

OLLI at SOU CODE OF CONDUCT  
For OLLI Members and Instructors  
Approved by OLLI Council on 7/15/13  
Updated by the OLLI Council on 2/20/17, and 9/24/19

Membership in the OLLI at SOU community entails respect for oneself and for all members of the campus community. OLLI members and instructors agree that every member of the campus community is to be respected as an individual committed to the pursuit of knowledge and self-understanding. To misuse or abuse that mutual respect is to threaten the entire academic enterprise.

The OLLI Code of Conduct derives from the University's Student Code of Conduct. The full University code of Conduct can be found at:

[https://inside.sou.edu/assets/policies/Code\\_of\\_Student\\_Conduct\\_091820.pdf](https://inside.sou.edu/assets/policies/Code_of_Student_Conduct_091820.pdf)

This OLLI Code of Conduct and all of the SOU's policies are designed to guide members and instructors by providing descriptions of problematic behaviors and the responses that can be expected should they occur.

Civility is the hallmark of this community. Hostility in any form has no place in open and honest learning. These ideals operate within the sphere of freedom: both freedom of expression and freedom from threats to safety, both physical and emotional.

Becoming a member of, or an instructor at, OLLI implies acceptance of the University's and OLLI's rules and policies, and compliance with them. These rules and policies have been crafted to balance freedom and responsibility, and to provide standards for the orderly operation of this educational community.

The following principles are expected from all OLLI members and instructors:

- Mutual Respect
- Personal and Academic Integrity
- Civil Discourse
- Responsible Decision Making

Common sense rules of Civil Discourse should be observed. These include tolerance and respect for diverse opinions. Instructors should not engage in, nor allow members to engage in, dismissive, hostile or derogatory comments about other viewpoints and speakers.

The following processes should be followed if behavior is exhibited that is disruptive or hostile during an OLLI class:

*Individual Class Member Response to Class Member or Instructor Behavior:*

An OLLI member should contact the OLLI Assistant Director if he or she believes a member's or an instructor's behavior is violating the Code of Conduct. The Assistant Director will address the problem and may refer the case to the Council for adjudication.

*Instructor Response to Class Member Behavior:*

If an instructor is not comfortable with performing any of the following actions, he/she should contact the Assistant Director for assistance.

- The first time the unacceptable behavior occurs, the instructor privately tells the member that the behavior interfered with others' enjoyment of the class and is not acceptable.
- If the unacceptable behavior occurs again, the instructor respectfully informs the person publicly in class that the behavior is not acceptable and asks the member to refrain from the behavior.
- If the member does not modify his/her behavior during that class or exhibits unacceptable behavior at another class, the instructor contacts OLLI's Assistant Director, who will try to resolve the situation with the member.
- If following the discussion with the Assistant Director, the member decides not to return to class, the Assistant Director informs the instructor that the member has dropped the class.
- If the member wants to continue with the class, the member must agree that the unacceptable behavior will not continue.
- If the behavior continues, the instructor decides whether the member can continue in the class.

The Assistant Director will address any unresolved problem and may refer the case to the Council for adjudication.