



MINERVA®
UNIVERSITY

14 Mint Plaza, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94103, USA

www.minerva.edu

Undergraduate Student Handbook

Academic Year 2025-26

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Notice to Students

Minerva University (hereafter referred to as Minerva) reserves the right to make changes to policies, rules and regulations related to academic, financial, and other related matters affecting students at any time. These changes may involve such matters as tuition and fees, courses, degrees and programs offered, degree and other academic requirements, academic policies, rules pertaining to student conduct and discipline, fields or areas of concentration, and other rules and regulations applicable to students. Notification of any significant policy change is made to the student body via the Community Portal. Revisions are also made in the most current version of the [Student Handbook available in myMinerva](#). Please direct questions about the information in this Student Handbook to studentlife@minerva.edu.

1. Introduction

1.1. Mission and Values

1.1.1. Our Mission

Minerva University strives *To develop problem-solvers, entrepreneurs and wise leaders from around the globe; and to weave them together as one community to address the greatest challenges facing humanity.* The Minerva educational journey has been designed to enhance student learning outcomes providing an environment of deep intellectual learning paired with a breadth of experiences to develop our students holistically.

The undergraduate education is interdisciplinary and multidimensional. It develops students' intellects across disciplines, imparts critical life skills, builds professional capabilities, and reinforces key aspects of personal character. We strive to put students on a strong trajectory that continues to accelerate after graduation. Our greatest satisfaction is seeing and celebrating the accomplishments of our graduates.

1.1.2. Our Guiding Principles: Achieving Extraordinary

These principles work with one another, adding a dimension to our work and decision making, and when all the principles work together the results are extraordinary.

Being Unconventional
Being Thoughtful
Being Confident
Being Human
Being Selective
Being Authentic
Being Driven

1.1.3. Our Integrated Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Minerva seeks to provide a living and learning environment that promotes personal growth and development, fosters students' self-sufficiency, values wellness, builds community and responsibility, and prepares students for their next steps after graduation. Minerva has adopted five related learning outcomes in which students are expected to develop over time. They represent the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that students will develop through the synthesis of academic and non-academic learning experiences.

We believe that learning experiences at Minerva should be holistic and cohesive so that learning in class is connected to and reinforced by learning out of class, and vice versa. Therefore the outcomes expressed here are also reflected in Habits of Mind and Foundational Concepts that are introduced and applied in the first year and throughout students' four years of study and experiences.

The five ILOs are:

Self-Management and Wellness: Students practice self-sufficiency and effective help-seeking, and develop skills for self-efficacy, resilience, stress management, and the capacity to balance self-care with responsibilities.

Interpersonal Engagement: Students practice self-awareness and emotional intelligence to interact and communicate effectively with groups and individuals, and to contribute to others around them in positive ways.

Intercultural Competency: Students demonstrate a complex and nuanced understanding of themselves and others as cultural beings and work continuously towards recognizing new perspectives regarding their own and other cultural norms, biases, and world views. Students exhibit the ability to adapt to new environments and become acquainted quickly with the cultural norms of their surroundings. Students build a global network of cross-cultural relationships through interacting effectively with diverse communities, organizations and people.

Professional Development: Students develop the mindsets, behaviors, and competencies needed to create and pursue meaningful lives and careers. Students understand their values, strengths, motivators and interests and how those map to different professional opportunities. Students take responsibility for developing short- and long-term goals for professional learning and development and authentically engaging their networks in pursuit of their chosen professional pursuits.

Civic Responsibility: Students take initiative to make a positive difference in the communities in which they live, work and encounter. Students learn about local and global challenges, recognizing the potential impact that they have in various settings. Students develop a sense of responsibility to improve the lives of others through being informed and active participants in society.

A more detailed description of each ILO, showing connections to the foundational learning outcomes that are embedded in the first-year curriculum is provided in [myMinerva](#).

1.2. Our History

1.2.1. A Brief History of Minerva

Minerva's founder Ben Nelson first conceived of what eventually became Minerva University in 1993 as a plan to reinvent the Ivy League university model to better prepare graduates for the twenty-first century. Today's great American universities were founded on the notion of liberal arts education, the idea that a university education meant that its graduates were well prepared to lead the important institutions in society by knowing how to think critically and creatively, while also being well versed in a variety of subjects and possessing deep knowledge in an area of their choosing. Minerva University's faculty and staff believe passionately that we must live up to the original intent of the university model by offering a purposeful education for our students and adopting curricular and pedagogical structures and practices that help students to learn and to retain and apply what they learn.

In 2012, Nelson established Minerva Project and partnered with Benchmark Capital to create a new university experience based on these venerable ideals in a modern, global context. Minerva (named after the Roman goddess of wisdom) was announced publicly in April 2012. In 2013, the Minerva Project formed an alliance with Keck Graduate Institute (KGI) to incubate the Minerva Schools, which was in effect until Minerva University was granted its own accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges/Senior College and University Commission in June 2021. Minerva University, then called Minerva Schools at KGI, launched in fall 2014 with 29 students in its Founding Class. More than one hundred students enrolled in fall 2015 as the Inaugural Class. These two groups of talented and pioneering students joined together to become the first graduating class in May 2019. In 2016, Minerva offered its first graduate program, the Masters of Science in Decision Analysis (MDA). The sixth class of MDAs graduated in May 2025. In fall 2025, Minerva will enroll its twelfth first-year undergraduate class, its ninth graduate class, have a total enrollment of ~650 students, and ~50 faculty members and ~75 staff members located all over the world. As of May 2025, Minerva has around 1000 alumni.

1.3 Accreditation

On June 25, 2021, the Western Association of Schools and College Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) granted accreditation to Minerva Institute, operating as Minerva University, for a period of six years. For information on accreditation, contact Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC or WSCUC), 1001 Marina Village Parkway, Suite 402, Alameda, CA 94501, (510) 748-9001, <https://www.wscuc.org>. Minerva University is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit institution that is registered in the District of Columbia.

1.4. Academic Calendar

Minerva operates on the semester system, with two 15-week semesters in one academic year. MDA students operate on a separate calendar and should review the Graduate Student Handbook. Manifest

for graduating undergraduate students in the class of M26 occurs in May 2026. The following is the academic calendar for 2025-2026. Note that some events are specific to the year of study and/or city in the global rotation. All students should refer to Student Life city calendars for additional rotation calendar information.

