

**Proposed Addendum to Code of Student Conduct
Rutgers University Policy on Clemency for Expulsion
(revision as of May 09)**

*Sent to Senate Executive Committee August 2009
by Greg Blimling, Vice President for Student Affairs*

Rutgers University has established standards of conduct for students, and imposes sanctions for violations of these standards in order to sustain the personal, educational and social development of its students. The University expels students when the student's behavior is so egregious that the University concludes that their continued affiliation with the University is antithetical to the safety or interests of the University community.

The University recognizes that, following a long separation from the University, people may change. Consequently, it is appropriate that the University consider granting clemency to expelled former students in circumstances where they are able to provide significant evidence of rehabilitation and a renewed commitment to the standards of conduct and scholarship expected of Rutgers students. For the purposes of this document, a petition for clemency is a procedure whereby the expelled individual requests the opportunity to complete her/his degree, and asks the University to consider new circumstances and facts that might mitigate the original sanction.

Individuals who have been expelled from the University may seek clemency under the following circumstances and conditions:

1. The individual must wait a minimum of four (4) calendar years after the original expulsion before initiating a request for clemency. If the individual has taken classes elsewhere in the intervening period, those credits will not transfer towards the Rutgers degree.
2. The request for clemency must be made in writing to the Executive Vice President for the New Brunswick/Piscataway Campus or to the Chancellor in Camden or Newark, hereafter referred to as the Clemency Officer. The written request should include appropriate documentation concerning the individual's status during the intervening years since the expulsion, any additional mitigating circumstances with appropriate documentation, and any additional information about character or change of behavior that may be appropriate. This documentation may include records pertaining to mental health status, employment, criminal or probation records, educational records, social service records, and letters of recommendation.

NOTE: A victim impact statement will be allowable if relevant. The Clemency Officer should arrange for its inclusion in the assembled documents.

3. Upon receipt of the request for clemency, the Clemency Officer may consult with whomever s/he wishes and may empower an advisory panel to advise her/him. The Clemency Officer or advisory panel will review the request for clemency, and may conduct a personal interview with the individual, and/or conduct other forms of inquiry as needed.
4. The Clemency Officer will make a recommendation to the President on clemency including specific conditions, if any, for admission/re-admission.
5. The final decision (with any special conditions) will be sent by the President to the Clemency Officer on the campus from which the individual was expelled.
6. The decision of the President is final.

If clemency is granted, the individual will be readmitted to the University and to the school, program or successor unit from which the s/he was expelled (assuming s/he is academically qualified for re-enrollment). S/he will remain on disciplinary probation, noted on the transcript, until the degree is completed. The individual must meet whatever graduation requirements are in place at the time of readmission. The President may impose additional conditions on the individual's readmission. If the individual wants to attend a different academic unit within the University, s/he will be subject to the same requirements and approval processes of any current student.

A record of the expulsion will remain in the student's disciplinary records maintained by the Office of Student Judicial Affairs, and is not subject to expunction.