

Eighteenth Report of Student Discipline

SUMMARY OF
NON-ACADEMIC STUDENT DISCIPLINARY COMPLAINTS
RESOLVED BY
THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY HOUSING & DINING

**2011-12
ACADEMIC YEAR**

Prepared by

*Heather Ockenfels
Student Conduct Officer*

*Kieran Leopold
Student Conduct Officer*

*Thomas R. Baker
Associate Dean of Students
& Director, Student Conduct Office*

*Valerie A. Heffernan
Program Assistant
& File Manager*

*The University of Iowa
Student Conduct Office
135 Iowa Memorial Union*

*(319) 335-1162
<http://dos.uiowa.edu>*

Table of Contents*

<u>I. INTRODUCTION</u>	<u>2</u>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
II. A SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF NON-ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS AND THE DISPOSITION OF THOSE CASES.....	4
III. COMPLAINTS ACCUSING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS RECOGNIZED BY THE UNIVERSITY.....	22
IV. DISCIPLINARY COMPLAINTS RESOLVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & DINING	10
V. PARENT NOTICE LETTERS.....	28
VI. CRITICAL M.A.S.S.....	29
VII. LETTERS OF REFERENCE.....	33

**This report represents a condensed version of a longer report, which is posted at*

_____*

Dr. David Grady, Associate Vice President & Dean of Students, is responsible for administering the Code of Student Life and the Student Judicial Procedure. Thomas R. Baker, the Associate Dean of Students, directs the Student Conduct Office within the Dean of Students' Office (DOS). Mr. Baker manages the caseload of complaints from day to day and makes recommendations to the Dean of Students regarding the disposition of complaints filed against students.

Mr. Kieran Leopold, a Student Conduct Officer for the SCO, interviews students accused of misconduct and resolves minor complaints on behalf of the Associate Dean. Ms. Heather Ockenfels, another Student Conduct Officer, investigates complaints, oversees the Critical MASS program, and carries out other responsibilities for the office. All three SCO investigators have the authority to adjudicate non-suspension complaints and represent the University at formal suspension hearings. All three have conducted sexual misconduct investigations in the past and have completed special training for that type of offense.

Ms. Valerie Heffernan, the Code of Student Life Program Assistant for the SCO, manages the student discipline record system. Ms. Pam Krogmeier, DOS secretary, provides general assistance to SCO office staff. The Office of the Dean of Students and the Student Conduct Office are both located in 135 Iowa Memorial Union, telephone number 335-1162. In cases involving sexual misconduct, victims are encouraged to contact Ms. Monique DiCarlo, the Sexual Misconduct Response Coordinator for the campus, at 335-6200.

To access the current version of the Code of Student Life and the Judicial Procedure for Alleged Violations of the Code of Student Life, go to <http://dos.uiowa.edu/policy-list/Code/>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
OF THE EIGHTEENTH REPORT ON STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

