2026 – 2027

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

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How to Use This Handbook

This handbook is designed to be searched, not just read cover to cover. Every section opens with a brief explanation of why the topic matters to you, followed by the practical details: who to contact, what the deadlines are, and what steps to take. Look for these markers as you read:

> 💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**
> You'll see this box at the start of most sections. It connects a policy or resource to something concrete, such as your GPA, safety, degree, or finances, so you understand why it matters to you.

> 🗣️ **IN PLAIN TERMS**
> This box translates official policy language into plain terms. The official wording still applies; this is simply a faster way to understand it.

> ⚖️ **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**
> This box explains a right or protection you have as a UHD student. It is worth knowing before you need it.

> ❗ **HEADS UP**
> This box flags a deadline, common mistake, or consequence you will want to avoid.

Throughout the handbook, office contact cards provide the room number, phone, email, and website for the people who can help, because the fastest way to solve a problem is to reach the right office the *first* time.

Organization, Administration & Scope of Policies

> 💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**
>
> Before reviewing the details, it helps to know where these policies come from, who has the authority to change them, and where they apply. This page is the foundation that makes everything else in the handbook clear and enforceable for you and for the university.

Review and Revision

This handbook and the Student Rights and Responsibilities policies that support it are reviewed regularly to remain current with federal and state law, University of Houston System policy, and best practices in higher education. Final authority to approve and implement policy changes rests with designated university administrators and the university's governance process. Because policy can change between print runs, the version on the UHD website always takes precedence. If anything here appears out of date, check online.

Your Voice in Shared Governance

UHD treats shared governance as a genuine practice, not a slogan. Students can shape university policy directly through the Student Government Association (SGA**)**, university committees, student advisory groups, and other established feedback channels. If a policy in this handbook does not make sense to you, or you believe it should change, these are the channels that can address it.

Where and When These Policies Apply

> 🗣️ **IN PLAIN TERMS**
>
> These rules apply even when you are not in a classroom.
>
> • On campus, at any UHD-sponsored or UHD-affiliated event, anywhere you are using university technology, and in online spaces that affect the campus community.
>
> • Off campus, if your conduct affects the safety, security, learning environment, operations, or reputation of UHD or its community.
>
> • For the entire time you are enrolled, including breaks, intersession, study abroad, field experiences, and internships. There is no pause.

PART 1

Getting Started at UHD

Welcome messages, history, traditions, and the tools you'll use every day.

Welcome from the AVP/Dean of Students

Dear Undergraduate Students,

There has never been a better time to be a UHD Gator! As the AVP/Dean of Students, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to both our new and returning students. Our university is a place where academic excellence, personal growth, and community engagement intersect, creating a dynamic environment for learning and development set against the backdrop of downtown Houston. This Student Handbook has been redesigned to provide you with essential information about the university's policies, procedures, and resources that will support you throughout your academic journey in a quick-reference format. It is designed to be a useful tool that aids your academic experience.

Your time at UHD will be filled with opportunities to explore new ideas, develop your skills, and build lasting relationships. We are committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive campus community where every Gator feels valued and empowered to succeed. The resources and services outlined in this handbook, including academic advising, counseling, career services, and student organizations, are here to help you navigate your college experience and achieve your personal and professional goals, or to help you identify new ones. Academic integrity and personal responsibility are cornerstones of our community. You must familiarize yourself with the university's policies, including the Student Rights and Responsibilities policies (PS-04.A.01), which outline our expectations for student behavior both in and out of the classroom. Upholding these standards is crucial in maintaining the trust and respect that are fundamental to our educational mission. This handbook also guides you on how to report concerns or seek assistance when you encounter challenges.

We encourage you to take full advantage of the many activities and programs available on campus. Whether you are interested in participating in community service, joining a registered student organization, or attending sporting events, there are numerous ways to get involved. Engaging in these opportunities will strengthen your university experience and help you develop skills that will serve you well beyond graduation. I want to remind you that the entire faculty and staff at UHD are dedicated to your success. We are here to support you, to challenge you, and to celebrate your achievements. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you need assistance or have any questions. Together, we can make your time at the University of Houston-Downtown an unforgettable and transformative experience. Welcome (back), and best wishes for a successful and fulfilling academic journey.

With the spirit of the Bayou,

Kira Gatewood, Ph.D.

Assistant Vice President / Dean of Students

Welcome from the Student Government Association

Dear Gators,

Welcome to the University of Houston–Downtown! Whether you're joining us for the first time or returning for another year, I am honored to welcome you on behalf of the Student Government Association.

My name is Kemberley Osorto, and it is a privilege to serve as your SGA President. As a first-generation college student, I understand that starting or continuing your college journey comes with both excitement and challenges. No matter where you are on your journey, know that you belong here and that your voice matters.

I encourage you to take advantage of everything UHD has to offer. Get involved, attend campus events, join student organizations, and build connections with your classmates, faculty, and staff. Some of your most meaningful experiences will happen outside the classroom, and every opportunity is a chance to grow as a student and leader.

The Student Government Association is here to advocate for you, support you, and help make your experience at UHD the best it can be. We are excited to serve you this year and look forward to all that you will accomplish.

Welcome to the Gator family. We wish you a year filled with growth, success, and lasting memories.

Go Gators! Bite! Bite! Bite!

Kemberley Osorto

President, Undergraduate Student Government Association

UHD History, Mission & Traditions

> 💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**
>
> Understanding where UHD comes from and what it is built to do provides context for nearly every policy in this handbook. UHD's mission of “socioeconomic mobility” is why advising, financial aid, and flexible scheduling receive so much attention: the university is designed to help students finish a degree, not simply enroll in one.

Mission

The University of Houston-Downtown is a dynamic and welcoming community of faculty, staff, students, and regional partners dedicated to nurturing talent, generating knowledge, and driving socioeconomic mobility for a just and sustainable future.

History

In 1974, the University of Houston acquired South Texas Junior College and opened the University of Houston-Downtown College at One Main Street as a four-year institution. By the end of the decade, the Texas Legislature had approved UHD as a distinct university within the University of Houston System. Today UHD is woven into the streets of downtown Houston, the fourth-largest city in the country, with Fortune 500 companies, world-class arts, and professional sports all within walking distance. The full history lives in the university archives online.

The Seal

Steeped in Texas tradition, the UHD Seal is the official Seal of Arms of General Sam Houston, handed down from his ancestors. The checkered chevrons at its center denote nobility; the three Martlets (gentle Lowland birds) symbolize peace and deliverance. A winged hourglass sits above the shield beneath the motto “In Tempore”; “In Time.” Greyhounds flank the sides, representing the speed of giving aid.

Gator Traditions, Pride & Spirit

Tradition	When	What It Is
Weeks of Welcome	Start of fall & spring	Campus-wide welcome events for new and returning Gators.
Student Involvement Day	Fall & spring	Resource and tabling fair featuring clubs, Greek life, CAB, and SGA.
Homecoming	Fall	Pep rally, Homecoming games, and Tail-Gatoring with alumni and community.

