

**Current Event** – local, state, and national news related to student conduct administration within higher education.

The goal of this newsletter is simple: to serve as both a resource and an information-sharing tool that empowers students, faculty, and staff to stay informed and actively participate in building community. We believe that when we share information openly and encourage dialogue, we not only prevent misunderstandings but also create opportunities for growth, understanding, and stronger relationships across campus.

We encourage students to use this newsletter to better understand their rights and responsibilities, seek guidance when faced with challenges, and engage in programs that enhance personal and academic success. For faculty and staff, it can serve as a quick reference tool for engaging students, addressing behavioral concerns, and sharing the resources and services available in the Office of Community Standards.

Most importantly, we invite all readers to share the information within this newsletter with others. Whether it's forwarding an article to a colleague, discussing a topic with a student organization, or bringing an idea to your department meeting, your participation helps extend the reach of this resource and strengthen our collective commitment to a positive campus culture.

We are excited about the year ahead and the many opportunities it will bring for learning, collaboration, and community building. Thank you for taking the time to read and engage with this newsletter. Together, we can continue to make Clayton State University a place where respect, accountability, and excellence guide all that we do.

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## THE STATE OF HAZING IN AMERICA



Colleges and universities across the United States reported 946 incidents of hazing between 2018 and February 2025, according to a new analysis by HazingInfo.org.

It's the first time the total number of reported US hazing incidents has been tallied, from minor incidents to serious injuries and deaths.

National hazing experts call that number disturbing, powerful — and likely just a small fraction of the true number of hazing incidents.

HazingInfo.org looked at colleges and universities in nine states that have hazing transparency laws. These laws require

campuses to make available to the public a report on hazing incidents after the institution makes an official finding that hazing occurred in a student organization or team.

In total, HazingInfo searched for hazing incident reports at 466 higher education institutions in the nine states: Georgia, Louisiana, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.

We collected data from the 233 institutions we found that make their reports public.

Full article: [The state of hazing in America](#)

### UNIVERSITY HEARING PANEL

The University Hearing Panel is comprised of Clayton State students, faculty, and staff, and convenes throughout the academic year to adjudicate cases of student academic and general misconduct.

Participation on the Hearing Panel requires initial training and then a monthly commitment of between 2 -5 hours each month, with hearings usually held on Thursdays and Fridays throughout the semester. This is a great opportunity to expand your service to the University. Current hearing panel members have expressed that they learned a great deal about the institution and the rights of students and faculty.

To learn more about serving on the University Hearing Panel, please email [studentconduct@clayton.edu](mailto:studentconduct@clayton.edu).

### UNIVERSITY HEARING PANEL SPOTLIGHT

#### **Myles Villafranca, UHP Student Rep.**



Myles Villafranca was born in the Philippines but has lived in Georgia since she was 8 years old. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Clinical/Counseling Psychology.

Myles joined the University Hearing Panel because it's important to her that students understand the conduct process is meant to be educational not intimidating. She believes a conduct hearing isn't about punishment, it's about learning from mistakes, taking responsibility, and growing as individuals. She wants to help create a space where students feel supported, not judged.

In addition to serving on the University Hearing Panel, Myles serves as the Vice President of The Page Turners, CSU's book club. She also works as a Graduate Assistant in the Office of Student Affairs and is a proud member of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology.



# HELPING STUDENTS EMOTIONALLY BEFORE THEY TURN TO AI



As more students engage with generative artificial intelligence and chat bots, the ways they use AI are changing. A 2025 report published by the Harvard Business Review found that, according to the discourse on social media, “therapy/companionship” is the No. 1 use case for generative AI chat bots.

For college counseling centers, this change reflects students’ desire for immediate support. “This is not a generation that would call a counseling center and get an appointment two weeks, four weeks later,” said Joy Himmel, director of counseling services for Old Dominion University.

“They want help when they want it.”

But it’s important for counseling centers to educate students on the risks of using generative AI tools for well-being support, Himmel said.

**The research:** While ChatGPT and similar text-generating chat bots are touted as productivity tools that can expedite learning and workflow, some people turn to them for personal and emotional support..