- **The 2011-12 academic year (AY) represented the second year of off-campus student conduct jurisdiction. Expanded jurisdiction substantially increased the caseload compared to the period prior to 2010, when University conduct rules were limited for the most part to University property.**
- **Compared to the previous year, AY 2011-12 was noteworthy for the increasing number of complaints of public intoxication, illegal drugs, and drunk driving (OWI) investigated by the Student Conduct Office (SCO). A substantial percentage of new cases involved female students accused of an alcohol offense.**
- **Four suspension hearings were scheduled during AY 2011-12 for students contesting charges that rose to the level of separation from the University. Consistent with the new student judicial procedure, all hearings were conducted using the model process formerly used exclusively for sexual misconduct hearings. In two of the four cases set for hearing, the accused student was found responsible and suspended by the Dean of Students. A third student waived his opportunity for a hearing and withdrew his registration. A fourth student was found not guilty by the hearing officer. In four other cases, a student facing a possible suspension withdrew from the University rather than contest the charges. All total, seven students charged with misconduct in AY 2011-12 were suspended from the University of Iowa.**
- **The Critical Mentoring and Support for Students program (aka Critical MASS) successfully completed its second year of operation. The program connects alcohol and drug violators with a supportive staff or faculty member. All total, 164 students completed the C-MASS program in 2011-12 AY, mentored by one of 193 volunteer faculty and staff members. By comparison, 132 students completed C-MASS the previous year (AY 2010-11).**
- **Campus health emergencies due to excessive consumption of alcohol increased significantly in AY 2011-12. Compared to the previous year, the number of ambulance transits virtually doubled.**
- **Eighteen complaints alleging sexual misconduct were received during the period June 1, 2011 to June 1, 2012. In total, 22 reports of sexual misconduct were investigated. Twelve students were accused of unwanted physical contact of a sexual nature while ten students were accused of non-physical sexual harassment. In addition, five cases of domestic abuse (i.e., non-sexual harassment) were investigated.**
- **Several complaints revealed that student organization rules had been violated. In eight cases during AY 2011-12, the Dean of Students met with representatives of a student organization recognized by the University. Violations were found in all eight cases. Sanctions imposed on the student organizations ranged from written reprimand to chapter probation. No organization lost its recognition in AY 2011-12.**
- **Many of the students accused of sexual harassment denied the allegations. As a result, SCO staff spent considerable time investigating the several sexual misconduct complaints. Probation was imposed in four cases. In five cases, a student facing a suspension hearing withdrew from the University. In one case, which involved a former student accused of sexual misconduct, the former student did not re-apply at the University of Iowa. In the case which went to a suspension hearing, the hearing officer found the accused student responsible and the dean imposed a suspension. In a second case which went to a hearing, the student was found not responsible by the hearing officer. Seven complaints were dismissed during the investigation due to lack of compelling evidence. In another case, the investigator dismissed charges because the conduct in question did not rise to the level of hostile environment harassment.**

NOTE: The following pages contain summary information about student disciplinary complaints resolved by the Office of the Dean of Students or by University Housing. Because disciplinary complaints are education record information protected by federal law, personally identifiable information contained in non-academic student disciplinary files is not released to the public as a general practice. Individual students are not identified in this report, and information is presented in such a manner as to insure confidentiality of the parties.

SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF NON-ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

Between June 1, 2011 and June 1, 2012, the Student Conduct Office (SCO) investigated 1,347 reports accusing a student of non-academic misconduct. Some students were involved in more than one infraction. Compared to the previous year's total, the caseload in AY 2011-12 grew by 25%. The increase in cases in AY 2011-12 was attributed to a larger number of police complaints involving off-campus alcohol violations. The substantial caseload increase during the previous year (AY 2010-11) resulted from SCO expanding the geographic scope of the conduct rules. In AY 2009-10, the Code of Student Life applied only to on-campus misconduct for the most part.

While off-campus reports increased, the number of residence hall complaints investigated by Housing & Dining staff in AY 2011-12 remained consistent with the previous year's figures. For a summary of complaints resolved by University Housing staff members without referral to the SCO, see Part IV of this report.

Men represented a disproportion share of the caseload in AY 2011-12. The percentage of females accused of misconduct increased significantly, however, compared to previous years. Of the 1,347 cases investigated during AY 2011/12, 70% of those accused were male students (equal to the 70% in 2010-11). Female students were named in 398 complaints investigated in 2011-12, or 30% of all cases.

Off-campus complaints derived primarily from charges filed in court by the University of Iowa Police (UIPD). Criminal charges filed by the Iowa City Police Department (ICPD) also generated a significant number of disciplinary investigations. Because of limited staff resources, not every police complaint was investigated by SCO. Consistent with the previous year's practice, SCO staff in AY 2011-12 investigated Public Intoxication and Possession of Alcohol Under Legal Age (PAULA) complaints filed by police in Iowa City in addition to other types of complaints. The potential caseload might have exceeded 1,500 cases had SCO staff investigated every UIPD and ICPD complaint. The following categories of criminal offense were not investigated unless the charge was filed in conjunction with another charge (such as Public Intoxication or PAULA):

For Disorderly House charges, which represent off-campus noise violations, SCO staff followed a two-step practice. For the first offense of Disorderly House, SCO staff issued a Policy Reminder letter warning the students of a possible SCO investigation in the event of a subsequent violation. A second Disorderly House charge resulted in a Code of Student Life investigation of both incidents.

