Students are required to notify the university registrar of a change of permanent (home) or present (local) mailing address within 48 hours of such a change. Changes in address may be made using ISIS Online. Students bear the full responsibility for any consequences resulting from official University communications misdirected or not received because of an incorrect address.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

The University of Virginia prohibits the illegal or otherwise irresponsible use of alcohol and other drugs. It is the responsibility of every member of the University community to know the risks associated with substance use and abuse. This responsibility obligates students and employees to know relevant University policies and federal, state and local laws, and to conduct themselves in accordance with these laws and policies. To these ends, the University publishes the following information regarding University policies and sanctions, laws and penalties concerning substance use and abuse, health and behavioral risks of drug use, and resources for treatment and educational programming.

Alcohol Virginia State laws concerning the purchase, possession, consumption, sale and storage of alcoholic beverages include the following:

1. Any sale of an alcoholic beverage requires a license from the Virginia Alcoholic
In these cases, requests should be directed to the offices noted above.

**Security Policy**

The University of Virginia strives to maintain a safe and secure environment for members of the student body, faculty, staff and the general public so that they are not unreasonably impeded in their activities by concerns for personal safety. The University Police Department is assigned broad security-related functions. At the same time, individual units, for example, schools, colleges, and various non-academic departments have responsibility for the security of facilities assigned for their use. The Police Department is charged to provide security regulations by which students, faculty, and staff are required to abide. Any building-specific regulations, established by units responsible for those buildings, must be consistent with the regulations established by the Police Department.

The University, as with any other public or private entity, cannot assure or guarantee a crime-free living or working environment. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of members of the University community to act in a security-conscious manner and to avoid actions which jeopardize their security as well as the security of others. Members of the faculty, staff, and student body should report all crimes, hazards, emergencies, or dangerous situations to the University Police Department.

**Sexual Assault**

**Sexual Assault** The University of Virginia is a community of trust, in which students, faculty, and staff must be able to engage in their work without any fear of violence, threats, harassment, or other unwanted sexual actions. Sexual assault is a serious offense that is prohibited by state law as well as the University’s Standards of Conduct. The University urges students to report sexual assault promptly to local law enforcement agencies and to the University under its administrative procedures.

University of Virginia students are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards of honesty and respect for others. In the context of intimate relationships, the use of alcohol or other drugs can blur the distinction between consent and manipulation. Real or perceived power differentials between individuals also may create an atmosphere of coercion that can significantly impair the ability to consent. The University’s procedures take these issues into account by identifying “Sexual Misconduct” as an offense within the rubric of “Sexual Assault.” Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs is not an excuse under the University’s procedures.

A “Sexual Assault” occurs under the University’s procedures when the act is intentional and is committed either by (a) physical force, violence, threat, or intimidation; (b) ignoring the objections of another person; (c) causing another’s intoxication or impairment through the use of drugs or alcohol; or (d) taking advantage of another person’s incapacitation, state of intimidation, helplessness, or other inability to consent.
“Sexual Misconduct” occurs under the University’s procedures when the act is committed without intent to harm another and where, by failing to correctly assess the circumstances, a person believes unreasonably that effective consent was given without having met his/her responsibility to gain effective consent. Situations involving physical force, violence, threat, or intimidation fall under the definition of Sexual Assault, not Sexual Misconduct, and will be treated as such under the University’s procedures.

“Act” referenced in both these terms includes, but is not limited to, sexual intercourse, sodomy, or sexual penetration with an inanimate object, the touching of a person’s intimate parts (defined as genitalia, groin, breast or buttocks, or clothing covering them), or compelling a person to touch his or her own or another person’s intimate parts without effective consent.

“Effective consent” means words or actions that show a voluntary agreement to engage in mutually agreed-upon sexual activity.

To fall within the jurisdiction of the University’s administrative procedures, the act(s) of alleged Sexual Assault or Sexual Misconduct must have been committed by a student on University-owned or leased property, at any University-sanctioned function, at the permanent or temporary local residence of a University student, faculty member, employee, or visitor, or in the city of Charlottesville or Albemarle County.

