

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, the Student Conduct staff has been staying up to date on best practices and guidelines from Association of Student Conduct Administration (ASCA), the American College Health Association (ACHA), and publications by various institutions of higher education, CDC recommendations, and guidance by our local and state governments.

Bentley University continues to work toward delivering its mission while protecting the health and safety of our students and minimizing the potential spread of disease within our community. As a student within the Bentley University community, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus or similar public health crisis (“COVID”) will impact your living and learning experience as Bentley University continues to make public health-informed decisions. The below policy and guidelines are incorporated into the Student Handbook and the Bentley University Housing and Meal Plan Contract and the Housing and Meal Plan Contract Addendum.

The Fall 2020 semester provided us all with a better sense of what to expect in terms of maintaining a safe environment during the Covid-19 Pandemic. This document serves as a guide to assist students in understanding the expectations of Bentley’s community standards as adjusted for the COVID-19 Pandemic. Students who return to campus as either commuter or residential students are expected to abide by all policies and guidelines that are incorporated into the Student Handbook and the Bentley University Housing and Meal Plan Contract and Addendum.

THE BENTLEY CORE VALUES

Bentley is a community of students, faculty and staff who are committed to learning. To create the best environment for learning to occur, we as a community embrace these core values to guide our conduct:

CARING. We practice understanding, compassion and kindness. We recognize the whole person and their wellbeing, and we think beyond ourselves and our immediate goals to consider the impact our actions have on other people.

COLLABORATION. We welcome new perspectives as we work with others toward a common goal. We seek out opportunities for partnership and teamwork, readily sharing our knowledge and expertise with others.

DIVERSITY. We are all different and that makes our community stronger. We embrace and seek to understand those with different beliefs, backgrounds and life experiences. We celebrate those differences as opportunities to learn and grow. We protect and affirm the right of all people to be themselves.

HONESTY. We act with honesty and integrity in our academic, personal and professional affairs. We are dedicated to ethical and transparent behavior, and we hold ourselves accountable for our words and actions.

IMPACT. We recognize our potential to make a difference. We use the power of business and innovation to positively impact individuals, organizations and the communities we serve at home and abroad.

LEARNING. We are here to learn and develop. We are passionate about knowledge and want to continue to learn throughout our lives. We are eager and willing to try new experiences and ways of thinking. We appreciate that much of our learning will occur by interacting with others, inside and outside of the classroom.

RESPECT. We treat others as they would like to be treated. We recognize the inherent dignity and worth of all members of our community and strive to better understand and appreciate everyone. We are committed to keeping our community free of vandalism, hate speech, violence, and harassment

Conduct Process

The Bentley Conduct System adheres to the tenets of fair process and consists of administrative hearing officers, conduct boards and the Student Conduct staff. When the Student Conduct staff receive a report of an alleged violation, a case is created and referred to one of three conduct levels:

Violation	Severity	Sanction Type
LEVEL I	Minor Violations	Educational
LEVEL II	Medium Violations	↓
LEVEL III	Serious Violations	University Action on student status

The full 2020-2021 Student Handbook will be released during the week of January 25th, 2021 and will contain a comprehensive list of all campus policies that all students, regardless of residential status, are expected to adhere to. Bentley University has expanded its *Endangering Health & Safety* policy as an overarching guide for students to follow to preserve the health and safety of all community members. Additionally, the perceived or actual impact of the behavior on oneself, others, or the campus community will be considered when assigning sanctions to a student found responsible for a policy violation. For students found responsible for a policy violation, all sanctioning will be determined based on the intersecting factors of frequency and severity of the behavior. *Behaviors that negatively impact the health and wellbeing of other members of the community and/or impact the ability of the university to remain open will be taken seriously. Students who have access to the campus (as a residential or non-residential student) and violate these policies should expect to lose the privilege of living on campus or coming to campus. This may include removal from the residence halls with no refunds.*

Policy (Level of Violation)	Description of Behavior
Endangering Health & Safety Level I/II/III	All students are prohibited from creating a health or safety hazard on the Bentley University campus and the University may request or require a student to leave campus if the University determines that their continued presence in the community poses a health or safety risk for community members.
	Examples of behavior that Endanger Health & Safety: (not all inclusive)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not wearing a mask/face covering • Residential students who host individuals (Bentley and non-Bentley affiliated) who are not in Bentley’s weekly Covid-19 Screening Testing Program • Non-residential students who are not in Bentley’s weekly Covid-19 Screening Testing Program who are present on campus without University approval • Not following building entry, exit, and directional instructions • Not properly physically distancing • Not following the full expectations of quarantine and/or isolation protocol (i.e. exiting quarantine/isolation prematurely and without approval from Bentley University) • Not complying with weekly Covid-19 testing on assigned day and time • Not complying with contact tracing protocol • Having too many people in a room (over-occupancy) • Engaging in off-campus behavior that endangers health & safety
	All behaviors deemed to Endanger Health & Safety will be considered either a Level I, Level II, or Level III violation based on the frequency and severity of the behavior.

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Potential Sanctions for Violations (including, but not limited to):

Sanction Name	When to be assigned	Meaning/Impact of Sanction
Warning (Level I Violation)	A written warning is a written notice (for a specified period of time) to a student that if he/she were to violate Bentley University policy further, they may be subject to additional conduct action.	A formal warning given that any further policy violations may result in additional, more severe conduct follow-up, leading to
Probation (Level II violation)	Probation is a specified period of time in which further violation of university policy may result in the loss of good standing, removal from the Bentley University residential community and/or limited access to campus facilities as a commuter student. If a student on probation were to violate University policy further, he or she may be subject to additional action.	A student placed on Probation has been issued the highest-level warning prior to removal from housing/campus ban/suspension. This is viewed as a student's "final chance" to cooperate with the expected behavior on campus.
Removal from Housing/Campus Ban/Suspension (Level III Violation)	A student may be excluded from classes and other privileges and activities for a specified period of time. Students removed from housing or suspended from the university are not to be on campus unless they received permission from Student Conduct. Additional action will be taken against those who trespass, and/or criminal prosecution for trespassing is possible. Students suspended from the university are not eligible for a refund of their tuition or housing.	Students would be told that they are no longer eligible to live on campus or have a physical presence on campus as a result of a responsible finding for a disregard for a public health directive. The emergency contact of any student being removed from campus would be notified. <i>Students who have access to the campus (as a residential or non-residential student) and violate these policies should expect to lose the privilege of living on campus or coming to campus. This may include removal from the residence halls with no refunds.</i>

Contact tracing amnesty: As happened in the fall, students who are known to have had a close contact with a suspected positive or tested positive case will be contacted by the state Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC) and/or our own Bentley University contact tracers. It is critical (and required by the COVID addendum to the student handbook) that students answer fully and honestly all the questions asked by the contact tracers. Information provided for contact tracing purposes will not be used by the university in the student conduct process. Students who fail to fully cooperate with contact tracers will, however, be subject to a conduct process.