As in previous years, officers from the University Police witnessed the majority of complaints investigated by the Office of the Dean of Students. The number of University Police reports decreased slightly from AY 2010-11 to AY 2011-12 (572 cases in AY 2010-11 compared to 674 cases in AY 2011-12) while the number of Iowa City Police Department reports rose significantly.

Non-police complainants included Residence hall staff, faculty, students, and teaching assistants. Consistent with previous years, the percentage of non-police complaints remained small (4%) relative to the proportion of police complaints (96%).

SOURCE OF COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED BY S.C.O. STAFF

COMPLAINT SOURCE	<u>2009-10*</u>	<u>2010-11**</u>	<u>2011-12**</u>
University Police Report	92%	58%	50%
Iowa City Police Report	1%	39%	46%
Residence Hall Report	3%	2%	2%
Student Complaint	1%	1%	1%
Faculty/TA Complaint	1%	1%	0%
Staff Complaint	1%	0%	1%
Other Source	1%	0%	1%
ITS (Information Technology)	0%	0%	0%

*2009-10 AY Conduct code rules were limited to University Property for the most part

**The 2010-11 AY Conduct code rules were expanded to include off-campus charges

Of the 24 non-academic misconduct regulations listed in the Code of Student Life, 18 were allegedly violated at some point during AY 2011-12. Alcohol-related misconduct (Rules 16 & 17) was the most common category of misconduct investigated by SCO. In the Residence Halls, alcohol was also the most frequent violation reported (see Section IV). The figures included on the following page do not include Residence Hall violations except for Residence Hall cases referred to the Student Conduct Office.

Of the 1,347 cases investigated by the Student Conduct Office in AY 2011-12, criminal charges were filed in 1,163 cases (Rule 20). The most common alcohol violation was Possession of Alcohol Under Legal Age (PAULA) followed by Public Intoxication and Operating a Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated (OWI). In a minority of cases, the defendant was charged with an illegal drug offense (such as possession of marijuana). In a small number of cases, a student was charged with illegal drug distribution. SCO investigated 17 complaints of sexual misconduct in AY 2011-12.

The figures displayed on the following page represent the totality of possible rule violations investigated by SCO in AY 2011-12. Because most cases involved multiple charges (i.e., Rules 16, 17 & 20 in a PAULA case), the total number of charges far exceeds the number of cases investigated. Ninety-six percent of students accused of misconduct were charged with violating Rule 20, the regulation which obligates students to observe criminal laws in Johnson County.

Analyzing the caseload by academic status shows that first-year students made up one-third of the 1,347 cases investigated by SCO in AY 2011-12. Although the great majority of students named in disciplinary complaints were undergraduates (98% of the caseload), the percentage of all undergraduates accused of misconduct was actually much smaller. During AY 2011-12, 6.0% of the 21,176 UI undergraduates met with the SCO to discuss a disciplinary complaint. For the cohort of first-year students, the percentage was 10.0%.

Conduct Code Rule Allegedly Violated	2010-11 AY	2011-12 AY
D.02 Collusion: Assisting Another Student	0	0
D.03 Providing False Information to UI	2	2
D.04 Bribery: Inappropriately offering	0	0
D.05 Failure to Comply with a University	5	12
D.06 Disruption of University Activities	1	6
D.07 Protests/Demonstrations Inside	1	0
D.08 Disruption of the Instructional	4	7
D.09 Fire Alarm Tampering/Improper	0	0
D.10 Trespassing/Unauthorized Entry of	8	6
D.11 Disrupting the Student Judicial	1	0
D.12 Health/Safety Threat to University	14	221
D.13 Violation of University Policy	88	104
Subset: Sexual Misconduct Complaints	11	17
D.14 Misuse of IT Resources	2	4
D. 15 Use or Possession of Weapons	0	1
D.16 Illegal Use or Possession of Alcohol	79	937
D.17 Impermissible Use or Possession of	74	139
D.18 Illegal Use or Possession of Drugs	10	120
D.19 Impermissible Use or Possession of	54	65
D.20 Criminal Conduct	91	116
D.21 Theft/Vandalism	8	21
D.22 Setting fires on campus without	0	0
D.23 Assault/Harassment	58	60
D.24 Hazing	0	2
D.25 Unauthorized Audio/Video	0	2