The University’s Procedures for Cases of Sexual Assault are posted electronically at www.virginia.edu/vpsa/assaultprocedure.html. The University has established three processes to address cases of alleged Sexual Assault or Sexual Misconduct within its procedures. The two formal processes (based on the filing of a complaint) are structured meeting and formal adjudication. The informal process is mediation. A complaint in which a structured meeting or formal adjudication is sought must be made in writing to the Office of the Dean of Students within one (1) calendar year of the time the complainant first knew or should have known the identity of the accused student. As an entirely voluntary process, mediation can be requested by a University student at any time. Further details of these processes, including specific rules governing confidentiality, are outlined in the University’s procedures.

Students who have experienced a sexual assault may receive support from a variety of sources, including the Office of the Dean of Students, the University’s Women’s Center, Counseling and Psychological Services at University Student Health, Charlottesville’s Sexual Assault Resource Agency (SARA), and the Victim and Witness Assistance Programs for the city of Charlottesville and Albemarle County. The University urges all of its students to become familiar with available support services and to obtain this support. University students are eligible to receive support regardless of whether they elect to pursue criminal, civil, or administrative remedies under the University’s procedures.

Individuals who are not sure if their case meets the legal definition of sexual assault are encouraged to contact either the Sexual Assault Resource Agency (SARA) 24-hour crisis hotline (434-977-7273), a community agency that serves the Charlottesville and University communities, or one of the University offices listed below.

Many victims doubt their own interpretations of events and hesitate to seek help. Even if a student is unsure whether or not his or her experience fits into the legal definition of rape or sexual assault, it is very important to get medical attention immediately at the U.Va. Emergency Room. There, specially trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners will contact SARA, which will send a companion to provide emotional support if desired. Alternatively, survivors may contact SARA themselves. It is not the University’s policy to call a student’s parents, unless the student is a legal minor or it is the express wish of the student that they be contacted.
A student’s courses of action may include any or all of the following:

- **Criminal prosecution:** to file charges, contact the police by calling 911.
- **Civil suit for damages:** to file a lawsuit, you must hire a private attorney. Student Legal Services (977-1670) or the U.Va. Women’s Center (982-2361) can refer you to an attorney.
- **Third-party anonymous report to the police:** file by calling 982-2774, or SARA, or via the Web: [http://womenscenter.virginia.edu/sdvs/assault/report.htm](http://womenscenter.virginia.edu/sdvs/assault/report.htm).
- **Redress through the University’s administrative processes:** contact the Office of the Dean of Students (924-7427).

The University’s Director of Sexual and Domestic Violence Services within the U.Va. Women’s Center (982-2774) provides information and guidance regarding these options, assists in making decisions about what course of action to take is best, and refers students to University and community counseling resources. The Sexual and Domestic Violence Services Web site ([http://www.womenscenter.virginia.edu/sdvs/](http://www.womenscenter.virginia.edu/sdvs/)) contains valuable information and lists resources as well.

**Domestic/Dating Violence** The University of Virginia is a community of trust, in which students, faculty, and staff must be able to study, teach, and work without any fear of violence, threats, harassment, or other unwanted abuses of power and control. The University considers domestic/dating violence a crime in all its forms. Domestic violence is prohibited by state law as well as by the University’s Standards of Conduct.

The generally accepted definition of domestic violence is: A pattern of physically, sexually, and/or emotionally abusive behaviors used by one individual to maintain power over or control a partner in the context of an intimate or family relationship.

Dating/domestic violence includes a wide range of behaviors, including emotional, physical, economic, and sexual abuse. Intimate partners may be in a dating relationship, cohabiting, married, separated or divorced. Both heterosexual and same-sex couples can become violent.