Important Dates	2025-2026 Academic Year
Fall 2025	
San Francisco Move-In	Aug 24 – Aug 26, 2025 starting at 9am
San Francisco Foundation Week	Aug 27 – Sept 6, 2025
Fall Upper-division Move-In (Taipei / Buenos Aires)	Sept 1 – Sept 4, 2025
Fall Upper Division Elevation (MANDATORY ALL CITIES)	Sept 5 – Sept 7, 2025
First Day of Fall Semester	Sept 8, 2025
Fall Course Adjustment Period	Aug 11 – Sept 5, 2025
Fall Break	Oct 13 – Oct 14, 2025
Fall Course Drop Deadline	October 3, 2025
Friendsgiving Feast	Third or fourth week of November, to be determined
Friendsgiving Break	Nov 24 – Nov 28, 2025
Fall Course Withdrawal Deadline	Nov 28, 2025
Last Day of Fall Classes	Dec 11, 2025
Last Day of Fall Semester – Incomplete Petition Deadline	Dec 19, 2025
Fall Move-Out Period (Upper division)	Dec 20 – Dec 31, 2025
Winter Break	Dec 20, 2025 – Jan 8, 2026
Last Day of Fall Move-Out (Upper division)	Dec 31, 2025 by specific time of day set for each city
Spring 2026	
First Day of Spring Move-In	Jan 1, 2026 (through Jan 8, 2026) starting at 3pm

Spring Elevation (MANDATORY ALL CITIES)	Jan 9 – Jan 11, 2026
First Day of Spring Semester	Jan 12, 2026
Spring Course Adjustment Period	Dec 16, 2025 – Jan 9, 2026
Spring Break	Feb 16 – Feb 17, 2026
Spring Course Drop Deadline	Feb 6, 2026
Quinquatria Feast	Mid-March, dates to be determined and may vary by city
Quinquatria Break	Mar 23 – Mar 27, 2026
Spring Course Withdrawal Deadline	April 3, 2026
Last Day of Spring Classes	Apr 16, 2026
Last Day of Spring Semester – Incomplete Petition Deadline	Apr 24, 2026
Continuum	End of semester, dates to be determined and may vary by city
San Francisco Spring Move-Out Period	April 25 – April 26, 2026
Last Day of San Francisco Move-Out	April 26, 2026 by 9am
Spring Move-Out Period	April 25-30, 2026 (ending at 9am)
Last Day of Spring Move-Out	April 30, 2026 (ending at 9am)
Manifest (for graduating seniors)	
Manifest Move-In	April 29 - May 3, 2026
First day of Manifest	May 4, 2026
Last day of Manifest	May 25, 2026
Graduation	May 26, 2026
Manifest Move-Out	May 28, 2026 by Noon

Summer Session 2025	
Start date	May 4, 2026
End date	Aug 21, 2026

1.5 Brand and Logo

At Minerva University, we take pride in our brand identity and the values it represents. To maintain consistency and integrity, it is essential that all students adhere to the guidelines outlined for the use of Minerva branding, including our logo and proprietary names. When representing Minerva in any capacity, whether in academic projects, extracurricular activities, or personal endeavors, students are expected to use our branding materials responsibly and after they have consulted with the Brand & Marketing team. This includes obtaining proper authorization for the use of Minerva logos and proprietary names, ensuring accurate representation, and refraining from any alterations or misuse that could compromise the integrity of our brand. For questions related to using the Minerva logo, brand, or representation of the University, please reach out to [the Director of Marketing](#).

2. Student Finance Information

2.1. Tuition and Fees, 2025-2026

Students are responsible for all costs associated with their attendance at Minerva. Students are required to be in the city assigned to their class and to live in Minerva student housing. Students may petition to have one or both of these requirements waived for a particular semester because of special circumstances.

2.1.1. Estimated Annual Costs

Tuition and Fees (Class of 2029)		
Tuition & Program Fee For costs of admissions and all instruction, including integrated/global learning and Coaching & Talent Development.	annual	\$24,500
Residential Services Fee For costs related to city-based residential life including rent, taxes, liability insurance, non-US visa assistance, enhanced internet connectivity, common spaces and furniture, personnel costs for rotation provision including Student Life and CAPS; and all other costs related to city programming, including experiential city immersion,	annual	\$17,400

community programming and spaces, and civic engagement.		
Student Services Fee For administrative services including Bursar, Student Services, and Registrar	annual	\$2,300
Subtotal (1st year students)	1st year, for two semesters	\$44,200

Tuition and Fees (Class of 2028)		
Tuition & Program Fee For costs of admissions and all instruction, including integrated/global learning and Coaching & Talent Development.	annual	\$22,750
Residential Services Fee For costs related to city-based residential life including rent, taxes, liability insurance, non-US visa assistance, enhanced internet connectivity, common spaces and furniture, personnel costs for rotation provision including Student Life and CAPS; and all other costs related to city programming, including experiential city immersion, community programming and spaces, and civic engagement.	annual	\$16,550
Student Services Fee For administrative services including Bursar, Student Services, and Registrar	annual	\$2,100
Subtotal (2nd year students)	1st year, for two semesters	\$41,400

Tuition and Fees (Class of 2027)		
Tuition & Program Fee For costs of admissions and all instruction, including integrated/global learning and Coaching & Talent Development.	annual	\$22,750
Residential Services Fee For costs related to city-based residential life including rent, taxes, liability insurance, non-US visa assistance, enhanced internet connectivity, common spaces and furniture, personnel costs for rotation provision including	annual	\$16,550

Student Life and CAPS; and all other costs related to city programming, including experiential city immersion, community programming and spaces, and civic engagement.		
Subtotal (3rd year students)	2nd and 3rd year, for two semesters	\$39,300
Tuition and Fees (Class of 2026)		
Tuition & Program Fee For costs of admissions and all instruction, including integrated/global learning and Coaching & Talent Development.	annual	\$20,600
Residential Services Fee For costs related to city-based residential life including rent, taxes, liability insurance, non-US visa assistance, enhanced internet connectivity, common spaces and furniture, personnel costs for rotation provision including Student Life and CAPS; and all other costs related to city programming, including experiential city immersion, community programming and spaces, and civic engagement, including Manifest final term.	annual	\$14,400
Subtotal (4th year)	Graduating 4th-year, for two semesters plus Manifest:	\$35,000
Other Expenses*		
Estimated Food, Local Transportation, Books and Supplies**	annually	\$5,000
Health Insurance***	To be determined	
Total Estimated Cost including food, local transportation and supplies, but excluding visas, insurance, travel expenses to and from locations	1st-Year Students including refundable Security Deposit	\$49,800
	2nd-Year Students	\$46,400

	3rd-Year Students	\$44,300
	4th-Year Students including Manifest	\$40,000

- * These costs are variable by student and are paid directly by students to other parties, not to Minerva, e.g., travel to and from global cities.
- ** Many learning materials are provided free of charge.
- *** Students in a Minerva city are required to carry and pay for health insurance. These prices are for policies that Minerva has arranged at cost. Insurance is also available for students in summer. Costs for summer 2025-2026 are \$192/month (May 1, 2025 - August 26, 2025) in San Francisco and \$176/month in other locations.

