



**UNIVERSITY POLICY SA-01.02-04/20**

**To:** The University of West Florida Community  
**From:** Dr. Martha D. Saunders, President  
**Subject:** Medical Immunity  
**Responsible Office:** Division of Academic Engagement and Student Affairs

**I. Policy Statement:**

The health and safety of students at the University of West Florida (UWF) is of great importance. In cases of medical emergency or crisis, students are expected to render aid for others in the University community by seeking help from appropriate medical personnel and University staff. The University is thankful to the students who take an active role in rendering aid for fellow Argonauts by acting in responsible and timely ways during a serious situation such as hazing, sexual assault, or alcohol or drug overdose. Seeking help that is critically needed for a fellow Argonaut shows courage and leadership.

It is understood that the potential for disciplinary action may deter students or Student Organizations/Groups from rendering aid and seeking needed medical assistance, either for themselves or others, as the result of the over-consumption of alcohol or use or over-use of drugs. The University has adopted a limited "Medical Immunity" policy in an effort to address this concern. This policy is in place to ease concerns and eliminate any reason for hesitation that students may have in rendering aid and seeking help for others should an emergency or crisis arise.

The policy allows the Vice President of Academic Engagement and Student Affairs or designee the sole discretion to give Medical Immunity to a student who has acted responsibly and rendered aid from appropriate University staff members or called for medical assistance. This means that the University may, in its sole discretion, choose to forego adjudication for violation(s) of conduct involving hazing, alcohol or drug use by the reporting student(s) that occurred at or immediately before the time of the incident, as long as the other conditions of the policy are met and if the Vice President of Academic Engagement and Student Affairs or designee is satisfied that the student(s) met the conditions herein.

**II. Who Needs to Know this Policy**

University Students and Student Organizations/Groups.

### **III. Eligibility**

If help is sought, aid is rendered, and the incident is reported to the appropriate University personnel, the Vice President of Academic Engagement and Student Affairs or designee may, in its sole discretion, grant Medical Immunity. In the event that the Vice President of Academic Engagement and Student Affairs or designee grants Medical Immunity, then formal Student Code of Conduct charges may be suspended for the following individuals:

- A. Students in need of emergency medical assistance; and,
- B. Students who sought help, rendered aid, and reported the incident to the appropriate University personnel.
  - 1. In order to qualify for Medical Immunity, individuals who are not in need of emergency assistance must have completed all of the following responsible actions during the incident:
    - a) **Seek Help**  
Immediately call 911 or UWF Police (850)-474-2415 and, as long as it is safe to do so, remain with the individual(s) in need of assistance until help (i.e., UWF Police, emergency medical personnel, applicable University personnel, etc.) arrives.
    - b) **Render Aid**  
As long as it is possible and safe to do so, remain with, monitor the condition of, and assist the individuals in need of care. Cooperate with emergency/personnel.
    - c) **Report**  
Report the incident to the appropriate University personnel within 48 hours of the incident. Appropriate University personnel may include Housing and Residence Life staff, Fraternity and Sorority Life staff, Dean of Students Office staff, or other applicable University staff.
    - d) **Meet**  
Meet with appropriate University officials after the incident and cooperate with any University investigation.

### **IV. Resolution**

The incident will still be documented, and educational outcomes may be required. Students who qualify for Medical Immunity must meet with appropriate University personnel after the incident, cooperate with any University processes, and complete any alcohol or other substance assessments or educational programming as directed by the Dean of Students Office.

The Vice President of Academic Engagement and Students Affairs or designee may choose to withdraw Medical Immunity at any time. Students who fail to complete applicable components of this policy or directives issued by the Vice President of Academic Engagement and Student Affairs or designee may no longer qualify for Medical Immunity. In the event that a student’s Medical Immunity is withdrawn, the Vice President of Academic Engagement and Student Affairs or designee, may proceed with Student Code of Conduct charges in accordance with UWF Regulation 3.010.


**V. Student Organizations**

Student Organizations do not qualify for Medical Immunity. However, if a Student Organization renders aid, seeks help, and reports the incident to the appropriate University personnel, the Student Organization's responsible actions shall be considered a mitigating factor, in the sanctioning process, if found in violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

**VI. Law Enforcement**

Medical Immunity only applies to the UWF Student Code of Conduct and does not in any way restrict law enforcement agencies, including the UWF Police Department, within their jurisdictions from enforcing the law.

*Authority and Related Documents: Florida Statute § 893.21, Florida Board of Governors Regulation 6.0105; UWF Regulation 3.010.*

Approved by:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Martha D. Saunders, President

Date: 04/22/2020 \_\_\_\_\_

*History: Amendments April 2020, new policy July 2018.*