ACADEMIC STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

	ACADEMIC PROFILE OF U OF IA STUDENT BODY (FALL, 2011)	PERCENT OF DISCIPLINARY CASES (2011-12)
UNDERGRADUATES		
First-years	19%	33%
Sophomores	15%	27%
Juniors	17%	23%
Seniors	17%	14%
GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS		
Prof. Colleges (L, M, P, S & D)	12%	0%
Other Graduates (G)	18%	2%

As in previous years, the bulk of disciplinary complaints investigated in AY 2011-12 arose during the fall semester. SCO received an average of 112 cases each month, although the actual number varied considerably. Relatively few cases arose during June and July of 2011. Many of the fall semester infractions occurred on home football game weekends. During the spring semester, February and April were the busiest months.

Most on-campus disciplinary violations occurred in the residence halls. During the AY 2011-12, residence hall staff members filed reports accusing more than one thousand residents of misconduct. Only a small percentage of residence hall infractions were referred, however, to SCO investigation. Cases resolved by residence hall staff members without referral to the SCO are tabulated in Section IV.

Residence hall infractions investigated by the SCO represented only 11% of the SCO caseload. Off-campus violations were much more common. More than 70% of SCO cases occurred on non-UI property in AY 2011-12. Campus violations tended to occur in locations where there was alcohol consumption (such as in or near Kinnick Stadium, or on the grounds of campus near the residence halls). As in previous years, SCO received a handful of complaints reporting misconduct in classroom buildings.

More than two-thirds of University of Iowa undergraduate students lived in private, off-campus housing during AY 2011-12. Because the Code of Student Life covers off-campus misconduct, many of students interviewed by SCO for disciplinary reasons lived in off-campus housing. Sixty-five percent of the students investigated by SCO in AY 2011-12 lived off campus. Compared to AY 2010-11, the number of off-campus students cited for misconduct increased significantly while the number of on-campus residents seen by SCO did not increase or decrease significantly.

Relatively few of the off-campus residents were charged with on-campus misconduct. In contrast, the profile of charges brought against on-campus residents included some on-campus misconduct as well as misconduct off campus.

Misconduct cases investigated by the SCO in AY 2011-12 were usually assigned to one of the SCO judicial administrators for investigation. Depending upon the nature of the case and the accused student's prior record, the Dean of Students interviewed the student if a suspension was under consideration. In a few cases, the Dean of Students assigned an outside investigator to the case.

A majority of the 92 cases referred to the Dean of Students for possible suspension involved criminal charges. Several students were accused of selling illegal drugs and several others were accused of assault and/or harassment. In some cases, the student accused of misconduct had a prior violation on record (i.e., had earlier been warned or placed on probation).

FORM OF RESOLUTION

2011-12 AY CASES

TYPE OF RESOLUTION:

Case Dismissed by Investigator (no sanctions)	179
Sanctions Imposed by Investigator	955
Sanctions Imposed by Dean of Students	40
Suspension Hearing before Hearing Officer	4

NOT RESOLVED:

Accused Not Registered	31
Accused Withdrew	14
Accused Academically Ineligible	2
Not resolved as of June 1, 2012	122

In AY 2011-12, three sexual assault cases were resolved at formal hearing. In several other cases, a student facing a sexual assault suspension hearing elected to withdraw his/her registration rather than proceed with the hearing.

