



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TENNESSEE**  
KNOXVILLE

**INTERIM PROCESS:  
PETITION TO LIFT AN INDEFINITE SUSPENSION PENALTY**

**I. Jurisdiction**

The Indefinite Suspension Review Committee (Committee) evaluates petitions to lift the disciplinary penalty of indefinite suspension and makes recommendations to the Vice Chancellor for Student Life concerning those petitions. Indefinite suspension was a disciplinary penalty that could be imposed under the University of Tennessee, Knoxville's previous Student Code of Conduct, which was in effect until August 22, 2017. Under the previous Student Code of Conduct, the Student Life Council heard petitions to lift an indefinite suspension. This interim process has been developed given the Student Life Council no longer exists under the current Student Code of Conduct.

**II. Membership**

Generally, the Committee is composed of the following members:

- a. The Vice Chancellor for Student Life or designee, who serves as the chairperson;
- b. Dean or Associate Dean not from the academic college in which the student was enrolled when the indefinite suspension went into effect, or seeks to enroll in upon readmission;
- c. Associate or Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Life;
- d. Director of the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards (SCCS) or designee;
- e. Faculty representative, selected from the pool of trained Student Conduct Board members; and
- f. Student representative, selected from the pool of trained Student Conduct Board members.

The Vice Chancellor for Student Life has the discretion to modify the composition of the Committee in appropriate circumstances (e.g., unavailability of a member of the Committee; adding a member with expertise needed to evaluate the petition, etc.). The Vice Chancellor for Student Life will not appoint members of the Committee who have a conflict of interest or on the basis of how they are likely to vote. Members of the Committee must recuse themselves if they have a conflict of interest.

**III. Process**

- a. Preparation
  - i. The student is expected to contact and begin regularly meeting with the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Life or their designee at least fifteen (15) weeks prior to the semester for which the student desires to be readmitted to the University.
- b. Petition
  - i. The student must send the Vice Chancellor for Student Life a written petition to lift the disciplinary penalty of indefinite suspension.

- ii. The student has the burden of demonstrating to the Vice Chancellor for Student Life that the indefinite suspension should be lifted because the student's presence on University property or at University-affiliated activities will neither (1) pose a significant risk of substantial harm to the health, safety, or welfare of others or to property or (2) pose a threat to the disruption of, or interference with, the normal operations of the University.
- c. Opportunity to Speak to the Committee
  - i. The student petitioning to lift the disciplinary penalty of indefinite suspension may, at the request of the Committee, be offered the opportunity to speak at a Committee meeting. If the student speaks at the Committee meeting, the Committee will have the opportunity to ask the student questions.
  - ii. Before making a recommendation to the Vice Chancellor for Student Life, the Committee will consider the totality of the circumstances and information presented to the Committee, including without limitation the student's written petition, any oral address made by the student to the Committee and any answers to questions from the Committee, the student's conduct history, feedback from the Associate or Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Life on their meetings with the student, and how the student has spent their time away from the University.
- d. Recommendation and Decision
  - i. The Committee will come to a consensus and make a recommendation to the Vice Chancellor for Student Life about whether the student has met their burden of demonstrating that the indefinite suspension should be lifted.
  - ii. The decision of the Vice Chancellor for Student Life is final and is not subject to appeal. The student may re-petition the Vice Chancellor for Student Life to lift the indefinite suspension no earlier than one calendar year after their previous petition to the Vice Chancellor for Student Life.
- e. Following Decision
  - i. If the indefinite suspension is lifted, then the student is eligible to apply for readmission. However, the lifting of the indefinite suspension does not guarantee that the student will be readmitted. Admissions decisions are made in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions or the Office of Graduate Admissions.
  - ii. Upon return to the University following an indefinite suspension penalty, the student will remain on probation until graduation from the University, subject to any sanctions imposed for new misconduct in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.