The University strongly urges students who are in abusive relationships, or who are being stalked (see section on Stalking), to seek assistance from the Shelter for Help in Emergency’s 24-hour hotline (293-8509), a community agency that provides counseling, emergency shelter, and other services to the University and Charlottesville communities. The Director of Sexual and Domestic Violence Services within the U.Va. Women’s Center assists students in abusive relationships, and will help them connect with community resources, and provide assistance with obtaining protective orders, among other services. The Sexual and Domestic Violence Services Web site ([http://www.womenscenter.virginia.edu/sdvs/](http://www.womenscenter.virginia.edu/sdvs/)) contains valuable information and lists resources as well.

A student may obtain an Emergency Protective Order from the magistrate on his/her own or with the assistance of the police. Preliminary and Permanent Protective Orders must be obtained by applying through the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court or General District Court. The Commonwealth of Virginia requires police officers to arrest the individual that they determine to be the aggressor when they are called to the scene of a domestic dispute. This removes the burden from the victim to make a citizen’s arrest. If an arrest is made, the Victim Witness Assistance Office may offer guidance through the court process. At the University, cases of dating or domestic violence that do not include sexual assault (in any form) are heard by the University Judiciary Committee, if the victim chooses this avenue of recourse.

**Stalking** The University of Virginia is a community of trust, in which students, faculty, and staff must be able to study, teach, and work without any fear of violence, threats, or other unwanted abuses and harassment. Stalking is prohibited by state law as well.
as by the University’s Standards of Conduct. Stalking is defined as behavior in which an individual willfully, and repeatedly, engages in a knowing course of harassing conduct directed at a specific person which reasonably and seriously alarms, torments, or terrorizes the person.

Many of these behaviors may appear benign on the surface but can be perceived by the victim as malicious or frightening. Stalking can include a range of behaviors such as breaking into personal e-mail accounts, monitoring the victim’s every move, stealing mail, breaking into a residence to alter or steal items, leaving telephone threats, repeated calling, hang ups, and much more. A stalker may be a former partner, a classmate, a vague acquaintance, or a total stranger.

Like dating violence, stalking is adjudicated by the University Judiciary Committee. Depending on the specific circumstances, a stalker can violate more than one Standard of Conduct and be brought up on charges accordingly. In order to be considered a criminal act (for lodging a complaint with the police), the victim must feel threatened or in fear of his or her personal safety. Stalking is against the law in Virginia, starting as a misdemeanor and escalating to felony status by the third offense (if the survivor already has a protective order against the stalker, felony status is automatic). The U.Va. Police Department (924-7166) or the Director of Sexual and Domestic Violence Services within the U.Va. Women’s Center (982-2774) can discuss practical strategies for dealing with a stalker, as well as refer the victim to other resources. More information on stalking can be found at http://www.womenscenter.virginia.edu/sdvs/.

Statement of Students’ Rights and Responsibilities

The University of Virginia is a community of scholars in which the ideals of freedom of inquiry, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, and freedom of the individual are sustained. The University is committed to supporting the exercise of any right guaranteed to individuals by the Constitution and the Code of Virginia and to educating students relative to their responsibilities.

Students’ Rights The University of Virginia seeks to maintain an environment where students have the following rights:

Expression - Students can freely examine and exchange diverse ideas in an orderly manner inside and outside the classroom;

Association - Students can associate freely with other individuals, groups of individuals and organizations for purposes that do not infringe on the rights of others;

Freedom from Discrimination - Students can expect to participate fully in the University community without discrimination, as defined by federal and state law and University regulations;

Safe Environment - Students can function in their daily activities without unreasonable concerns for personal safety;

Discipline - Students can expect discipline to be implemented through established procedures containing all elements of due process for the adjudication of charges, and the opportunity for continued University involvement (as appropriate) until the resolution of the charges;

Privacy - Students are free of unreasonable intrusions into personal records and/or matters relevant to identity, living space, and well-being;

High Quality Resources - Students have access to high quality resources that support