

# Complaint/Appeal Process – Plainview Campus

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In general, students who have made a reasonable attempt to resolve a problem with the persons directly involved and wish to review or file a complaint regarding the action of an individual, an academic department, or an administrative unit of the university should direct their questions to the person responsible for supervision of the individual, department or unit. Students who wish to resolve a grievance should follow the university's [Student Grievance Policies and Procedures for Plainview Campus Students](#) (below).

If an issue cannot be resolved internally, a student may file a complaint with the [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#). For accreditation issues, a student may file a complaint with the university's accrediting agency.

Wayland Baptist University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award degrees at the associate, baccalaureate, and master's levels. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4500 in order to (1) learn about the accreditation status of the institution, (2) file a third party comment at the time of the institution's decennial review, or (3) file a complaint against the institution for alleged non-compliance with a standard or requirement. Normal inquiries about the institution, such as admission requirements, financial aid, educational programs, etc., should be addressed directly to the institution and not to the Commission's office. See the [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges](#) website to file a complaint with SACSCOC.

## Student Grievance Policies and Procedures for Plainview Campus Students

**Academic Dishonesty Appeal** – Any student who has been penalized for academic dishonesty has the right to appeal the judgment or the penalty assessed. The appeals procedure will be the same as that specified for student grade appeals (below).

**Disciplinary Action Appeal** – Students found responsible for violating the Student Conduct policy may appeal the decision or sanctions in writing by completing the Student Conduct Appeal Form within five business days of delivery of the Student Conduct Ruling.

**Discrimination** – Wayland Baptist University adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of age, color, race, gender, national or ethnic origin, or disability. Students who feel they have been discriminated against by an individual, academic department or administrative unit of the university are encouraged to attempt to resolve the problem with the individual, department, or unit or the person directly responsible for that individual, department, or unit prior to the filing of a formal complaint. Grievances which cannot be resolved informally should be addressed in accordance with the [General Procedures for Plainview Campus Students](#) outlined below.

**Financial Aid Probation/Suspension Appeal** – Students sometimes experience circumstances beyond their control, which adversely affect academic progress. Students subject to Financial Aid Suspension may appeal to the Executive Director of Financial Aid in writing for a review of the decision. Each appeal will be reviewed and acted upon by the SAP Review Committee. To allow the committee adequate time to evaluate the circumstances, appeals by students attending the Plainview campus must be made at least two weeks prior to the term for which aid is requested. For students attending a campus other than Plainview, appeals must be submitted as quickly as possible but no later than the second week of the term for which they are taking classes. Decisions on appeals submitted after the deadline may be delayed until the following term. The decision of the SAP Review Committee is final. A maximum of two suspension appeals will be allowed (includes undergraduate and graduate).

Circumstances that may justify an appeal include: death in the family, illness of the student, and other

situations which create undue hardship for the student. Appeals should state actions that have been taken to ensure satisfactory performance in subsequent enrollments. The [SAP Appeal Form and Academic Recovery Plan](#) are available online, or at the student's campus of attendance. Students must attach documentation of their circumstance(s) to the appeal when submitted for review. SAP Appeals without supporting documentation will not be considered.

**Grade Appeal** – The student should first present, in writing, the grade appeal to the instructor of the course. This must be done within thirty calendar days after the beginning of the next regular semester. If agreement is reached, the faculty member will either sustain the judgment made or make a change according to the agreement reached within two weeks.

If the student feels the matter is not satisfactorily resolved at the student-faculty level, the student should submit the grade appeal to the dean of the school in which the course is taught. The appeal must be made in writing within two weeks after the faculty member has acted on the grade appeal; otherwise, the grade appeal shall be considered withdrawn. The dean's decision will be communicated in writing to the student and the faculty member within two weeks after the receipt of the grievance. If the grievance is not further appealed, it will be considered resolved.

If the student or the faculty member is not satisfied, he/she may request the vice president of academic affairs to refer the appeal to the university Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee. This request must be made in writing, must include the basis for the appeal, and must be submitted within two weeks following receipt of the decision of the dean of the school.

The student or faculty member may appeal the findings of the committee in writing to the vice president of academic affairs within one week after receiving the committee's report. The vice president of academic affairs will render a decision within two weeks and copies of such decision will be sent to the student, the faculty member, and the dean of the school involved. This decision shall be final in all cases of grade appeals.

Failure to submit grade appeals within the required time period will negate the student's complaint. No grade appeal will be considered after one full term has passed after the student has received the grade in question.

**Graduate Admission Decision Appeal** – An applicant may appeal an admission decision to the Graduate Council. The appeal should be routed through the vice president of academic affairs and graduate studies.

**Records** - The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. They are as follows:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the university receives a request for access.

Students should submit to the registrar, dean of students, school dean, or other appropriate official written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The university official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the university official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Students may ask the university to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the university official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or

misleading. If the university decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the university will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the university in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the university has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Wayland Baptist University to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202-5920.

**Sexual Misconduct** – See [Wayland's Title IX Information website](#) for information.

## General Procedures for Plainview Campus Students

If the student has made a reasonable attempt to resolve the problem with the persons directly involved, any student grievance not covered by a policy identified above should be addressed in the following manner:

Step 1 - A written complaint should be made to the immediate supervisor of the person against whom the complaint is made. If no resolution has been reached or the student has not received a satisfactory response from the supervisor within 10 working days of the date of the appeal, the student should proceed to Step 2.

Step 2 - The student should file a formal written complaint with the senior administrator having jurisdiction over the area in question.

Step 3 - The senior administrator will assign a committee of university faculty and staff to rule on the grievance. The administrator may assign a special committee or a standing university committee to rule on the grievance. The committee will present a ruling on the grievance within 30 calendar days of receipt of complaint by the administrator. The administrator will inform the plaintiff and area supervisor of the committee's decision.

Step 4 - The plaintiff may appeal the decision of the grievance committee to the president or the president's designee(s). Such appeals must be presented to the president in writing within 10 working days of the initial ruling. A ruling on the appeal will be made within 15 calendar days of the filing of the appeal. Rulings made at this level are final.