Tradition	When	What It Is
Bayou Bash	Spring	Crawfish, zydeco, and culture; clubs fundraise and celebrate.
GatorServe	MLK Day & Sept. 11	A National Day of Service connecting students, staff, and the Houston community.
One Main Event	Spring	The annual awards gala honors student organizations and their members.

Mascot: Ed-U-Gator is UHD's official mascot; look for him at games, community events, and anywhere Gator Pride needs a face.

UHD Locations

UHD's main campus is located at One Main Street in downtown Houston, with additional programs offered at Lone Star College campuses across the city. Courses taken at any of these locations apply toward your UHD degree the same as courses taken on the downtown campus.

Location	Address	Phone
UHD – Downtown Campus	One Main Street, Houston, TX 77002	(713) 221-8000
UHD Northwest at Lone Star College – University Park	20515 SH-249, Bldg. 12, Ste. 201, Houston, TX 77070	(713) 237-5400
UHD at Lone Star College – CyFair	9191 Barker Cypress Rd., CASA Bldg. 109P, Cypress, TX 77433	(281) 290-3435
UHD at Lone Star College – Kingwood	20000 Kingwood Dr., SCC 113, Kingwood, TX 77339	(281) 318-4339

Online

UHD also offers a growing selection of upper-division courses online, including full degree-completion programs: you complete lower-division coursework anywhere, and UHD delivers the upper-division coursework online. Online courses are identical in content and credit to their on-campus counterparts, and online students are not excluded from in-person classes. You may combine campus, off-campus, and online courses as needed.

Important Dates & Digital Tools

💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**

Missing a single deadline on the academic calendar, such as a drop date or a graduation application date, can cost you a refund, a grade, or a semester. The three tools below help you stay ahead of these dates rather than learn about them too late.

Academic Calendar

Registration dates, fee deadlines, financial aid and refund dates, holidays, drop/add deadlines, graduation application dates, reading days, and finals. UHD can change these dates as needed, so check often rather than relying on memory.

Web: www.uhd.edu/AcademicCalendars

myUHD2.0

Your student portal for looking up open classes, checking registration eligibility, printing your schedule, paying tuition and fees, viewing grades, checking financial aid status, registering online, updating your address, and requesting transcripts.

UHD Gators Mobile App

Canvas access, registration and payments, real-time shuttle tracking, event listings, P.A.S.S., and financial aid, all in one place on your phone.

PART 2

Academic Success

Advising, grades, GPA, probation, graduation, and the support systems that keep you on track.

Academic Advising & Support Centers

💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**

Students who meet regularly with an advisor are far less likely to take courses that do not count toward their degree, miss a declaration deadline, or discover a graduation requirement too late to address it. Advising is free and included in your tuition, so there is no reason not to use it.

Academic Support Center (ASC)

Home to the Writing & Reading Center and the Center for Math and Statistics Support (C4MS2). Offers in-person and online tutoring for individuals and groups, faculty/professional/peer consultations, and loanable tools like graphing calculators and writing guides.

Location: N530
Phone: 713-221-8669
Web: www.uhd.edu/asc

Academic Computing Lab

Open to any currently enrolled student with a valid UHD ID. Offers Microsoft Office and internet-connected computers, a laptop work area with wireless printing, color and monochrome printing (each student receives a semester print quota), flatbed scanners, and 20MB of shared Linux storage. Accessibility software, including Fusion for low vision and JAWS screen reading for blind students, is installed on every lab computer.

Location: OMB S800 (100+ Windows computers; additional stations on the Academic Building's 4th and 6th floors)
Phone: 713-221-8540
Web: https://www.uhd.edu/computing/uss/computerlabhours.aspx

Lab hours: Mon–Thu 7:30 a.m.–10 p.m. · Fri 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m. · Sat 8 a.m.–5 p.m. · Sun 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Degree Requirements & Choosing a Major

IN PLAIN TERMS

Most bachelor's degrees at UHD take 120 semester credit hours, made up of:

- A core curriculum of at least 42 hours (communication, math, science, government, history, social sciences)
- Your major coursework
- Electives and upper-level courses
- Be aware of any GPA or residency requirements that may be associated with your degree plan

Track your progress with My Degree Evaluation and the Recommended Course Sequence Degree Plans, both linked from the UHD Academic Catalog. Run your Degree Progress Report regularly. Catching a missing requirement in your sophomore year is an easy fix; catching it in the semester you plan to graduate is not.

Major Declaration

1	You select an intended major when you apply. If you meet that major's declaration requirements, you're declared immediately.
2	If you don't yet meet those requirements, you're classified as a pre-major.
3	After grades are posted each term, pre-majors are re-evaluated. If you meet the requirements, you become declared; if you don't, you stay a pre-major.
4	You must meet declaration requirements by your second term (transfer students) or by 45 earned hours (first-time-in-college students), or you'll need to explore and switch majors to keep your enrollment active.

Class Attendance & Participation

Class Attendance

HEADS UP

If you have not attended class, engaged with course technology (for online courses), or contacted your instructor to explain an absence by the 10th class day of a long semester (or the comparable published date for summer and other terms), you may be administratively dropped from the course. If you decide not to continue in a course, you must complete the official course drop process.

Individual departments and instructors may layer additional attendance requirements on top of this baseline; check your syllabus.

Absences for Religious Holy Days

UHD honors religious observance, even when it conflicts with class meetings, assignments, or exams, under Texas Administrative Code §4.4.

1	Submit a written request to each affected instructor at least one week before the missed class, assignment, or exam.
2	Your instructor acknowledges the request by email to your official UHD email address.
3	If approved, your instructor will set a new date for the missed work, in accordance with UHD policies and the absence policy outlined in their syllabus.

Class Participation

Participating in class, not just attending, is associated with higher grades, stronger instructor relationships, and better retention of material. It is also one of the few parts of college that is entirely within your control on any given day.

Grading Systems & GPA

> 💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**
>
> Your GPA is the single number that determines whether you stay in good standing, qualify for honors, keep your financial aid, and ultimately graduate. Knowing exactly which grades count toward it, and which do not, keeps you from over or underestimating where you stand academically.

Grades Included in GPA

Grade	Meaning	Points
A	Excellent	4.0
B	Above Average	3.0
C	Average	2.0
D	Below Average	1.0
F	Failure	0.0

Incomplete grades count too, at the value of the grade ultimately earned: I/A (4.0), I/B (3.0), I/C (2.0), I/D (1.0), I/F (0.0).

Grades Not Included in GPA

Code	Meaning
A* / B* / C*	Non-credit grade

Code	Meaning
IP	In Progress
AUD	Audit
S / U	Satisfactory (Passed) / Unsatisfactory (Failed)
W	Drop
CA	Credit Awarded
WM	Withdrawn – Military

How GPA Is Calculated

Your GPA is the total grade points earned at UHD divided by the total UHD semester hours attempted. If you repeat a course, only your highest grade across all attempts counts toward your GPA; the lower attempt(s) remain on your transcript but no longer affect your average.

> **IN PLAIN TERMS**
> Transfer grades never factor into your UHD GPA; only coursework actually taken at UHD is calculated.

GPA at Graduation

The GPA certified at graduation is final; it won't be adjusted by courses you take afterward, and your honors eligibility at that moment is locked in, unless a grade appeal is later decided in your favor. Note that your overall UHD GPA (as opposed to your certified graduation GPA) can still be updated by post-graduation coursework.