2.1.2. Manifest Costs

Manifest is the final term for fourth-year graduating students, held during the month of May. Students are in San Francisco for Manifest, present their Capstone projects, participate in final assessment activities, and participate in graduation and commencement exercises. Participation in Manifest is required for graduation. (See [The Minerva Capstone and Manifest](#) or more information.)

2.1.3. Security Deposit

At the start of their time at Minerva, all students are required to submit a one-time security deposit of \$1,000. The security deposit charge appears on a student's first fall term bill. If Minerva makes charges against the security deposit for reasons detailed below, then the student must replenish the deposit in order to start each school year with a \$1,000 security deposit balance. The security deposit is retained each year and rolled over to the next academic year until a student graduates or withdraws from the school, at which point the balance is returned.

Minerva can make use of the security deposit to cover damages a student might cause to a residence hall, property contained therein, or cleaning costs. Such charges are assessed by Minerva after the end of each academic semester. The security deposit can also be used to pay open invoices and any other expenses incurred on behalf of the student by Minerva. If a student is delinquent on servicing the Minerva-guaranteed student loan, Minerva may choose to use the security deposit to pay down the loan balance. A student is informed about any charges made against the security deposit and has the opportunity to object and request a review. Usage of the security deposit, if needed, generally occurs at the time of graduation to cover any outstanding fees. In rare exceptions, if the security deposit is used prior to graduation, it must be replenished within one month of usage.

2.1.4. Part-time Study and Extension of the Four-Year Program

Students pay eight semesters of full-time tuition, which covers 120 attempted semester credits. Any student who opts to take a reduced course load will be charged at the full-time rate for the first eight semesters, or equivalent number of semesters to complete 120 credits.

Housing for Minerva students is only guaranteed for a total of eight semesters and only in the student's assigned rotation city. Students who need to take courses beyond eight semesters are not eligible for Minerva housing.

2.1.5. Exceeding 120 Credit Hours

Students who take more than 120 attempted semester credits within the eight semesters referenced above are not eligible for financial aid towards tuition for the excess credits even if they are taking a full-time load.

Students who take any credits beyond the 120 attempted semester credits will be charged tuition at a prorated per-credit rate equivalent to the tuition rate paid by their cohort. Questions should be directed to the Bursar's Office.

Attempted credits include all courses with non-passing grades, or "W" (withdrawals) and "AW" (administrative withdrawal). Credit hours for research/internship credit (EL199), transfer credit, and prior learning assessment credit (EL190) are not considered as "attempted" credits and will not be counted toward the 120 maximum credit hours excess tuition charge.

Students on an F-1 visa should consult with a Designated School Official to discuss their visa status for enrollment beyond 120 semester credits.

2.1.6. Summary of Exceptional Program Fees and Credits

Tuition and Fees		
Security Deposit Funds are held and returned at departure from Minerva. Students must start each year with a full security deposit. *see section 2.1.3 for applicable fees that may be credited against the security deposit	First Year Only	\$1,000
Student Services Administrative Fee For administrative costs associated with deviating from the assigned global rotation.	per semester	\$500
Independent Housing Credit Students who live in a Minerva city but not in Minerva housing receive a partial credit towards their Residential Services Fee, equivalent to that allocated by the institution to the cost of housing in the city. The residual is for costs of staffing and services provided to all students in the city. See relevant cohort entry in Section 2.1.1 for a further	per semester	M29: \$4,350 M28: \$3,938 M27: \$3,938 M26: \$3,412

explanation, and Section 2.2.1.2 for full Independent Housing information		
Tuition Rate For attempted courses above 120 total credits	per semester credit	\$625
Late Payment Fee	per late payment	1.5% of amount due, but at least \$50

2.1.7. Withdrawal and Refund Schedule

If a student withdraws from Minerva University, tuition is refunded on the following schedule.

Date of Withdrawal	Refund Percentage
Prior to August 15, 2025 for the Incoming Class*	95% of Fall fees*
Prior to the first day of class	Full refund less 5% of Fall Fees*
Up through 60% of calendar days in semester	Pro rata refund less 5% of Fall Fees*
Beyond 60% of calendar days in semester	No refund

*Foundation Week expenses are non-refundable. The student may receive up to 50% of credit towards Foundation Week should they return Fall 2026.

Please note that fees are non-refundable except for the security deposit. Students' security deposit is refunded upon graduation or withdrawal/dismissal after deductions for the costs of repair for any damages and excess cleaning to housing, other charges incurred for a student by Minerva, and all open invoices are paid. The date of withdrawal is defined as the date that Minerva receives a statement of withdrawal in writing from the student. Refunds are calculated on a weekly basis. Reductions of student loans are returned directly to the lenders of the funds.

Students on financial aid who withdraw from the program will only receive a refund of funds paid if the Expected Family Contribution amount is higher than the total remaining program costs.

2.1.8. Leave of Absence and Student Finances

Students taking a leave of absence after having signed the Enrollment and Housing Commitment in March for the following school year may be responsible for paying the Residential Services fee for that academic year per the withdrawal and refund schedule in section 2.1.7. Any late fees owed must also be paid. If a deferral (for first-year students) or a leave of absence (for an advanced student) is approved prior to the first day of classes, tuition will not be charged. Please see the Withdrawal and Refund Schedule above for

further information regarding tuition refunds after this time. Student security deposits will be held until the student graduates or formally and permanently withdraws.

