

Rams Own Up

Eligibility

Students are eligible for this process if they meet the following criteria:

- They have no prior disciplinary history as a WCU student
- Policy violations do not involve:
 - a direct harm to others (e.g. physical assault or threats of violence),
 - significant health and safety risk to others (e.g. serious fire safety violations)
 - serious criminal acts, and/or,
 - significant aggravating behaviors (e.g. falsifying information or non-compliance)

Why would students select Rams Own Up over a formal student conduct process?

Rams Own Up allows students to take responsibility for behaviors and to complete educational or restorative activities, without the creation of a disciplinary record. Though a record of the incident and outcomes will be retained internally (and may be considered in sanctioning decisions in the event of future policy violations), it will not qualify as a disciplinary record that could be requested by transfer institutions, graduate schools, or future employers.

What is required of the student?

1. Accept responsibility- As the name of the program implies, Rams Own Up is about taking accountability for one's actions. Therefore, Rams Own Up is not appropriate for students who don't believe they are responsible for the reported behavior. Students who wish to challenge or dispute reported information may do so via a formal student conduct process.

2. Have an honest conversation- The goals of Rams Own Up are self-responsibility and education; therefore, students are expected to have an open, honest conversation with their facilitator. The conversation will include what happened, the student's role, and discussion of any contributing/related factors (such as alcohol or substance use). Students have limited amnesty in these conversations, meaning they can share freely without that information leading to additional conduct action (as long as the student does not disclose issues with mandatory reporting requirements, such as imminent harm to self or others, sexual misconduct, child or elder abuse). This conversation will be non-judgmental and intended to help the student make meaning of the incident and strategize ways of minimizing future harms.

3. Reach an agreement to complete educational/restorative activities- After discussing the incident and related factors, the facilitator and student will collaborate to identify steps the student can take to repair harm, restore trust, and prevent recurrence. In some instances, the student may be presented with options, but most times there will be required activities (e.g. for alcohol/drug-related violations, there are required fines). Parental notification is required for students under 21.

4. Sign the agreement- Students will then sign the agreement, acknowledging they are participating in this process voluntarily, have been informed of the requirements and alternatives, and are electing to waive their right to a hearing and appeals.

5. Complete the agreed-upon activities- After the meeting, students are required to complete the activities as described in the signed agreement. Failure to do so will result in a hold being placed on the students account, which will be removed when the activities are completed.