



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

700 Park Ave., HBW Suite 520, Norfolk, Virginia 23504  
P: 757-823-8670 | F: 757-823-2342 | nsu.edu

December 1, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin  
Governor of Virginia  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

**Certification of Compliance with Code of Virginia § 23.1-401.1**

Dear Governor Youngkin:

Pursuant to Code of Virginia § 23.1-401.1, this letter and the attached documents are being transmitted as evidence of Norfolk State University's compliance with the requirements of Code of Virginia 23.1-401.1 (D) (2).

Norfolk State University's Board of Visitors Policy # 33 (2019), Freedom of Speech and Protection and Campus Space Utilization outlines the institution's commitment to protecting the rights set forth in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. The policy also sets forth a process for reporting incidents of disruption of constitutionally protected speech. BOY Policy # 33 has been widely disseminated to members of the University community and is publicly accessible via the institution's electronic policy library. The University's Student Catalog and Handbook also outlines student's basic rights of freedom of religion, speech, press, the right to peacefully assemble, and the right to petition. The Catalog and Student Handbook is publicly accessible online.

During the period of December 2, 2022, to the present, Norfolk State University has not received any complaints.

Sincerely,

Javaune Adams-Gaston, Ph.D.  
President



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December 1, 2023

The Honorable Louise Lucas  
Chair, Senate Committee on Education and Health  
Senate of Virginia  
Pocahontas Building  
P.O. Box 396  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Certification of Compliance with Code of Virginia § 23.1-401.1

Dear Chairwoman Lucas:

Pursuant to Code of Virginia § 23.1-401.1, this letter and the attached documents are being transmitted as evidence of Norfolk State University's compliance with the requirements of Code of Virginia 23.1-401.1 (D) (2).

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December 1, 2023

The Honorable John G. Avoli  
Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
Virginia House of Delegates  
Pocahontas Building  
900 E. Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Certification of Compliance with Code of Virginia § 23.1-401.1

Dear Vice Chairman Avoli:

Pursuant to Code of Virginia § 23.1-401.1, this letter and the attached documents are being transmitted as evidence of Norfolk State University's compliance with the requirements of Code of Virginia 23.1-401.1 (D) (2).

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Sincerely,

Javaune Adams-Gaston, Ph.D.  
President



**NORFOLK STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

**NORFOLK STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

We see the future in you.

# STUDENT HANDBOOK

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

cultivate personal growth and respect the ideas of others. Always open to both unity and diversity, NSU students understand that respect always begins with self and then moves ever outward, creating synergy among fellow Spartans, fellow Americans and all other peoples.

Once a Spartan is fully fitted with his or her armor, he or she is prepared to take on any challenge. A true Spartan always gives back to the Spartan community, contributing unstintingly of his/her time, talent, treasure and service. He or she thus ensures that future generations can sustain the noble legacy of Spartan pride, integrity, engagement, curiosity, excellence, and civility.

## **UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES GOVERNING STUDENT LIFE**

### **STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

As a member of the Norfolk State University community, students are entitled to all of the rights and privileges guaranteed to every citizen of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

*Basic Rights:* Among these rights include freedom of religion, speech, press, the right to peacefully assemble and the right to petition.

*Free Speech and Peaceful Assemblies:* NSU students are encouraged to exercise freedom of speech and peaceful assemblies in an effort to preserve, celebrate, and broaden freedom of expression. Students and student organizations are free to discuss questions of interest and to express opinions publicly and privately without penalty. Subsequently, the University serves as an academic community that must maintain a safe and orderly educational environment. Students and student organizations may assemble anywhere on the campus, except inside University buildings, as long as they do not disrupt normal University operations or infringe on the rights of others. Acts of expression may not block entry into University buildings and/or interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic. The University does not permit unprotected speech to include defamation, obscenity, and speech that is directed to producing imminent lawless action.

This section will not be interpreted as providing limitations to the right of free speech on campus.

### **CLASSROOM FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY**

1. Students have protection through orderly procedures against prejudicial or capricious academic evaluation. Class performance should be judged solely on academic performance. Faculty members shall not consider it their prerogative to go beyond established academic policy.
2. Students are free to take reasonable exception to data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion. Students are, however, responsible for learning the course content required for successfully completing the course.
3. Cases of dishonesty in academic work are considered to be serious violations of the University's regulations; therefore, dishonest students risk incurring the penalty of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University.
4. The academic program of the University is the basis for all college activities; therefore, each student is expected to attend all classes. Class attendance is a requirement for the



successful completion of courses. Adherence to this requirement is the responsibility of the student.

5. Information concerning student views, beliefs and political associations which professors may acquire in the course of their work shall be considered confidential.

### **ACADEMIC HONOR CODE**

Students will conduct themselves ethically and responsibly, safeguarding their own integrity and that of the community. In fairness to themselves and in justice to others, students will not lie, cheat or steal others' ideas, nor will they tolerate egregious behavior in others. Students will avoid deception and collusion whenever they engage in academic activities offered under the auspices of NSU. As scholars, students will scrupulously avoid plagiarism, learning to select high-quality research sources and to cite them correctly.

Any infraction against the Honor Code will set into motion the academic dishonesty procedures. For more information, visit the [Dean of Students website](#).

### **COMPLAINTS**

The Dean of Students Office holds primary responsibility for the ongoing development and improvement of the quality of student life, including student advocacy. Student Advocacy assists students and parents who may not understand what offices to contact or experience a concern that needs resolution. The Office is available to address comments, questions, and concerns related to the Norfolk State University experience. Concerns should be addressed with someone in the office where the concern originated prior to submitting a complaint to Student Advocacy. Individuals are counseled regarding University policies and procedures, and concerns are investigated by working with campus officials.

Non-academic complaints can be submitted online through Student Advocacy. The form is available at <https://surveys.nsu.edu/index.php/844158/lang-en>.

### **NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY**

Norfolk State University is committed to providing an environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community, is free from harassment, and does not discriminate on the basis of sex in education programs and activities as required by Title IX. Specifically, discrimination based on race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, genetic information, persons with disabilities, or any other status protected by law is prohibited.

Norfolk State University's Human Resources Office, through careful monitoring of employment practices, as well as through educational programming and assisting with the resolution of Equal Opportunity-related complaints, assists the University in its commitment to eliminate discrimination and establish equal opportunity for all of its constituencies. [See BOV Policy # 04 \(2017\) Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination and BOV Policy # 05 \(2017\) Title IX: Sexual Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation.](#)

### **STUDENT RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT**

Disclosure information pertaining to this act is available at [www.nsu.edu/enrollment-management/student-right-to-know](http://www.nsu.edu/enrollment-management/student-right-to-know).