Grade of I (Incomplete)

An I is reserved for students who've completed substantial coursework but face a documented emergency that prevents them from finishing. Your instructor must get department chair approval and complete a form (signed by both of you, where possible) specifying the remaining work and deadline. Until resolved, I count as an F for graduation-eligibility GPA purposes.

If the I was assigned in…	It must be resolved by the end of…	If not resolved, it becomes…
Fall	The following Spring	I/F
Spring or a summer term	The following Fall	I/F
A mini-term	The following long semester	I/F

❗ **HEADS UP**

Military Leave: You have one year from the end of qualifying active duty to complete the work (documentation goes to the Military Affiliated Resource Center and the Registrar), or the “I” will become the “WM”.

Title IX Leave: You have one semester after your leave expires to complete the work (a supporting medical statement goes to the Title IX coordinator and the Registrar). If you don’t finish within that window, an “I” can leave it indefinite unless you choose to accept the grade you’ve already earned.

Other Special Grades

IP (In Progress): used for thesis/research courses using ongoing university resources. No grade-point value can sit on your transcript indefinitely, and the only way to get credit is to repeat the course and pass; an IP itself can never be changed.

S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory): only in officially approved courses; doesn't affect GPA either way.

AUD (Audit): under PS 03.A.03, approved courses only; no GPA impact.

CA (Credit Awarded): non-course-based credit, capped at 24 hours under PS 03.A.11.

W (Drop): no grade if dropped by the Official Day of Record; an automatic W if dropped after that date but before the withdrawal deadline. Both dates live on the online Academic Calendar.

Academic Probation, Suspension & Appeals

💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**

This section is a warning system, not a punishment system. The steps below are designed to catch a slipping GPA early enough to recover. Read it before your GPA dips, not after.

Academic Probation

🗣️ **IN PLAIN TERMS**

You're placed on probation if your cumulative UHD GPA falls below 2.0 at the end of any term (only UHD grades count; I, IP, S, and W grades are excluded from this calculation).

- You must meet with an academic advisor before registering again to talk through GPA repair and available support.
- While on probation, you need a term GPA of 2.0 or higher every term until your cumulative GPA recovers to 2.0.
- If you miss the term GPA once more and you move to continued probation, miss it again, and you're suspended.

The Gator Success Program (GSP)

This program helps you return to good academic standing (2.0 GPA or higher) through a Journey outlined in Navigate that combines structure, encouragement, and accountability.

What does GSP offer?

- Personalized guidance from Advisors & Coaches
- Direct access to resources and campus support
- Clear path back to 2.0 cumulative GPA standing

To get started meet with your academic advisor and complete the GSP Check-In form

Academic Suspension & Dismissal

Suspension means you can't register or remain enrolled for that term. Any coursework you'd registered for gets administratively dropped by the Records Office.

1	Appeal the suspension to your academic dean (or their designated representative), with clear evidence you're likely to succeed; for example, documented academic success elsewhere.
2	If approved, you're placed on extended probation and must meet with a dean's representative or advisor to develop an improvement plan, possibly a signed contract outlining specific actions.
3	Maintain a term GPA of 2.0 or higher every term until your cumulative GPA reaches 2.0. Fall short once more, and academic dismissal follows.

! HEADS UP

Academic dismissal is permanent unless you successfully appeal to your academic college dean again or are readmitted under Academic Amnesty. Both academic probation and suspension appear on your official transcript.

Retroactive Withdrawal

Granted only for unusual, well-documented circumstances, and only if you appeal within one calendar year of the term's end.

1	Submit your appeal to the Office of the Registrar, which archives the request.
2	The Registrar routes it to the academic dean of your declared major's college (for a full withdrawal) or the dean of the college offering each specific course (for a partial withdrawal).
3	The dean decides. If approved, their office notifies your instructors and department chairs; the Registrar notifies you of the final decision.

Appeal of Course Grades

> 🗣️ **IN PLAIN TERMS**
> A grade appeal is for a miscalculation or a process that did not follow the instructor's stated procedure (review the syllabus). It is not a way to request a higher grade.

1. Appeal to the course instructor first.
2. If it is not resolved, appeal to the home department chair.
3. If it is still not resolved, appeal to the dean, which is the final level.

> ❗ **HEADS UP**
> You must appeal within one calendar year of the semester in which you received the grade; otherwise, the grade becomes final with no further appeal options. Each level of review has 14 business days to respond in writing unless the dean grants an exception. Appeals must be in writing and include the documentation you provide.

Change of Course Grade

An instructor-initiated grade change needs department chair approval within one calendar year of the semester's end (and dean approval, too, if it's past that year or changes a grade from an F). Chair-initiated changes require dean approval and instructor notification; dean-initiated changes require notification of both the instructor and the chair.

Repeated Courses

You may take a given course at UHD no more than three times without petitioning the dean of the college that houses it. When repeated, only your highest UHD grade counts toward your GPA; and if you later retake a UHD course at another institution, the UHD grade still governs your UHD GPA.

Graduation Application & Honors

> 💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**
> The graduation application is not a formality. It is what prompts your degree to be audited, your diploma name to be confirmed, and your commencement seat to be reserved. Submitting it late or with unresolved holds is one of the most common reasons students delay their graduation by a semester.

Application for Graduation

1. Run your Degree Progress Report and talk to your advisor to confirm that you're eligible.

2	Submit the online graduation application through myUHD2.0, reviewing your program, commencement attendance, diploma name/address, and graduation fee.
3	Complete the graduation exit survey.
4	Pay the $50 graduation fee, which has been added to your Student Account Statement.
5	Resolve any financial or administrative holds; your diploma and transcripts are on hold until they're cleared.

> ❗ **HEADS UP**
> If you don't finish your degree requirements in the term you applied for, or you want to change your graduation term, you'll need to reapply online and pay the graduation fee again.

You can request up to three diploma copies on the application (additional copies are $50 each; contact the Registrar's Office for more than three). Diplomas print roughly three months after the semester ends, once the Registrar certifies you've met all degree requirements, and are mailed to your address on file.

Honors at UHD

Path	What It Recognizes
UHD Honors Program	Advanced coursework, faculty mentorship, research, service learning, and leadership; requires honors coursework, a minimum cumulative GPA, and program participation.
Dean's List	3.5 GPA each semester (with no I or F grades); noted on your official transcript.
Latin Honors	Cum laude (Cumulative GPA of 3.25 – 3.49), magna cum laude (Cum. GPA of 3.50 – 3.74), summa cum laude (Cum. GPA of 3.75 – 4.00) at graduation.
Honor Societies	Nationally recognized discipline-specific societies for academic excellence and networking.

Tutoring, Writing & Math Help

> 💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**
> Free, professional tutoring exists so that a difficult course does not have to result in a low grade. Students who use the Academic Support Center early in a challenging course consistently outperform those who wait until just before the exam.

Academic Support Center (ASC)

Home to the Writing & Reading Center and the Center for Math and Statistics Support (C4MS2). Offers in-person and online tutoring for individuals and groups, faculty/professional/peer consultations, and loanable tools like graphing calculators and writing guides.