Forty-eight cases investigated by SCO in AY 2011-12 could not be resolved because the individual accused of misconduct withdrew from the University after the misconduct took place, or the student elected not to re-enroll. To facilitate a prompt resolution of the complaint at the time of re-enrollment, SCO staff placed a restriction on the former student's University record. Permission from the Dean of Students is required to re-register.

The vast majority of cases not dismissed resulted in non-suspension sanctions. In 952 cases resolved in AY 2011-12, the judicial administrator imposed a sanction such as probation or disciplinary warning. In only three cases did the student accused of misconduct appeal the judicial administrator's finding of guilt or appeal the sanction.

Of the 1,177 cases resolved in AY 2011-12, a status sanction was imposed in 83% of the cases. Disciplinary warnings, non-academic probation, or suspension sanctions as a result of misconduct prohibited by the Code of Student Life were given in 978 cases where students violated the Code of Student Life. The Disciplinary Warning letter was the most commonly imposed sanction. For students placed on probation, the probation period typically expired at the end of the academic year (i.e., June 1) for fall semester violations. Spring semester violators placed on probation resumed their good standing at the conclusion of the calendar year (January 1) so long as they did not commit a subsequent infraction.

STATUS SANCTIONS

STATUS SANCTIONS IMPOSED	2011-12
Written Reprimand	661
Probation	311
University Suspension	7
Expulsion	0

In many cases (suspension and non-suspension), an educational sanction (for example, substance abuse counseling) was recommended in addition to a status sanction (e.g., probation). As a result of the substantial number of alcohol-related complaints received, several hundred students were referred to a substance abuse program at Student Health.

Seven students were suspended from the University for one semester or longer in AY 2011-12 (two following a formal hearing and five who withdrew from University classes). The six cases involved sexual misconduct, drug trafficking, or domestic abuse. In both cases where a suspension was imposed by the Dean of Students following a hearing, the suspended student appealed to the Office of the Provost. After reviewing the hearing records, the Office of the Provost upheld one suspension without modification. In the second case, the length of the suspension was modified.

According to the Student Judicial Procedure, the Vice President for Student Life reviews appeals filed by students sanctioned by an SCO judicial administrator but not suspended. In three cases in AY 2011-12, the student sanctioned for misconduct appealed the outcome to the Vice President. On appeal, the Vice President upheld the judicial administrator's decision in all three cases.

In 40 cases investigated during AY 2011-12, an interim sanction was imposed during the investigation. Following the completion of investigation, interim sanctions often became permanent sanctions as part of the final resolution of the complaint. No-Contact Orders were issued as interim sanctions in 25 cases.

INTERIM SANCTIONS

INTERIM SANCTION	AY 2011-12 CASES
University Suspension	2
Housing Contract Cancellation	6
Building Prohibition	16
Campus Prohibition Order	3
No-Contact Order	25
Housing Room Transfer	3
Extracurricular Activity	1
Guest Restrictions	2
Psychiatric Assessment	1

III. COMPLAINTS ACCUSING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS RECOGNIZED BY THE UNIVERSITY

In eight cases involving student organizations recognized by the University during AY 2011-12, the Dean of Students or his designee met with representatives of the organization. All but one of the accused organizations was an undergraduate Greek-letter social fraternity or sorority. The non-Greek organization is an academic college student organization. None of the organizations investigated were accused of misconduct on more than one occasion in AY 2011-12.

All but one of the eight incidents investigated by DOS involved alcohol consumption. On three occasions, a student arrested for Public Intoxication and/or transported to the emergency room consumed alcohol at a fraternity chapter house. On two occasions, a student was arrested for Public Intoxication at a privately-owned restaurant which was hosting a sorority-sponsored event. On one occasion, empty alcohol bottles were found in an on-campus meeting space following a catered meal hosted by an academic college student organization. On one occasion, police were called to a fraternity house for a noise complaint. Upon their arrival, police determined that underage students attending the party had been served alcohol at the fraternity house.

The allegations were founded in all eight cases. Sanctions imposed on the organizations ranged from disciplinary warning to chapter probation. Educational sanctions were imposed in several cases, and several organizations had their social privileges restricted. None of the sanctions were appealed.

