

September 10, 2025

Demonstrating Integrity

As we learn more about the reaffirmation of accreditation each week in *The Road to State's Reaffirmation 2025*, we will examine how select elements of West Virginia State University campus life and culture interact with the Assurance Argument. This week's topic will focus on integrity. Therefore, let us briefly review just a few of the ways in which West Virginia State University demonstrates integrity and ethical and responsible conduct.

Actions taken by the institution's governing board, administration, faculty and staff demonstrate adherence to established policies and procedures. To meet this core component, West Virginia State University (WVSU) operates under a framework of legislative processes and administrative systems that facilitate involvement and consultation with the University community in creating institutional policies and procedures related to shared governance. The University's governing body, administration, faculty, and staff uphold the concept of shared governance, which fosters collaboration, transparency, and accountability through honest communication and respect. Faculty, staff, and student representatives participate on the Board of Governors. Additionally, student representatives may serve on several Faculty Senate Committees in an ex-officio capacity alongside elected or appointed faculty and administrators. University policies and procedures are documented across various resources, including handbooks and official websites. This structure ensures the involvement of both internal and external University stakeholders in policy and procedure development.

All employees of the University are expected to comply with university rules and policies at all times. Active University policies and Board of Governor policies are available online for transparency and easy accessibility. Additionally, as WVSU is also bound to West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission policies, those are also linked in an easily accessible area of the website. The University rules and policies include policies on travel, discrimination, harassment, Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action, Ethics, and nepotism and fraternization.

WVSU's policies and practices ensure that the University acts responsibly,

ethically, and with integrity in its financial, academic, personnel, and auxiliary functions. Fair and ethical policies are in place regarding the conduct and treatment of its governing board, administration, faculty, staff, and students.

WVSU presents itself clearly to students and the public. Its governing board is autonomous and acts in the best interest of the institution. WVSU faculty members' academic freedom is protected, and procedures are in place to ensure that all WVSU students, faculty, and staff conduct academic research and scholarship responsibly and with integrity.

For more information about *The Road to State's Reaffirmation 2025*, please click <u>here</u> to discover in-depth information about the process and more!

For questions or comments regarding the University's reaffirmation of accreditation process, please send all inquiries and information to academicaffairs@wvstateu.edu or call (304) 766-3189.

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