Location: N530
Phone: 713-221-8669
Web: www.uhd.edu/asc

Center for Math and Statistics Support (C4MS2): free tutoring for core math courses (MATH 0010, 1301, 1306, 1310, 1324, 1505), statistics (STAT 1312, 2300, 2305, 3311), education-track math (MATH 3321, 3322), and calculus (MATH 2401, 2402, 2411), plus study groups, final exam review sessions, and computers for online homework.

Writing & Reading Center: one-on-one help with any course writing assignment, plus professional documents like personal statements, cover letters, and scholarship essays; in person or online.

Supplemental Instruction (SI)

SI sessions are peer-led study groups attached to specific, historically challenging courses and led by students who have already excelled in them. Unlike one-on-one tutoring, SI is collaborative by design: you learn alongside classmates in the same course, which helps surface and resolve shared points of confusion more quickly.

PART 3

Managing Your College Life

ID cards, email, technology, parking, dining, and the everyday logistics of being a Gator.

Student ID Card & GatorMail

UHD ID Card: UHD Police Department

Required for all enrolled students to use on-campus services, including the library, computer labs, gym, and more. Your first card is free; replacements are $10. Bring an unexpired, valid government photo ID to get yours processed.

Location: OMB N118
Phone: 713-221-8065
Web: www.uhd.edu/administration/auxiliary-services/gator-card/index.aspx

GatorMail

GatorMail is UHD's Office 365 email and calendar system, with 50GB of storage, premium spam and malware protection, and the same login as your UHD network account. Log in at uhd.edu/gatormail using username@gator.uhd.edu and your network password. (If you do not yet have your network account information, log in to myuhd.uhd.edu and click “Students.”)

> 💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**
> GatorMail is UHD's official communication channel for registration holds, financial aid updates, and emergency alerts. An unchecked inbox can mean a missed deadline that you are still responsible for, even if you never saw it.

GatorMail Ground Rules

> 🗣️ **IN PLAIN TERMS**
>
> Your UHD email is for academic and scholarly purposes. In practice, that means the following:
>
> • Check it regularly. Academic communications are time-sensitive, and the university is not responsible for messages lost because your inbox reached its storage limit.
>
> • Don't treat it as fully private; use discretion with sensitive information.
>
> • No mass mailings, chain letters, impersonation, harassment, commercial use, or attempts to intercept someone else's mail.
>
> • Everything in your account is permanently deleted once the account is terminated.
>
> • If you suspect someone has accessed your account, contact UHD IT Security immediately.

Campus Technology, Library & Study Spaces

Technology Teaching and Learning Center

Distance-learning classrooms and tech support for instructional activities, located on the 7th floor of the Academic Building.

Location: ACAD 700
Phone: 713-221-8200
Web: https://www.uhd.edu/provost/teaching-learning-excellence/getting-started-with-teaching-online.aspx

W. I. Dykes Library

Quiet study areas, group study rooms, computer labs, reading spaces, and research help from librarians, occupying the 4th and 5th floors of the One Main Building. Reserve study rooms and access computers/printers on-site.

Web: www.uhd.edu/library/index.aspx

Beyond the library, UHD offers lounge and study space throughout the Wellness & Success Center, academic buildings, and common areas of the One Main Building, including additional weekend study spaces as they become available.

Parking & Transportation

A valid permit displayed in your rearview mirror is required to park on campus. Permits must be purchased online; the Parking and Transportation Services office does not sell them in person. A permit makes you eligible to park but does not guarantee a space.

Permit Type	Where You Can Park
Surface lot permit	Daly Street Lot, Naylor Street Lot, Lot B (North Main St.), or Washington Street Lot
Garage permit	Vine Street Garage (adjacent to the College of Business): $10 nonrefundable proximity card fee on first order
Accessible permit	Designated accessible spaces; available as permanent or temporary, issued with a valid state placard or plate
UH System permit (UH, UH-Clear Lake, UH-Sugar Land)	Any UHD student surface lot, if properly displayed

Click HERE to see current permit cost. City meters and private lots near campus are also an option; follow their posted rules.

Shuttle & Alternative Transportation

Parking and Transportation Services coordinates the shuttle bus service. The shuttle bus service provides a convenient and efficient transportation means for students, faculty, staff, and visitors to navigate the UHD campus.

> **The Bayou Express** Shuttle provides service from the Daly Street Lot, then proceeds to the Vine Street Garage, then to Girard Street, before returning to the Daly Street Lot.
>
> **The Gator Line** Shuttle provides service from the Daly Street Lot, then proceeds to the intersection of Fannin Street and Commerce Street, then to Girard Street, before returning to the Daly Street Lot.
>
> **Regular Shuttle Bus Hours are:**
>
> Monday - Thursday, 7:30 am -10:00 pm
>
> **No shuttle bus service on Fridays**

Ride Sponsor: Through a partnership with METRO, UHD subsidizes 25% of monthly public transit fares for participating students, faculty, and staff.

Parking Refunds

> ❗ **HEADS UP**
>
> To receive a parking refund, you must return the permit and submit a refund form to Parking & Transportation Services; dropping your classes alone does not cancel it. Refund amounts follow the academic calendar's refund schedule, so timing matters.

Questions: **UHDparking@uhd.edu** or 713-221-8127.

Dining, Food Markets & Campus Resource Centers

Dining Services

The 3rd-floor Academic Building food court houses Starbucks, Slices, Handcrafted, Gator Grill, and Created With Love. Additional cafes: Shea Street Café, Commerce Street Café, and the Wellness and Success Center Café. Food trucks visit the plaza outside the Science and Technology Building. All locations accept GatorCash. Hours: Mon–Thu 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Fri 7:30 a.m.–2 p.m. (summer hours vary).

Location: A308
Phone: 713-221-8462
Web: uhd.sodexomyway.com/en-us/

> 💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**
>
> Food and housing insecurity are more common among college students than most people assume. There is no stigma in asking for help here; it is exactly what these centers were created to provide.

Gator Resource Center (GRC)

Houses Gator Mart (free groceries, S290), Gator Shoppe (clothing and essentials, N210), and the GRC Lounge (quiet study/event space, N298). Staff connects students to support for food and housing insecurity, financial wellness, and emergency needs; in person or virtually, including for online and working learners.

Location: N210
Phone: 713-226-5245
Web: www.uhd.edu/sssl/student-life/gator-resource-center/index.aspx

Military Affiliated Resource Center (MARC)

Supports service members, veterans, and military families with federal and state education benefits, VA enrollment certification, degree-plan monitoring, and referrals to military-connected community resources.

Location: SLC, 3rd Floor
Phone: 713-221-8622
Email: veteranservices@uhd.edu
Web: www.uhd.edu/veterans

PART 4

Financial Resources & Support

Tuition, fees, financial aid, holds, refunds, and residency.

Tuition, Fees & Payment Plans

💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**

An unpaid balance can block your registration, hold your transcript, and prevent your diploma from being released. Understanding these rules keeps a cash-flow problem from becoming an academic one.

