

University of Memphis TigerLIFE

Student Program Behavioral Guidelines

These Guidelines serve as program regulations, in addition to the University of Memphis Student Handbook and Code of Conduct, for TigerLIFE students only.

Introduction

The University of Memphis TigerLIFE (Learning Independence, Fostering Employment & Education) Program is a two-year, 60-hour program culminating in a completion award in Career and Community Studies. The program provides individualized programs of study in the areas of academic, social, vocational, and independent living skills for students with intellectual disabilities.

TigerLIFE students must follow the UofM Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the Student Handbook. It is the student's responsibility to become aware of its contents. Ignorance of a policy or regulation will not be considered an excuse for failure to observe it. These regulations are intended only as a supplement to provide additional specialized support and supervision needed for TigerLIFE students.

TigerLIFE Mission Statement

The mission of the TigerLIFE program is to use a systematic approach to assess each student's academic, career, technical, independent living, and social skills in order to help the student devise the best plan that matches their aspired goals for transition into *gainful employment* and living a more meaningful life.

TigerLIFE Vision Statement

As a result of participating in the TigerLIFE program, a student with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities will attain his/her maximum level of independence, will become more employable, and will increase his/her self-efficacy.

TigerLIFE Goals

The goals of TigerLIFE are to support students in their quest for independence through:

- Academic/Intellectual Development
- Traditional College Experiences
- Independent Living Skills
- On-campus Internship and Community-based Externship Opportunities
- Purposeful Job Training
- Sustainable Employment

Behavioral Guidelines

TigerLIFE students are considered students of the University of Memphis; therefore, they must follow these Guidelines and the UofM Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Ignorance of a policy or regulation will not be considered an excuse or defense for failure to observe it. TigerLIFE staff will work in conjunction with the Office of Student Accountability to handle disciplinary actions, proceedings, and sanctions.

Internal Discipline Guidelines

TigerLIFE staff is tasked with handling all classroom management issues that may arise during a student's time in the program, such as verbal outbursts and task refusal. The staff of TigerLIFE may also handle the following behaviors that may not be associated with typical classroom behavior management:

- Elopement – any instance of a student leaving a designated area (e.g., classroom, UC, etc.) without TigerLIFE permission. This does not include students who have a “Travel Level A” while on break or lunch, but does include such students if they leave a classroom during instruction (for example).
- Pica – when a student eats an item/object that is not food and/or meant to be consumed (e.g., plastic, toilet paper, etc.).
- Inappropriate toileting – incidents where students void (e.g., defecate and urinate) in locations other than in a restroom and toilet. This may include incontinence in the classroom.
- Dropping to the floor – situations in which a student sits and/or lays on the floor when presented with a task/instruction and refuses to get up independently. This does not include when such student falls due to physical impairment and/or by accident.
- Panhandling – verbally asking and/or physically indicating (i.e., holding hand out with palm up) others for money and/or other tangible items.

Any of the above actions will be reported to the Associate Director of TigerLIFE, who will be responsible for approving any disciplinary action taken. The nature of the disciplinary action taken will depend on the nature and severity of the conduct. If the inappropriate behavior warrants University intervention, due to the severity of such conduct (e.g., physical aggression, sexually and/or inappropriately touching others, etc.), the behavioral incident will be reported to the necessary party (e.g., campus police, Office of Institutional Equity, Office of Student Accountability, Outreach and Support, etc.). Following are the types of disciplinary action(s) that may be taken:

- Oral Warning
 - The student may be asked to stop and/or verbally prompted to not engage in a specific inappropriate behavior by TigerLIFE staff and/or, as is the

case for non-compliance, to participate with tasks/instructions that are provided to him or her.

- Oral warnings may be provided to a student in the classroom, intern/externship, and/or social inclusion environment(s).
- Written Warning
 - When necessary, a written warning will be issued to a student and provided to the student's legal guardian, as allowed by applicable law.
 - The warning will make the student aware that his or her inappropriate behavior has put his/her status in the TigerLIFE program at risk for further disciplinary action if the reported inappropriate behavior continues.
 - Warnings will be provided based on the frequency of documented inappropriate behaviors displayed and/or the severity of such behaviors.
 - The written warning will describe specifically the inappropriate behavior(s) displayed, indicate why the behavior or performance is unacceptable, outline the proposed action plan regarding how the student will correct the problem (if applicable), and state if the offense continues and/or other similar offenses occur, additional corrective measures will be taken, which may result in suspension from the TigerLIFE program.
- Suspension
 - Inappropriate behavior may elevate to a level where suspension is necessary. The student will be notified in writing of the suspension; the writing will outline the reason and date for the suspension.
 - Suspensions (issued by TigerLIFE) will last no more than twenty-four (24) hours (one full classroom day).
- Probation
 - A student returning to the program after a suspension will be placed on probation. If the conduct persists while on probation, the student will be referred to the Office of Student Accountability, Outreach and Support.
 - The probationary period will last so long as TigerLIFE staff deems necessary.
- Referral to the Office of Student Accountability, Outreach and Support
 - Students who commit repeated infractions such that their actions constitute a violation of the Code, violate their probation status, or whose continued presence in the Program unreasonably disturbs the ability of other Program participants to enjoy full participation will be referred to the Office of Student Accountability, Outreach and Support.

Office of Student Accountability

As students at the UofM, TigerLIFE students are expected to also adhere to the UofM Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Any other inappropriate behaviors that are outside of regular classroom management issues and repeated engagement in those behaviors listed above will be considered violations of the Student Code. These violations will be handled and processed through the Office of Student Accountability, Outreach and Support (SAOS) in accordance with the disciplinary procedures as detailed in the Code.

The Associate Dean of Students will work closely and directly with the TigerLIFE staff, including the Director of the Behavioral Unit and the Behavioral Specialist(s), during the conduct review process. After the conduct process is complete, the Associate Dean will determine the appropriate sanction for the offense.

The Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities detailing disciplinary offenses, misconduct, disciplinary sanctions, and disciplinary procedures may be found here: <http://www.memphis.edu/studentconduct/pdfs/csrr.pdf>.