A 2025 study from MIT Media Lab and Open AI found that high usage of ChatGPT correlates with increased dependency on the AI tool, with heavy users more likely to consider ChatGPT a “friend” and to consider messaging with ChatGPT more comfortable than face-to-face interactions. However, researchers noted that only a small share of ChatGPT users are affected to that extent or report emotional distress from excessive use.

Another study from the same groups found that higher daily usage of ChatGPT correlated with increased loneliness, dependence and problematic use of the tool, as well as lower socialization with other humans.

In extreme cases, individuals have created entirely fabricated lives and romantic relationships with AI, which can result in deep feelings and real hurt when the technology is updated.

This research shows that most people, even heavy users of ChatGPT, are not seeking emotional support from the chat bot and do not become dependent on it. Among college students, a minority want AI to provide well-being support, according to a different survey. A study from WGU Labs found that 41 percent of online learners would be comfortable with AI suggesting mental health strategies based on a student’s data, compared to 38 percent who said they would be somewhat or very uncomfortable with such use.

**In higher education:** On campus, Himmel has seen a growing number of students start counseling for anxiety disorders, depression and a history of trauma. Students are also notably lonelier, she said, and less likely to engage with peers on campus or attend events.

Student mental health is a top retention concern, but few counseling centers have capacity to provide one-on-one support to everyone who needs it. At her center, more students prefer in-person counseling sessions, which Himmel attributes to them wanting to feel more grounded and connected. But many still engage with online or digital interventions as well.

Full article: [Helping College Students Emotionally Before They Turn to AI](#)



## STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

It is the policy of Clayton State University to provide equal opportunity and fair treatment to all students (including applicants for admission) without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, or any other protected class as required by applicable state and federal laws. In addition, the University is interested in the prompt and fair resolution of the concerns of students and the procedures below have been formulated to ensure these concerns are addressed.

Grievances or complaints related to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct, based on initial review, will be referred to the University’s Title IX Coordinator for investigation and adjudication. Grievances or complaints involving ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) access or accommodations are handled through the ADA Grievance Procedure which is outlined below. No student’s status with Clayton State University shall be adversely affected in any way as a result of using these procedures, nor shall any retaliatory actions be taken against a person using these procedures.

Website: [Student Grievance Procedures](#)  
[Clayton State University](#)



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**Student Code  
of Conduct**



## A SHOOTING IN MINNESOTA



Minneapolis is in mourning after a shooter opened fire at a school Mass marking the start of the academic year. “We are a city united in grief,” Jacob Frey, the mayor, told a crowd at a candlelight vigil. “Let us take the next step to be a city united in action.”

The shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church, in the south of the city, lasted about two minutes. It took the lives of two children and wounded more than a dozen people.

Children and staff members ducked for cover under the pews, witnesses said, as the assailant fired into the church through the stained-glass windows. At least two doors of the church had been barricaded from the outside, the police said. The attacker later shot herself.

The F.B.I. is investigating the shooting as an act of domestic terrorism and a hate crime targeting Catholics. Here’s what else to know:

**The victims:** The attack killed two children, ages 8 and 10, who died in the pews of the church. At least 14 other children, between the ages of 6 and 15, were wounded, as were three parishioners in their 80s.

**The suspect:** The authorities identified the attacker as Robin Westman, a 23-year-old who they believe was a former student at the school. The shooter was armed with three guns, all of which had been legally purchased.

**The motive:** Investigators said they had not determined a motive. The suspect’s social media posts show a fixation on guns, violence and school shooters. Videos she posted featured diary entries that described the killing of children and a drawing of the church’s interior.

**The response:** President Trump signed a proclamation lowering flags to half-staff until Sunday. Pope Leo, the first American leader of the Catholic Church, expressed profound sadness over the shooting. On social media, Gov. Tim Walz said, “Minnesota is heartbroken.” He added, “We will get through this together.”

Full article: [What we know about Minnesota school shooting suspect Robin Westman - ABC News](#)

## Books on Student Conduct Administration