Financial Responsibility

❗ **HEADS UP**

You're responsible for monitoring your account, paying tuition and fees by published deadlines, and completing the Financial Responsibility Agreement every semester. An outstanding balance at any University of Houston System institution, not just UHD, can block registration and the release of transcripts or diplomas.

How Costs Are Set

Tuition rates are set by the Texas State Legislature and the UH System Board of Regents under state law; UHD doesn't set them independently. In addition to tuition, mandatory fees fund advising, technology, the library, student support programs, and wellness initiatives; specific courses or services may incur additional fees.

Deadlines & Payment

🗣️ **IN PLAIN TERMS**

All admissions, registration, schedule change, tuition, and graduation application deadlines are listed in the Academic Calendar and UHD Catalog. The university does not track them for you.

- Pay in full, or set up an installment plan, online, by mail, or in person.
- Falling behind risks late fees, a registration hold, loss of future enrollment access, and withheld transcripts/diplomas.

Scholarships, Financial Aid & Emergency Deferment

UHD offers grants, loans, scholarships, and other aid to eligible students. Most programs require a completed FAFSA or TASFA and maintaining satisfactory academic progress, so a probation-level GPA can put aid at risk, not just your standing.

Emergency Deferment Plans

> 🗣️ **IN PLAIN TERMS**
>
> If you can't pay tuition up front, an emergency deferment plan can buy you time with conditions:
>
> - Setup fees and interest apply.
> - Available once per semester.
> - Must be fully repaid before you can register for a future term.

Financial Holds, Refunds & Residency

Financial Holds

Resolving a financial hold is your responsibility; contact the appropriate UHD office to clear an outstanding debt. Holds can delay registration, transcript requests, diploma release, and even the posting of academic credit across the UH System.

> ❗ **HEADS UP**
>
> Unresolved financial obligations can result in withdrawal from your classes and referral to a collection agency, along with additional costs, attorney fees, and damage to your credit report. This can escalate quickly, so contact the university as soon as you are aware of a problem.

Refunds

Refunds for withdrawals or schedule changes follow the Academic Calendar's timing rules; financial aid recipients may see their refund adjusted under aid regulations. Refunds are issued via BankMobile or returned to your original payment method.

Residency for Tuition Purposes

Your residency classification is determined by Texas law and Coordinating Board rules. To request reclassification, submit documentation to the Registrar's Office by the Official Day of Record; miss that date, and you're locked into your current classification for the term.

PART 5

Health, Wellness & Safety

Medical care, mental health, accessibility, and staying safe on campus.

Student Health Services & Immunizations

💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**

Your physical health supports everything else in this handbook; it is difficult to attend class, complete your work, or take part in campus life while you are ill. Addressing a minor issue early, here on campus, is almost always faster and less expensive than waiting until it becomes serious.

Student Health Services

Primary care at the same standard as a private physician's office: health promotion, disease prevention, treatment of minor illnesses and injuries, women's health, routine diagnostics, pregnancy testing, and confidential STI screening. Appointments are recommended; walk-ins welcome. Specialized care gets a referral to community experts.

Location: S445
Phone: 713-221-8137
Web: www.uhd.edu/health

Immunizations

The American College Health Association, the State of Texas, and UHD all recommend that students be fully immunized before enrolling. The diseases below appear most often in campus outbreaks, and most are preventable with a vaccine you have likely already received.

Disease	Why It Matters	Recommended Protection
Influenza	Mild to severe illness; can trigger pneumonia or worsen asthma/heart conditions.	Annual vaccine, age 6 months+
Measles	Highly contagious; can mean two weeks of missed school and isolation.	Two doses of live vaccine after 15 months (often combined as MMR)
Meningococcal disease	Severe, sometimes fatal bacterial illness; periodic U.S. campus outbreaks.	Vaccine at ages 11–12, booster at 16

Disease	Why It Matters	Recommended Protection
Mumps	Can cause deafness, encephalitis, or rarely sterility.	One dose after 12 months
Rubella	Mild in most people, but can cause serious birth defects during pregnancy.	One dose after 12 months
Tetanus-diphtheria	Serious, potentially fatal bacterial infections.	Initial series, then booster every 10 years

Questions about your own immunization status? Talk to your physician, a public health clinic, or UHD Student Health Services (S445, 713-221-8137).

Counseling & Mental Health Support

> 💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**
>
> Seeking support for your mental health is not a sign of weakness or failure. It is a practical step that protects both your academic performance and your wellbeing. Confidential counseling is already covered by your enrollment; the only cost is reaching out.

Student Counseling Services

Free, confidential counseling with a licensed mental health clinician for any currently enrolled student; from everyday stress to substance use to serious life challenges. Start through the Gator Health Portal (gatorhealth.uhd.edu); once your intake form is in, a team member will reach out to schedule your first appointment. Session number and frequency are set during that first appointment, and all records are confidential under applicable federal, state, city, and university law.

Location: OMB S280 (Annex: OMB S601)
Phone: 713-221-8121
Web: www.uhd.edu/sssl/counseling/

Accessibility & Disability Services

Accessible Education Center (AEC)

Ensures full access to academic and co-curricular programming for students with documented physical, psychological, learning, sensory, or other qualifying disabilities. Possible accommodations include extended testing time, reduced-distraction testing rooms, note-taking support, adaptive technology, sign language interpreters, and alternative format course materials.

Location: SLC, 3rd Floor
Phone: 713-221-5078
Web: https://www.uhd.edu/sssl/student-success/aec/index.aspx

1. Submit an application through the AEC's Apply for Services page (you must be enrolled first).
2. Provide documentation from a licensed healthcare or clinical professional identifying the disability and its functional impact on major life activities and academic performance.
3. Attend an intake meeting with AEC staff to build your accommodation plan.

⚖ **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

Accommodation requests are reviewed individually; there's no one-size-fits-all plan, and AEC staff work with you specifically on what equal access looks like for your situation, including during disciplinary or academic-integrity proceedings if those ever arise.

Campus Safety, Emergency Procedures & Reporting

! **HEADS UP**

Emergency: 713-221-8911 · **Non-emergency:** 713-221-8065

Yellow call boxes are stationed near every building entrance/exit, parking garage, and elevator. UHDPD also offers escort service to your vehicle and limited motorist assistance (locked keys, jump-starts) on request.

UHD Police Department

If something feels wrong, change direction, move to a public building or emergency phone, and call. “If you see something, say something” is not just a slogan here; it is how the department asks you to respond.

Location: OMB N118
Phone: 713-221-8065
Web: www.uhd.edu/police-department

Emergency Management

Plans for, mitigates, responds to, and helps the campus recover from emergencies and disasters. During an active emergency, UHD notifies the campus by email, text, and digital displays, with public updates on the UHD homepage and social channels.

Location: S205
Phone: 713-221-5848
Web: www.uhd.edu/administration/emergency-management/index.aspx

If You Hear a Fire Alarm

Alarm Type	What You'll Hear	What To Do
Automatic alarm	One continuous whooping tone + announcement	Proceed to the nearest stairwell and prepare to exit. If there is evidence of fire on your floor, evacuate using the stairwells. Never use elevators.
Fire/smoke reported	Two short tones + live message naming the affected floor	Floors named (and the floors above/below) must evacuate immediately. Never use elevators.
All clear	Two short tones + live message	Return to your office or classroom; elevators resume service.
No visible smoke/fire	Not applicable	Go to the nearest stairwell and wait for an announcement or an official (Police, EM, EH&S, or Facilities Management).
Visible fire or smoke	Not applicable	Evacuate the building immediately; do not wait for an announcement.