IV. DISCIPLINARY COMPLAINTS RESOLVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY HOUSING & DINING

During AY 2011-12, staff members interviewed more than 1,500 residents accused of misconduct. The great majority of the interviews were conducted by Hall Coordinators or Assistant Hall Coordinators. During the process of investigation, residence hall staff members determined that many allegations were unfounded while other charges could not be verified. System-wide, 684 cases were dismissed by staff members in AY 2011-12 without sanctions imposed. Over 55% of all complaints received by Hall Coordinators in AY 2011-12 involved a violation of the Alcohol Policy.

TOTAL CASELOAD	2010-11 CASES	2011-12 CASES
SANCTIONS IMPOSED	756	861
POLICY REMINDER ISSUED	233	548*
CASES DEFERRED/DISMISSED	534	684

*In 2011-12, Housing staff used Policy Reminder Letters at times as a sanction, so the number of Reminder Letters is inflated

SANCTIONS APPLIED IN ALL HOUSING CASES	2010-11 CASES	2011-12 CASES
Disciplinary Warnings	505	417
Disciplinary Probation	155	163
Building Transfer/Probation	9	2
Eviction in Abeyance	22	22
Residence Hall Eviction*	4	3
TOTAL # OF CASES WHERE SANCTIONS WERE IMPOSED BY HOUSING STAFF	759	633

EDUCATIONAL SANCTIONS	2010-11 CASES	2011-12 CASES
Substance Abuse Program:		
at Student Health	93	72
Online	281	297
Monetary Restitution (non-fine)	1	13
Community Service Work	1	3
Apology	2	15
Counseling (UCS)	4	5
Research Essay/Reflection Paper	32	52
Present Floor Program	4	13
Other Educational Sanction	18	42

RESIDENCE HALL INFRACTIONS*

	AY 2010-11	AY 2011-12
1 Improper Use/Entry to Room or Facility	14	16
4 Electronic Harassment	2	2
4 Physical Assault/Abuse	3	3
4 Threatening Behavior	5	4
4 Verbal Harassment	12	5
5 Failure to Comply	20	35
6 Disruptive Event	11	7
7 Tampering with Fire Equipment	2	4
9 Theft	22	7
9 Vandalism	42	19
8A Illegal Drug Possession/Consumption	69	43
8A In The Presence of Illegal Drugs	19	14
8B Underage Possession Alcohol	251	292
8B Over 21 Alcohol Violation	4	5
8B In The Presence of Alcohol	222	227
8B Alcohol Containers (empties)	85	66
10 Weapons	2	2
12 Failure to Show ID/Misrepresentation	10	9
13 Misuse of Key	5	6
14 Failure to Respond to a Fire Alarm	1	2
15 Noise Violation	82	121
16 Candles, Incense, or Open Flame	14	14
16 Setting a Fire	1	7
17 Commercial Activity/Business	1	0
17 Guest Policy	37	39
17 Hall Sports	5	13
17 Illegal Room Change	3	4
17 Pets	7	1
17 Refrigerators	49	26
17 Room/Lounge Furniture	5	7
17 Smoking	12	19
17 Hall Standards of Behavior	0	0
17 Trash	18	12
17 Windows and Screens	10	12
19 Sexual Harassment	1	2
20 Copyright Violation	88	5
20 Excessive Bandwidth	0	0
21 Self Destructive Behavior	7	5

*The totals do not include the most serious types of cases investigated by the Student Conduct Office for possible University suspension (drug trafficking and assault, e.g.). In addition, these totals are based on the findings of investigations, and not simply the charges made against students. The numerals in the first column refer to the disciplinary rules in the [University Housing Guidebook](#)

V. PARENT NOTICE LETTERS

Federal law governing student education records generally defines information in discipline records as confidential. One exception to the general rule permits disclosure of discipline file information in cases of health or safety emergencies. In addition to emergency communications, a 1998 amendment to the federal law allows post-secondary institutions to notify parents of students not yet 21 years of age in any disciplinary violations that involve alcohol or illegal drug violations. For students living in the residence halls, the University of Iowa utilizes both of these exceptions to communicate with parents following minor violations and major violations.