2.2. Global Rotation

Minerva University's undergraduate program includes a mandatory residential component. First-year students are required to be in residence in the Minerva residence hall in San Francisco. Living in residence in the Minerva residence hall in Tokyo during the second year is strongly recommended; note that any request to live in Independent Housing during the second year must be petitioned for, and will be reviewed closely by PRPC. We urge all advanced students to participate in the full global rotation. Students who do not participate in full global rotation will have an annotation on their transcript indicating *remote* learning for the relevant semester(s). Living, studying and immersing yourself in each of the cities in the global rotation is an invaluable part of the Minerva learning experience. Students' academic work is integrated with the experience on the ground in the cities and exceptions to the residential component are only by petition for special circumstances.

2.2.1 Housing and Residential Services Fees

Minerva University must budget and sign contracts committing to pay for housing well in advance of the time when students arrive in each city, therefore we require that students commit to enroll at Minerva and to their housing by March 31 for the next academic year. If you commit to Minerva housing in a rotation city during the Enrollment and Housing Commitment process, you will have to pay for that housing whether or not you move into and live in that housing. Upon making your choice and signing this document, you are committing to pay for the designated housing and all tuition and fees for the next academic year. Residential Services Fees are nonrefundable. Tuition is refundable on the schedule published in [Section 2.1.7](#) in this handbook.

If a student opts out of residential services at a rotation city location and later changes their mind, it is unlikely that there will be space in Minerva housing. Advanced students who request to live in a Minerva city other than their scheduled on-rotation city before the March 31 housing commitment deadline must petition to do so, generally by March 15 for special review. Such students are not guaranteed Minerva housing if they later change their mind and will be offered a bed in Minerva housing only if there is availability.

Students who intend to be in a Minerva city but are demonstrably unable to obtain a visa or to travel to the city because of visa problems, travel restrictions, or flight limitations, through no fault of their own, will not be required to pay the Residential Services Fee. The associated refund that exceeds any financial aid received will be returned to the student.

Students who commit to housing and then petition to move to another Minerva rotation city instead might be responsible for paying for their housing costs in both the scheduled rotation city under the signed residential agreement, and for the housing and residential fees in their new chosen city.

If a student's move to another city is not voluntary (e.g., if a visa for a Minerva city is denied through no fault of the student), the student will be allowed to opt out of housing in that city and will be provided Minerva housing, if available, in another Minerva city.

Students living in Minerva housing will be responsible for paying the full Residential Services Fee. Students living in Independent Housing will receive a partial credit of the Residential Services Fee (accounted as the equivalent Minerva-established cost of their place in the Minerva residence hall) and thus pay lower residential fees than those charged to students in residence. These remaining fees cover the costs of supporting all students in the city, including all local Student Life staffing, city immersion, community and co-curricular/civic engagement events, 24/7 emergency support, and CAPS services. See Section 2.2.1.2.

Students who are granted permission to opt out of participation in the city rotation and study remotely may not live in an active Minerva city. Students who do not live in Minerva housing, but do live in an active rotation city, are considered students in Independent Housing. Students who are granted permission to opt out of the participation in the city rotation and study remotely may visit a Minerva city, once, and attend student experience events for up to three consecutive weeks. Remote students who exceed this three-week period will be charged a fee equal or greater to the Independent Housing charge.

2.2.1.1 Residential Students

Students who are assigned and live in Minerva housing are considered residential students. Residential students are required to have city experiences and classroom presence. To ensure compliance with federal regulations for F-1 visas, all international/F-1 students must be in residential status. All residential students are required to establish in-person contact with a member of the Student Life City Team within one business day of their arrival in the rotation city and live together in Minerva housing (unless approved for independent housing) and are required to physically attend and complete integral portions of the program, including city experiences, LBAs, and group assignments with faculty and staff. Students who are absent from the city for extended periods of time may lose their residential status at Minerva - see section 3.10 for more details.

2.2.1.2 Independent Housing Status

Students who live in a Minerva city but not in Minerva housing are considered in Independent Housing. Students in Independent Housing status are considered to be participating in the residential program, are required to participate in city based programs, and are considered guests in the residence halls. To be considered an Independent Housing student, students must petition to and be approved by the Petition Review and Policy Committee (PRPC) or be placed in that status by the PRPC. Students in Independent housing are required to establish in-person contact with a member of the Student Life City Team within one business day of their arrival in the rotation city and physically attend and complete integral portions of the program, including city experiences, LBAs, and group assignments with faculty and staff. Students who are absent from the city for extended periods of time may lose their residential status at Minerva - see section 3.10 for more details. Independent Housing students are not permitted to reside in the same building utilized as the Minerva residence hall, even if under an external lease, as residing in the same building Minerva operates as a residence hall constitutes in-residence living and such students will be charged the same fee schedule as Minerva housing students.

Students who choose to live in Independent Housing will receive a corresponding housing credit on their term bill for a portion of the Residential Life Service Fee. The Residential Life Service Fee covers

all Student Life programming and support provided by Student Life (on the ground and remotely), as well as CAPS programming and staff, and the cost of accommodation. As rotating students, students in Independent Housing will remain responsible for the cost of all programming and on-site services, but will receive the Independent Housing Credit as relief from the established accommodation fee portion of the RSF.

For students receiving financial aid beyond Tuition and Program Fees, the Independent Housing Credit will still be applied. However, any scholarship awarded will be reduced by the same amount as the credit. The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will remain unchanged for students whose EFC is lower than the combined Tuition and Program Fees, regardless of whether they reside in Minerva housing or independent housing.

2.2.1.3 Remote Status

Students who do not live in a Minerva Rotation city are considered “Remote.” Students in remote status are not considered residential students, and will have an annotation on their transcript indicating remote learning. Remote students are considered guests if they visit a Minerva city and are subject to all policies related to students visiting a Minerva city. To be considered a remote student, students must petition to and be approved by the Petition Review and Policy Committee (PRPC) or be placed in that status by the PRPC due to visa requirements or policy violations. Remote students are not permitted to live in an active Minerva city and are not eligible for Minerva work study; remote students may visit one rotation city per semester, for up to three weeks; visiting more than once per semester or for more than three consecutive weeks will result in a student being charged the fee schedule applied to Independent Housing students.