PART 6

Getting Involved & Building Community

Clubs, Greek life, sports, service, careers, and summer at UHD.

Student Organizations & Leadership

💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**

Students who get involved outside the classroom persist and graduate at higher rates than those who do not. Involvement is one of the most reliable predictors of finishing a degree, independent of GPA.

Clubs and Organizations

Academic, cultural, social, and professional organizations cover nearly every interest. Join, attend events, or take on a leadership role. All organizations operate under university policy and are supported through Student Leadership & Involvement (SLI).

Location: OMB N310
Phone: 713-221-8573
Web: https://www.uhd.edu/sssl/student-leadership-involvement/index.aspx

Leadership Development

SLI runs co-curricular leadership programming throughout the year; check the leadership website for what's currently open.

Location: OMB N310
Phone: 713-221-8573

Student Government

Body	Represents	Focus
Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA), OMB S204	Undergraduate students	Advocacy on undergraduate needs, support for student organizations, leadership development

Body	Represents	Focus
Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA), OMB S365	Graduate and professional students	Advocacy on graduate/professional concerns, community building, tailored programming

Greek Life & Campus Activities

Greek Life

Values-based fraternities and sororities built around leadership, scholarship, service, and community; plus the networking and lifelong connections that come with them. University policy and their respective councils govern these organizations.

Location: OMB N310
Phone: 713-221-8573
Web: https://www.uhd.edu/sssl/student-leadership-involvement/greek-life/index.aspx

Signature Events

Event	Contact	What It Is
Weeks of Welcome (WOW)	OMB N310/S204, 713-221-8573	Programming, swag, and activities connecting new and returning Gators to campus resources and each other.
UHD Homecoming	OMB N310, 713-221-8573	Pep rally, Homecoming games, and Tail-Gatoring with alumni and the wider community.
Bayou Bash	OMB N310, 713-221-8573	Spring cultural celebration: crawfish, zydeco, and club fundraising.
One Main Event	sli@uhd.edu / uhd.edu/sli	Annual spring gala honoring student organizations, leaders, and advisers.

Campus Activities Board (CAB)

The student-led programming board behind UHD's social, educational, and entertainment events. Join CAB to get hands-on experience in event planning, marketing, and leadership.

Location: OMB S204
Phone: 713-221-8573
Web: https://www.uhd.edu/sssl/student-leadership-involvement/cab-info.aspx

Sports, Fitness & Wellness

UHD Sports and Fitness

Free for all current students. The 75,000-square-foot WSC features three levels of cardio/weight equipment, three multipurpose courts, a bouldering wall, an indoor track, fitness studios, and the Gator Study Zone. Beyond the WSC: the UHD Sports Field and the eSports Center (a 17-station PC room plus console lounge) in the One Main Building.

Location: Wellness & Success Center (WSC)
Phone: 713-221-8225
Email: sportsandfitness@uhd.edu
Web: https://www.uhd.edu/sssl/sports-fitness/index.aspx

Group fitness classes are free with certified instructors; personal training, CPR/AED, and First Aid certification are available for an added fee, alongside free health and nutrition workshops.

Intramural and Club Sports: everything from one-day tournaments to multi-week leagues, plus competitive club teams in baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball, cheer, dance, wrestling, running, and powerlifting, and an eSports program spanning 17+ game titles across varsity, JV, and recreational tiers.

Volunteering & Community Service

> 💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**
> Service work builds the same leadership, teamwork, and professional skills employers look for, while also connecting you to the city UHD calls home.

The Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning (CCESL) connects students to service opportunities across Houston. Its signature program, GatorServe, brings together students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners for large-scale volunteer projects on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and September 11, such as neighborhood beautification, school improvement, environmental restoration, and literacy initiatives.

Career & Professional Development

Career Center and Professional Development

Open to enrolled students and alumni across all four colleges. Services include career self-assessment, résumé/cover letter coaching, interview prep, job search strategy, the Jobs4Gators internship/job portal, employer networking events and career fairs, and graduate school application support.

Location: S402
Phone: 713-221-8980
Email: uhdcareer@uhd.edu
Web: https://www.uhd.edu/sssl/student-success/career/index.aspx

UHD Center for Career and Professional Development	
Location	**Main office:** One Main Street, S402, Houston, TX 77002 **Satellite locations:** **College of Science and Technology:** One Main St., N725L **College of Public Service:** 1002 Commerce St., C220B **Marilyn Davies College of Business:** 320 North Main St., B104 **College of Humanities and Social Sciences:** One Main Street, N1014
Contact	**Email:** ccpd@uhd.edu **Phone:** 713-221-8980
Office Hours	**Monday–Thursday:** 8 a.m.–7 p.m.* **Friday:** 8 a.m.–5 p.m. *The 7 p.m. closing applies only during long semesters. In summer and term breaks, hours are 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday.
Virtual Drop-In Hours	**Monday:** 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. **Tuesday:** 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. **Wednesday:** 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. **Thursday:** 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. **Friday:** 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. **UHD CCPD Zoom Room:** 143774 *The 6 p.m. session applies only during long semesters. In summer and term breaks, the 6 p.m. drop-in moves to 3 p.m., Monday–Thursday.
Note	Drop-ins are quick 10–15 minute sessions, not appointments. Appointments are available in person, by telephone, or via Zoom.

Summer at UHD

Summer does not mean an empty campus. UHD offers a full slate of academic, recreational, and leadership programming throughout the break.

Category	What's Available
Academic courses	Mini, five-week, six-week, and regular summer terms
Youth & STEM camps	Coding, architecture, robotics, leadership, transportation STEM, and creative arts (via Continuing Education)
Sports & recreation	Fitness activities and specialty camps at the Wellness and Success Center
Student org & leadership events	Coordinated through Student Leadership & Involvement
Wellness programming	Recreation facility access, workshops, and student support services
Research, internships & career prep	Through academic colleges and the Career Center
Community engagement	Volunteer opportunities with Houston-area organizations

Check current summer schedules and registration at UHD Summer Registration and the UHD Academic Calendars page.

PART 7

University Policies & Student Rights

Conduct, due process, nondiscrimination, Title IX, legal compliance, and free expression.

💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**

Every policy in this section supports the same mission described at the start of this handbook: nurturing talent and driving socioeconomic mobility. A safe, fair, and predictable campus makes that mission possible; you cannot grow academically in an environment where you do not know your rights or cannot trust the process. This section explains what happens if something goes wrong, what protections you have, and who to contact.

What the Conduct Process Is Trying to Teach You

UHD's student conduct process is built to be educational and developmental, not just punitive. The goal is for every student who goes through it, regardless of outcome, to come out better equipped to:

Skills the Process Builds	What That Looks Like
Personal responsibility	Understanding and accepting accountability for your own actions
Ethical decision-making	Making informed, principled choices under pressure
Impact awareness	Recognizing how your behavior affects others and the campus community
Communication under conflict	Navigating disagreement respectfully and effectively
Policy navigation	Knowing how to use university procedures and resources
Community contribution	Helping sustain a safe, respectful, inclusive campus

Students who understand these expectations and resources are simply better positioned to advocate for themselves and engage productively with the UHD community; academically, personally, and professionally.