During AY 2011-12, a total of 1,058 letters were sent to parents of University of Iowa students under the signature of the Dean of Students. Many of the letters reported minor alcohol violations in the Residence Halls. Form letters were relied upon for the most part to complete the task of parent notice. A sample form letter is included in Appendix A. In a few cases, the telephone was utilized to contact parents.

In 107 cases investigated during AY 2011-12, the student's conduct was so severe as to raise substantial health and safety concerns. The DOS composed an original "Health & Safety Emergency Letter" to the parents detailing the circumstances of the incident. Excessive alcohol consumption was involved in 106 of the 107 cases, such as a student taken to the Emergency Treatment Center with a high blood alcohol concentration or a student found passed out in public under the influence of alcohol. Four students were involved in two different health emergencies. Suicidal behavior in the Residence Halls resulted in one letter sent to family members in AY 2011-12.

Parent Notice Letters	2010-11 AY	2011-12 AY
Health & Safety Emergency Letters		
Alcohol-Related Incident	59	106
Deliberate Injury/Threatened Suicide	1	1
	60	107
Non-Emergency Letters (to residents under 21)		
Alcohol Violation (non-Criminal)	304	291
Alcohol Violation (Criminal charge filed also)	472	410
Illegal Drug Violation (non-Criminal)	59	24
Illegal Drug Violation (Criminal Charge filed)	90	71
Second Letter Home*	N/A	155
<i>*Second letters were not tracked as a separate category in 2010-11 AY</i>	925	951

VI. Critical MASS

Program Design

The Office of the Dean of Students' [Critical Mentoring and Support for Students](#) program (Critical MASS) strives to increase student success at The University of Iowa by connecting students found responsible for violating the Code of Student Life (alcohol or drug violations) with a supportive staff, faculty member, or graduate student. These trained staff and faculty members use Motivational Interviewing principles, program expectations, campus resources, and referral process to aid their students. The Motivational Interviewing theoretical framework encourages the student to change their behavior and engage in positive opportunities for growth and development. The most recent Critical MASS report is

The Critical MASS program's four goals are to:

- Provide a connection between referred students and a knowledgeable, caring faculty or staff member.
- Create a "check-in" system to increase accountability for personal behavior on the student's part.
- Implement an early intervention system to facilitate referrals for academic and other support services.
- Reduce recidivism rates for alcohol or drug violations.

In order to meet those goals, a student (mentee) is paired with a staff, faculty member, or graduate student (mentor), whom they meet with an average of four times over a semester. During the one-on-one meetings, the mentee and mentor develop a relationship which focuses on: student engagement, healthy choices, academic success, examination of social situations from different perspectives, and student success at Iowa. To access the most recent C-MASS report and data, <http://dos.uiowa.edu/critical-mass>.

VII. LETTERS OF REFERENCE

The Office of the Dean of Students provides a number of services to students in addition to resolving disciplinary complaints. More than 1,340 verification requests by were processed by DOS during the 2011-12 academic year, approximately the same number as 2010-11 AY. Reference letters or Verification forms signed by the dean are required in a number of situations, including transfer outs and federal employment applications. Although it is not a universal practice, some institutions require a signed reference letter before they will consider a transfer application from a UI student. In addition, every UI student who applies to enroll in Study Abroad through the UI Study Abroad office is screened to ensure the applicants are in good standing. The Semester at Sea program also requires a signed verification form. Two medical colleges in the Midwest require a reference letter from every applicant. DOS also processes forms for law students and former law students applying to take a bar exam in another state.

Just as a UI student must submit to a background check as part of the transfer application process at some institutions, the UI Office of Admissions asks every incoming transfer applicant if he or she was ever sanctioned by their previous institution for violating disciplinary rules. DOS works with the Office of Admissions in processing the "yes" applications.