2.2.2 Study Outside Minerva Rotation Cities

Minerva University is legally obligated to know an address where each student resides during each semester of their studies. Residency information is required for all students, including:

- Undergraduate students who will not be in Minerva Housing or in Independent Housing in an active global rotation location
- Visiting Scholar Year students
- Masters in Decision Analysis students
- Certificate in Decision Analysis students

Among the reasons for needing current addresses are US State Authorization rules that require Minerva University to be approved by any state where a student is studying. All F-1 students must report their address to the DSO within 10 days of the change pursuant to 8 CFR 214.2(f)(17).

This residency information must be provided and updated each semester through your Location Verification module within [Prepare](#). You must submit this information by the posted deadline within your module, or your access to your classes may be disabled. If your location changes mid-semester, you must return to your module and update this information within seven days of your relocation.

2.2.2.1 More information about State Authorization

State authorization allows institutions to conduct certain educational activities outside their home state (for Minerva University, outside of California). Each state has unique authorization requirements, so Minerva University must review each state's laws and rules to ensure that the University is in compliance.

Currently, taking courses in the US outside of California is permissible in the following states:

Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming, West Virginia.

Remote instruction is NOT permissible in the following jurisdictions and states:

District of Columbia, Georgia, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Wisconsin

Minerva University is working on approval by the states not listed above. Other states will be added to the lists above as information on the state authorization status becomes available. In the meantime, for information on states not listed, please contact state-authorizations@minerva.edu

2.2.3. F-1 Visa Requirements Applicable to the Global Rotation

If you have an F-1 student visa and do not live in one of the currently active Minerva rotation cities, your F-1 student status will be affected in that you are no longer classified under federal regulations as a residential student and therefore not entitled by federal law to have an active F-1 status. This status also affects your eligibility to participate in Work Study, Curricular Practical Training (CPT) in the U.S. over the summer and in Optional Practical Training (OPT) when you graduate. Please note that these are legal mandates to which Minerva is bound and Minerva does not have discretion to grant exceptions to these mandates.

2.3. Payments

2.3.1. Payment Dates

Students are invoiced for Tuition and Fees according to the schedule below:

	Invoice Release Date	Invoice Due Date
Fall Semester	May 15 for the incoming class and May 1st for upperclassmen	July 1
Spring Semester	November 1	December 1

2.3.2. Payment Instructions

Minerva offers four payment options:

- Online transfer from a domestic (US) account
- Online transfer from an international (non-US) account
- Direct wire transfer
- US check

Payment instructions are also sent with each invoice.

While online transfers are often completed within 24-48 hours, direct wire transfers and check delivery can take up to 14 days. Please start your payment early to avoid late payment fees.

2.3.2.1. Payment by Online Transfer from a Domestic (US) Account

Online payments from domestic accounts are processed by Nelnet Campus Commerce. To start a payment with Nelnet, enter your invoice through a direct link, or through myMinerva if paying a term bill. Scroll to the “Amount Due Today” box and select “US Bank” from the “Transfer Type” drop-down menu. Click “Pay Now” to be directed to the Nelnet payment website. Follow the prompts to complete your payment.

You will be given the option to make your payment by “eCheck” (bank transfer) or Credit Card. The fees associated with the credit card transfer reflect the type of card used and are not set by Minerva. All fees are retained by Nelnet.

Once your payment has been completed, the status of your term bill should change from “Currently Due” to “Paid,” and the payment should appear in the ‘Payments/Credits’ section of the invoice as pending. This pending status will be removed once Nelnet has received the funds from your bank account.

In some cases, Nelnet takes several days to withdraw the funds from your bank account. If you are concerned about your payment, please contact Nelnet.

2.3.2.2. Payment by Online Transfer From an International (Non-US) Account

Online payments from non-US bank accounts are processed by Flywire. To start a payment with Flywire, enter your invoice through a direct link, or through myMinerva if paying a term bill. Scroll to the “Amount Due Today” box and select “Non-US Bank” from the “Transfer Type” drop-down menu. Click “Pay Now” to be directed to the Flywire payment website. Follow the prompts to complete your payment. You will then be prompted to select the country of payment origin and sign into your Flywire account.

Funds can be transferred electronically to Flywire, or deposited into a Flywire account through a transaction made at your bank.

Once your payment has been completed, the status of your term bill should change from “Currently Due” to “Paid,” and the payment should appear in the “Payments/Credits” section of the invoice as pending. This pending status will be removed once Flywire has received the funds from your bank account.

2.3.2.3. Payment by Direct Wire

If you would like to send your payment to Mineva by direct wire, please contact bursar@minerva.edu for full account details and instructions.

2.3.2.4. Payment by Check

Checks addressed to Minerva University can be sent to Minerva University, Office of the Bursar and mailed to 14 Mint Plaza 3rd Floor, San Francisco, 94103. Please be sure that all checks have the student’s name and ID number included so payment can be correctly applied to the invoice. If a payment is for multiple invoices, please specify which bills are being settled (e.g., Spring Term Bill or Fall Damages Charge).

2.3.3. Invoices

Minerva will make invoices available at least 30 days before their due dates to give students sufficient time to arrange payment.

Students are responsible for paying their invoices by these due dates. If someone else is paying for the student, the student is responsible for sharing the unique link with the third-party payer. The following items can be expected on the term invoices

Due no later than July 1:

- Fall semester Tuition & Program Fee (minus \$500 admission deposit for first-year students)
- Fall semester Residential Services Fee or Independent Housing Fee or Student Services Administrative Fee
- Refundable security deposit of \$1,000 (first-year students only)

Due no later than December 1:

- Spring semester Tuition & Program Fee
- Spring semester Residential Services Fee, Independent Housing Fee or Student Services Administrative Fee

If applicable, additional invoices will be issued at least 30 days before their due date during the Fall and Spring semester for

- Fall semester health insurance premiums
- Spring semester health insurance premiums
- Fall semester non-qualified scholarship tax withholdings
- Spring semester non-qualified scholarship tax withholdings
- Other incidental charges to students

More information regarding non-qualified scholarship tax withholdings can be found [here](#).

2.3.4. Installment Payment Plan

Students have the option to pay tuition and fees on an installment plan. The total amount due is payable in three installments. A service fee of 4% of the total amount of tuition and fees charged to the student for the year is added to the first installment. Please see the following table for term bill installment plan due dates:

Installment	Fall Term Bill	Spring Term Bill
1	July 01	December 01
2	September 01	February 01
3	November 01	April 1

To set up an installment plan, enter the invoice on the myMinerva Portal and click the “Minerva Installment Plan” link at least 1 day prior to the invoice deadline.