Code of Conduct & Academic Integrity

UHD expects every student to uphold high standards of personal integrity, ethical behavior, and academic excellence. The Student Code of Conduct, detailed in the UHD Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy (PS 04.A.01), sets behavioral expectations that help keep the learning environment safe, respectful, and

inclusive for everyone. Violations can lead to educational interventions and disciplinary action, designed, again, to support growth and accountability rather than to simply punish.

> 🗣️ **IN PLAIN TERMS**
>
> Academic integrity, under the UHD Academic Honesty Policy (PS 03.A.19), means doing your own work, properly crediting others' contributions, and avoiding cheating, plagiarism, falsification, and unauthorized AI use where an instructor has prohibited it. This protects the value of your degree. A UHD diploma means something specific because the university enforces the standards required to earn it.

Student Rights, Due Process, Appeals & Sanctions

> 💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**
>
> If you're ever named in a conduct or academic honesty matter, the steps below are not optional courtesies; they're guarantees. Knowing them in advance means you'll recognize immediately if something in your specific process isn't being followed correctly.

> ⚖️ **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**
>
> If you're involved in a student conduct or academic honesty matter, UHD guarantees you:
>
> - **Notice**: written notification of the reported behavior, the alleged violation(s), and how the resolution process works.
> - **A chance to respond**: you can review the available information, prepare a response, submit documentation, and present your perspective.
> - **An advisor of your choice**: present with you in meetings, hearings, and appeals.
> - **The chance to present evidence and witnesses**: including identifying people with relevant knowledge of what happened.
> - **Impartial review**: a trained official, faculty member, or committee decides based on the facts presented, not on assumptions.
> - **Written notice of the outcome**: the findings, the reasoning, and any sanctions, in writing.
> - **The right to appeal**: within the university's established timeframe, if valid grounds exist.

Standard of Evidence

> 🗣️ **IN PLAIN TERMS**
>
> Conduct and academic honesty cases use the preponderance-of-the-evidence standard, meaning more likely than not. If the available information indicates a greater-than-50% chance that the alleged conduct occurred, a student can be found responsible. This is a civil standard, not the “beyond a reasonable doubt” standard used in criminal court, and it is a deliberate, common choice across higher education.

If You Want to Appeal

An appeal is not a second chance to re-argue facts that were already considered, and it is not a new hearing. It is limited to specific grounds:

Valid Ground for Appeal	What It Means
Procedural error	A mistake in process that significantly affected the outcome
New information	Evidence that wasn't reasonably available before and could change the decision
Disproportionate sanction	The consequence is substantially out of line with the violation
Bias or unfairness	Evidence of bias, conflict of interest, or a fundamentally unfair process

Submit your appeal within the university's established timeline; missing it closes this avenue entirely.

Sanctions Are Designed to Teach, Not Just Punish

This is one of the most important things to understand about UHD's conduct process: educational sanctions exist to build skills, not just impose consequences. Through the process, regardless of the specific outcome, students typically gain:

- Stronger ethical decision-making and personal responsibility
- A clearer understanding of academic integrity and university expectations
- Better communication, conflict resolution, and problem-solving skills
- A real sense of how their behavior affects others and the broader community
- Strategies for avoiding future policy violations
- A stronger stake in contributing to a safe, respectful, inclusive campus

These outcomes are the goal. A sanction that teaches nothing has not served its purpose.

Anti-Discrimination, Anti-Sexual Misconduct & Title IX

> 💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**
>
> These protections exist because you cannot learn, work, or grow in an environment where you fear discrimination or harassment. UHD's nondiscrimination commitment isn't a separate policy bolted onto the mission statement; it's a precondition for the mission being achievable at all.

Nondiscrimination Commitment

> ⚖️ **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**
>
> UHD prohibits discrimination on the basis of:
>
> - Race, color, national or ethnic origin
> - Sex, including pregnancy
> - Religion
> - Age (40 and older)
> - Disability
> - Veteran status
> - Genetic information
> - Gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation

The Office of Title IX/Equal Opportunity Services oversees compliance and serves as your resource for information, support, or resolution options. If you believe you've experienced discrimination, harassment, retaliation, or unequal treatment, you can file a report through that office; reports are reviewed promptly and equitably, and retaliation against anyone who reports, participates in an investigation, or assists a complaint is itself a policy violation.

Title IX & Sexual Misconduct

UHD prohibits sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and other forms of sex-based discrimination.

> 🗣️ **IN PLAIN TERMS**
>
> If you experience or witness sexual misconduct:
>
> - You're encouraged to report it and seek assistance.
> - Supportive measures can be available even if you never file a formal complaint. Getting support and pursuing a formal process are two separate decisions; you control both.
> - The Office of Title IX/Equal Opportunity Services coordinates reporting, supportive measures, investigations, and grievance procedures to keep the process fair and impartial for everyone involved.

Disability Accommodations in These Processes

UHD is committed to equal access to educational opportunity for students with disabilities, including during conduct or academic-integrity proceedings. If you need an accommodation or need to renew or modify an existing one, contact the Accessible Education Center (see Health, Wellness & Safety) as early as possible. Every request is reviewed individually.

Helpful Resources

- **Title IX & Equal Opportunity Services:** https://uhd.edu/title-ix
- **Title IX & Sexual Misconduct Info:** https://uhd.edu/title-ix/title-ix-sexual-misconduct.aspx

- **Anti-Discrimination Resources:** https://uhd.edu/title-ix/index.aspx
- **Student Rights & Reporting Resources:** https://uhd.edu/sssl/dean-of-students/student-resources-rights-guide.aspx

How to Report a Concern

> 💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**
> If you are not sure which form applies to your situation, the table below can help. Submitting the closest form is always better than not reporting at all.

Form	Use It For
Care Form	Death of a loved one, hospitalization, primary caregiving responsibilities, incarceration, or physical health challenges affecting you as a student.
Student Conduct Incident Report Form	Policy violations such as alcohol, drugs, physical harm, or disruptive activity.
Sexual Misconduct Form	Required for reporting non-consensual fondling, sexual assault, groping, or domestic violence.
Discrimination & Harassment Form	Harassment or discrimination against a protected class, as experienced or witnessed.
Student Complaint Form	Grievances, or university processes/procedures not followed by a department or staff member.

All of these forms are available through the Dean of Students Office website. Submitting one starts a review; it doesn't commit you to a specific outcome.

Technology Use, Law & Compliance

Technology & Email Use

Your UHD email is the university's official channel for registration, financial aid, academic deadlines, campus events, and emergency notifications, so monitoring it is a responsibility, not an option. University networks, computers, software, and digital platforms must be used responsibly and in accordance with UHD's Information Security Program and Acceptable Use standards.

> ❗ **HEADS UP**
> Misuse, such as unauthorized access, sharing credentials, copyright infringement, or disrupting university operations, can result in disciplinary action. Details are maintained by UHD Information Technology Services and the UHD Information Security Office.