2.3.5. Late Payments and Returned Payments

Minerva relies on students paying their invoices by the due dates. If someone else is paying for the student, the student must ensure that timely payments are made. All invoices come with a shareable link for third-party payers.

If full payment for term invoices and installment plan invoices, or for any other invoice, is not received by the due date, a late payment penalty of 1.5% of the amount past due but at least \$50 may be assessed.

If the payment is more than 14 days past due and unless special circumstances or arrangements have been approved in writing by the Office of the Bursar, a financial hold will be placed on the student account. Such holds may result in any or all of the following:

- Bar the student from attending classes and turning in assignments
- Block further visa processing
- Bar the student from Minerva housing
- Suspend all services and privileges
- Block the student from course lotteries and registration for the upcoming terms
- Withhold diplomas

Once a payment is more than 30 days past due or a balance owed for an upcoming term is not paid prior to the start of that term, any or all of the following actions may be taken:

- Incoming first-year students will be withdrawn from Minerva and must reapply for admission in the following academic year
- Suspension of the student
- Assign the student debt to a collection agency (students who have debt assigned to an outside collection agency may be required to pay in advance for all future registrations and services)
- Report the student to a credit bureau

Any Flywire or Nelnet Campus fees that Minerva incurs from student payments that are returned to the payer will be charged to the student's account and accompanied by a \$30 administrative fee for the additional work caused.

2.4. Financial Aid

Financial aid is funded through philanthropic support received by Minerva University, and there is a generous but finite financial aid pool. We do not participate in financial aid programs funded by the US federal or state governments.

Minerva develops individualized financial aid packages that are issued as a combination of: Minerva-provided low-interest student loans, term-time employment opportunities with Minerva through our Work Study Program, and need-based scholarships. **Please note that the calculation of financial aid cannot fully consider the costs of travel, visas, taxes, and health insurance.** A full

financial aid package from Minerva does not cover all expenses a student will incur during their time at Minerva.

2.4.1. Financial Aid Application Process for Current Students

All students must reapply for financial aid each year so that Minerva has the most up-to-date financial profile for students and their families. Minerva acknowledges the amount of work it takes students and families each year to submit the extensive set of documents requested. Please note that a financial aid application will be confirmed as successfully submitted only when all documentation requests have been fulfilled.

Current students must observe the financial aid due date as shown in the financial aid center, which is usually between mid-January to mid-February. Only in extenuating circumstances will late applications be accepted and they will incur a \$500.00 reduction in the financial aid granted. Students who submit a financial aid application after the deadline may be found ineligible for Minerva Scholarships.

2.4.2. Integrity in the Financial Aid Process

Minerva University strives to meet its goal of awarding financial aid equitably based on demonstrated financial need. We have a responsibility to provide aid to as many students as qualify while also fairly assessing each individual student's need, based upon their unique circumstances and the total funding available. Due to the sensitive nature of financial documents and individual situations, financial aid packages will be discussed only with the individual it concerns.

Financial aid may be revoked for students in cases where students or parents engage in plagiarism, cheating, falsification, or fabrication of information, including inaccurate information or dishonest statements made on financial aid applications and on their work-study reporting. In addition, such students are subject to disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct.

2.4.2.1 Loans as Part of Financial Aid

Students who receive financial aid can accept or decline the loan portion of their aid package. If the loan portion is declined, the student will be responsible for paying the amount that would have been covered by the loan directly to Minerva.

If the student accepts the loan as part of their aid package, the loan amount will be issued as a provisional credit on each term bill for the academic year. Please note that this credit is provisional based on the following conditions:

1. The student must successfully complete an online loan application directly with Climb Credit (Climb) as instructed by the Financial Aid Office (instructions will be sent by email by October each year to students who need to apply for loans).
2. The student must remain current on all loans taken out with Climb Credit, including loans from previous years.
3. The loan must be funded by Climb Credit and disbursed to Minerva as scheduled.

If a student fails to remain in good standing with Climb—such as by not making required interest payments on time or at all—the student will receive several warning notices from both Climb and Minerva's Financial Aid Office or Bursar's Office. Students experiencing hardship and unable to make monthly interest payments are responsible for working directly with Climb Credit, including utilizing any available loan "benefits," such as a grace period of up to one year (subject to Climb's terms at the time of request). Students should contact Climb directly to learn more about benefits available for those experiencing financial hardship.

After 90 days of non-payment or lack of communication, the credit previously applied to the student's term bill for affected or non-disbursable loans will be revoked, and the student will be responsible for payment of the revoked balance to Minerva. Should the student bring their loan back into good standing with Climb, Minerva may, at its discretion, reinstate the revoked credit.

After 120 days of non-payment, Climb reserves the right to sell the student's debt to an outside debt collector. It will then be the student's responsibility to work directly with the debt collector to negotiate repayment terms. Additionally, the student will remain responsible for paying back to Minerva the loan credit that was not funded by Climb. Students may also, at Climb's discretion, become ineligible for future loans through Climb. If a student is denied a loan by Climb due to their own negligence, Minerva University will not offer loan credits in future financial aid packages for which the student might otherwise have been eligible, and the student will be responsible for covering this amount.

2.4.3. Work Study as Part of Financial Aid

[The Work Study program](#) provides students an opportunity to earn money to pay for food and incidental expenses while participating in the global rotation and living in a Minerva city. The Work Study program is not available to students who are studying remotely or to students not on financial aid. Students who are granted work study as part of their financial aid package are assigned a position based on the needs of the school and the skills, interests and abilities of the students. If such a position is not available for students, a Climb loan substitution can be made.

Students are paid on an hourly basis and may work up to 7.5 hours a week during the school year. The number of hours worked for the year must not exceed 235 hours (265 hours for students participating in Manifest) and must not exceed an average of 7.5 hours/week during term time. Students may only take advantage of their work-study benefit as part of their financial aid package while present and

residing in their rotation city; students forfeit eligible hours of Work Study for weeks they are not present in their rotation city. As the total amount earned for a work-study position is based on the actual number of hours a student works each pay period, the full amount of projected work-study earnings is not guaranteed. Hours not worked during the term cannot be worked in the summer break. Participation in the work study program is subject to the expectations and policies outlined in the work study handbook. Failure to meet these expectations may result in suspension or removal from the program.