Your Legal Protections

> ⚖️ **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**
>
> **Title IX:** the right to learn free from discrimination, harassment, sexual misconduct, and retaliation, with reporting options and supportive measures through the Office of Title IX/Equal Opportunity Services.
>
> **FERPA** (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act): your educational records are private, and the university may release them only under specific, legally permitted circumstances.

Smoke and Tobacco Free Campus

Effective May 26, 2026, **PS 01.A.09 Smoke and Tobacco Free Campus** was revised and approved to prohibit the use, sale, and distribution of all tobacco products and electronic smoking devices, including cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, and vaping devices, on all UHD-controlled property. This prohibition applies to all university-owned and controlled facilities and grounds, including sidewalks, parking lots, and parking garages. Zero-cost tobacco cessation resources and additional support services are available through the **DAAPP**, **Employee Resources**, and **Student Health Resources** web pages. Questions regarding the policy may be directed to Human Resources.

Campus Safety Disclosures (Clery Act)

UHD publishes an Annual Security Report (ASR**)** covering campus crime statistics, safety policies, and emergency notification procedures, as required by the federal Clery Act. It is available through the UHD Police Department and is worth reviewing.

Drug-Free Schools Compliance

Under the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, UHD prohibits the unlawful possession, use, distribution, or manufacture of alcohol and illicit drugs, and provides education on the legal, academic, and health risks involved.

Medical Amnesty / Good Samaritan Policy

> 💡 **WHY THIS MATTERS**
>
> This policy exists for one reason: fear of getting in trouble should never stop someone from calling for help in a medical emergency. If you seek medical assistance in good faith for yourself or someone else during an alcohol- or drug-related emergency, UHD's Medical Amnesty and Good Samaritan approach makes you eligible for educational interventions and support rather than certain disciplinary sanctions. Health and safety come first.

Campus Use, Free Expression & Other Rights

> ⚖️ **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**
>
> UHD supports your right to express ideas, share opinions, peacefully assemble, distribute literature, and participate in demonstrations and other expressive activities. The university welcomes diverse viewpoints and respectful dialogue as a feature of campus life, not a disruption to it.

Time, Place & Manner

> 🗣️ **IN PLAIN TERMS**
>
> To keep the campus safe and functioning, expressive activity may be subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, such as where, how long, or which spaces you can use. These restrictions apply equally to every viewpoint. They address logistics, not content, and they are not a means of silencing a particular opinion.

Where Free Speech Ends

Broad protection for speech does not mean unlimited protection for all conduct. Discrimination, harassment, threats, retaliation, or behavior that substantially disrupts classes, university business, or the rights of others can violate university policy even when it is framed as “just speech.” The same principle applies to technology: university networks, email, learning platforms, and digital resources must be used lawfully and ethically. Unauthorized access, academic dishonesty, copyright infringement, and harmful online behavior are prohibited on all platforms.

Helpful Resources

- **Freedom of Expression:** https://uhd.edu/freedom-of-expression
- **Student Rights and Responsibilities:** https://uhd.public.doctract.com/doctract/documentportal/08DD9FAD7745995F7D88293644BE774B
- **Student Conduct Policies:** https://uhd.edu/sssl/conduct/student-conduct-policies.aspx
- **Information Technology & Computer Use Policies:** https://uhd.edu/hr/policies/hr-information-systems-policy.aspx

Exercising these rights responsibly keeps UHD a place where open dialogue, learning, safety, and mutual respect can coexist.

101 Things to Do Before You Graduate From UHD

Consider this your unofficial Gator bucket list. Some items are just for fun, some are genuinely useful, and a few, such as registering for graduation, are essential. Complete as many as you can.

1. Take a picture with the UHD sign
2. Walk across campus at sunrise
3. Attend Welcome Week events
4. Join a student organization
5. Go to a basketball game
6. Go to a Counseling event
7. Study in the library until it closes
8. Play pool in the SLI Lounge (S204)
9. Meet someone outside your major
10. Make a friend
11. Attend a career fair
12. Visit the Gator Shoppe
13. Learn the UHD Alma Mater
14. Get free food from an event
15. Visit the Student Clinic
16. Take graduation photos
17. See the skyline view on the 7th floor
18. Explore every building on campus
19. Attend a Health Fair
20. Participate in Student Government elections
21. Go to a therapy dog event
22. Attend an “Unplugged Series” event
23. Visit with your advisor
24. Introduce yourself to a professor after class
25. Visit office hours at least once
26. Find your favorite quiet study spot
27. Study with friends
28. Pull off a group project
29. Meet the UHD President
30. Attend a campus workshop
31. Network with alumni
32. Get an internship
33. Update your LinkedIn profile
34. Attend a résumé review session
35. Wear professional attire to campus
36. Take pictures downtown after class
37. Walk across the sky bridge
38. Explore nearby downtown Houston spots
39. Attend a GatorServe event
40. Participate in community service
41. Join a leadership program
42. Win a giveaway on campus
43. Get featured on a UHD social media page
44. Attend Homecoming events
45. Meet with a Dean
46. Pass a class you thought you'd fail
47. Survive finals week
48. Eat at the Gator Cafe
49. Eat lunch outside
50. Order your UHD ring
51. Try every food spot near campus
52. Spend time in the Zen Den
53. Attend a mental health awareness event
54. Take a random elective just for fun
55. Participate in a class discussion voluntarily
56. Meet an international student
57. Visit 40,000 Windows
58. Stay on campus longer than necessary just to hang out

59. Go to class during bad weather anyway
60. Celebrate after your hardest exam
61. Learn the shortcuts through campus buildings
62. Take a selfie in the library elevator mirror
63. Attend a club meeting
64. Attend Bayou Bash
65. Support a friend at their event
66. Join an intramural sport
67. Use the Wellness and Success Center
68. Attend a financial literacy workshop
69. Apply for scholarships
70. Decorate your laptop with stickers
71. Sit somewhere new every semester
72. Have a favorite professor
73. Have at least one favorite parking story
74. Nominate someone for a One Main Event award
75. Take a class with a friend
76. Attend a UHD Police Department event
77. Attend a graduation workshop
78. Buy UHD merch
79. Learn the history of UHD
80. Register for Jobs4Gators
81. Attend a President's Lecture Series event
82. Take a ride on the UHD Shuttle Bus
83. Participate in Walk2Vote
84. Spot wildlife along the Bayou
85. Attend a play in the O'Kane Theater
86. Look at an exhibit in the O'Kane Gallery
87. Register with the Alumni Association
88. Learn the UHD hand sign
89. Photograph the downtown skyline from the South Deck
90. Follow UHD's official social media accounts
91. Attend Bayou's Best
92. Get tutoring at the Academic Support Center
93. Visit the Writing & Reading Center
94. Register with Gator Mart
95. Meet the Provost
96. Get a physical at Student Health Services
97. Attend Tail-Gatoring at Homecoming
98. Attend the Chili Cookoff
99. Ride the METRO rail
100. Take a fitness class at the Wellness and Success Center
101. Register for graduation

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN

Gator Pride runs deep. Welcome to the family.

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