Effective with the M29 cohort and all subsequent cohorts, students are prohibited from holding both a Minerva University Work Study position and an external CPT-approved internship at the same time. Students must select one form of employment: either a Minerva Work Study role or an external CPT opportunity.

Students in cohorts M26–M28 will continue under the prior guidance, which permits up to 20 hours of combined employment through CPT and internal Minerva Work Study roles. While students are encouraged to prioritize work opportunities through CPT, they may also hold a Minerva Work Study role simultaneously.

2.4.4. Financial Aid and Program Extensions

The Minerva program is designed to be completed in four years with a total of 120 semester credits and financial aid is limited to 120 attempted credits. Students who take more than 120 attempted semester credits are not eligible for financial aid for the excess credits or time enrolled at Minerva even if they are taking a full-time load.

2.4.5. Financial Aid and Housing Allocations

Financial aid is based on the anticipated cost of attendance. Students who deviate from their scheduled rotation, elect to live in independent housing, or elect to study remotely will have their financial aid packages adjusted as the cost of attendance will change. Regardless of the housing selection made by the student, the expected family contribution will remain the same. Students may only take advantage of their work study benefit as part of their financial aid package while present and residing in their rotation city.

2.4.6. External Scholarships Awarded to Students

If a student has funding from an external entity, the amount to be paid by the external entity is deducted from the student's loan amount. If external scholarship funds surpass this amount, 50% of the remainder reduces the expected family contribution and 50% reduces the scholarship amount that was initially offered to the student by Minerva.

2.4.7. Financial Aid Audit

For students receiving financial aid, Minerva University conducts occasional audits of families' financial documentation. If new information is revealed during the verification process, updates to a student's financial aid package may be made at Minerva's discretion in order to more accurately reflect the family's demonstrated financial situation. Students are required to notify Minerva in a timely manner when their financial situation substantially changes, whether it improves or declines.

2.4.8. Non-Qualified Scholarship Tax Withholdings

Students receiving a Minerva University Scholarship as part of their financial aid package may be subject to non-qualified scholarship tax withholdings. Scholarships are classified as income by the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which has rules about how scholarships are taxed. According to the IRS, scholarships are classified in two ways: Qualified Scholarships and Non-Qualified Scholarships.

Qualified scholarship payments are defined by the IRS as funds from the total scholarship used to pay for student tuition and related fees necessary for a student to be in the school, i.e., qualified expenses. These qualified scholarships are not taxed by the government. For Minerva University, these qualified fees are Tuition and Fees.

Non-qualified scholarship payments are defined by the IRS as funds from the total scholarship used to pay for housing/boardings, personal/travel/research fees, and other optional fees, i.e., non-qualified expenses. For Minerva University, these fees are Residential Life Service Fees. Unlike qualified scholarships, non-qualified scholarships are subject to a withholding rate of 14% and must be reported to the IRS by Minerva. This withheld amount creates a credit for the student that will be counted against the total income tax due when the student submits the annual tax return. In many cases, students will receive all or a substantial part of the withholding as a tax refund.

2.4.8.1. Non-Qualified Scholarship Withholdings for U.S. Residents

Minerva is not required to report non-qualified scholarships for U.S. citizens and permanent residents (ie. green card holders) to the IRS. These non-qualified scholarships should be reported by students as taxable income. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of this tax liability and make payments to the IRS accordingly.

2.4.8.2. Non-Qualified Scholarship Withholdings for Non-U.S. Residents

Minerva is required to withhold and report non-qualified scholarships for U.S. non-residents from some countries to the IRS. Minerva transfers these withholding amounts to the IRS and provides students with a 1042-S form that confirms the amounts collected. This 1042-S form is submitted to the IRS by the student when filing an annual tax return and represents a credit towards any income tax burden. If the amount withheld exceeds the overall tax burden of the student, the IRS will refund the overpayment.

Students on financial aid that are non-U.S. residents are required to complete and keep current a profile on the Sprintax Tax Determination Software used by Minerva to assist in the correct issuance of the 1042-S form. Failure to do so in a timely fashion leads to the same consequences outlined in

Section 5.13.

1042-S forms are provided to students no later than March 15th. More information can be found [here](#).

3. Student Services

3.1. Prepare

Prepare is a critical part of the enrollment system, consisting of modules related to information on general logistics, visas, academic records, location, and more. Students access their personalized [Prepare page](#) through their myMinerva page at <https://my.minerva.edu>. Prepare modules are opened to students twice each academic year, and each module within has a clearly listed deadline by which you must submit or review the required information. Students require access to Prepare to enroll in courses and housing for the coming academic term.

Please refer to the Consequences for Other Kinds of Noncompliance section for more information on the ramifications for failure to complete Prepare modules by the established deadlines.

3.2. Student ID Cards

The Minerva Student ID card is an official document verifying that you are a student at Minerva University. Students are provided with a LIVE Minerva University ID card through the ID123 platform. Detailed information about the process can be found on [myMinerva](#).

3.3. Student Mail

Minerva requires students to **GO PAPERLESS** from the time they start at Minerva when setting up any accounts with a listed residential address. Students must select the “eco-friendly” option in order to receive all notifications electronically. Not only is paper mail costly and detrimental to the environment, but it is also particularly problematic when students are no longer living in a particular Minerva location, including San Francisco. If you must receive physical mail, please update the address on record to one where you can actually receive mail.

The Minerva Office address should not be used as a student address. All student mail that arrives at the Minerva Office address will be discarded if it is junk mail. Other mail will be opened and scanned if possible, and then emailed to the student as PDF. The physical paper letters will be stored for six months following the notification and then destroyed. Minerva does not forward physical mail individually to students unless immediately requested and paid for by the student. All packages and boxes sent to the Minerva office will be returned to the sender (RTS).

3.4. Global Student Services/Visas

All Minerva students who travel to San Francisco and any of the rotation cities where they will live and study will be “international” students at some point in their studies. Minerva provides comprehensive information on the identified visa pathway into each city, sharing guidelines and instructions for students to obtain their visas and other permissions to enter and stay in each country and city. It is the students’ responsibility to obtain their correct visa, including paying for any associated costs. Students are also responsible for providing necessary information to Minerva, and should take the time to plan for their visa processing. Students must adhere to set deadlines to ensure appropriate support for visas.

3.4.1. Visas for Minerva Cities Outside the US

Minerva coordinates the process for students to acquire a student or comparable visa for each city where they study. Students learn about the process via myMinerva and their Student Life city teams, and through Prepare, and are required to proceed with their visa applications in a timely fashion, communicating with relevant staff to meet necessary deadlines. Each step in the process must be completed on time so that students can receive their visa and arrive in the city by the time of Elevation. Students may not reside in any of the Minerva’s rotation cities on any other visa other than the one that is prescribed by the university.

3.4.2. F-1 Student Visas

All students who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States need to obtain an F-1 visa to attend Minerva University in the United States. They may maintain this visa throughout their four years of study at Minerva University, even while in global rotation cities, provided that students maintain normal academic progress and adhere to the institutional residential policies and F-1 visa regulations. Admitted students can find detailed instructions for obtaining a visa on the Prepare page where they complete the full registration process prior to starting each year or semester. Throughout their tenure at Minerva, students on F-1 visas are responsible to maintain valid student status by complying with the following regulations:

- Hold a valid passport and a SEVIS I-20 that is valid for Minerva University
- Maintain a full-time course of study each term and receive an approval from a Designated School Official before dropping a class
- Make satisfactory academic progress towards their degree

- Limit “on-campus” Minerva employment to no more than 20 hours per week during academic term time and receive proper authorization for off-campus employment (including volunteer work. Off-campus employment eligibility only available after completing two academic semesters).
- Ensure that their I-20 has been endorsed by a Designated School Official for international travel prior to leaving the United States (this endorsement expires annually)
- Refrain from international travel during academic term time when classes are in session
- Arrive on time and remain in each global rotation city until the end of each term. Students who choose to travel outside of scheduled breaks or weekends and/or depart a city early will risk losing their U.S. F-1 visa status and associated benefits without further notice. At the discretion of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), students may be denied entry to the United States. Students who petition to leave the city due to urgent medical circumstances, will need to provide medical documentation from a Medical Doctor, Doctor of Osteopathy, or Clinical Psychologist.

General Information:

- All F-1 students are issued a digital I-20 form (based on the guidance issued by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on 10/12/2021.
- Students must keep every I-20 copy received during their course of study. All I-20s are available for download via myMinerva in the “Student Related Documents” section.
- Students may remain in the US if their F-1 visa has expired; however, in order to enter the US, their F-1 visa must be valid. Visas cannot be renewed in the United States.
- Visas are not transferable to a new passport. If you renew your passport, you must travel with both passports to enter the US on your F-1 visa. If you lose your passport, you will need to renew your visa prior to re-entering the US.

3.4.3. Courseload Requirements and Exceptions

Students must be enrolled in a minimum of three four-credit residential courses (or 12 semester credits) each semester in order to be considered full-time for the purposes of the F-1 student visa. Students who do not participate in full global rotation, are not considered to be in residence and cannot maintain their F-1 visa status. Additionally, those students will have an annotation on their transcript indicating remote learning.

Failure to remain enrolled in at least 12 credits results in loss of F-1 status (i.e., the student is considered to be out of status). Students are required to not only register for 12 credits, but complete 12 credits each semester.

Under certain circumstances students may be approved for a Reduced Course Load (RCL) by a Designated School Official (DSO). Those circumstances include but are not limited to: academic difficulties, medical condition(s), or needing fewer courses to complete the course of study. Please contact a DSO for additional information. Permission should be granted by a Designated School Official (DSO) prior to any change to a student’s course schedule. In addition, students will need to have met with an academic advisor for approval.

Request a Reduced Course Load by completing the [Course Drop/Withdrawal form](#).

Failure to comply with the guidelines or process for requesting an RCL may result in a student falling out of status and in termination of the student's SEVIS record. Please consult a Designated School Official about all visa matters.

3.4.4. Compliance with Reporting Requirements through SEVIS

Students in F-1 visa status must report any change in their U.S. address, academic major or personal information to a Designated School Official within 10 days of the change. Minerva students can report these changes by submitting their updated address through Prepare. Please note that students must report their summer address if they are in the United States by completing the [Change of Address form](#).

3.4.5. Program Extension

Pursuant to 8 CFR 214.2(f)(7)(i) all F-1 students who are currently maintaining status and making normal progress toward completing their educational objective, but are unable to complete their course of study by the program end date on the Form I-20, must apply PRIOR to the program end date for a program extension. Students may not extend their course of study in order to intentionally extend OPT eligibility.

Once your program extension has been approved by the Registrar, please check your Program End Date on your latest I-20 to determine if you require an extension of time. The extension of time will change the dates for application for post-completion OPT for those who are interested in the benefit. Receiving an extension of time from the Registrar will not automatically extend your Program End Date on your I-20.

Students who are granted a program extension beyond the prescribed eight semesters must consult with the DSO regarding enrollment credit requirements in their last semester(s). Students are not eligible for financial aid or Minerva housing/global rotation after eight semesters, and are required to be in San Francisco in independent housing if they wish to maintain their F-1 status.

3.4.6. Consequences of Continued Academic Probation or Dismissal

To comply with visa regulations, F-1 visa students must make continuous satisfactory academic progress towards their degrees. Failure to make satisfactory academic progress as reflected in probationary status may result in the loss of F-1 status. See the policies in this handbook on academic probation, suspension and dismissal for more information. If a student is academically suspended or dismissed from Minerva, the student's SEVIS record will be terminated no later than 21 days after notification of suspension or dismissal.

3.4.7. Termination of F-1 Visa Status/Arrests

If a student is expelled from school, they are in violation of the F-1 student visa regulations and their SEVIS record will be terminated and their visa may be revoked by the U.S. Department of State. If a student is arrested for any reason, including misdemeanors such as drunk driving (DUI), shoplifting or petty theft, drug possession, or during a protest, there are severe consequences. If you are charged criminally, you may be required to remain in the United States pending the outcome of your case. The U.S. Department of State is authorized prudentially to revoke a visa simply on the basis of an arrest. A determination of guilt by a court of law is NOT required. If your visa is revoked, you would be required to depart from the U.S. A visa revocation can also be grounds for court-ordered removal by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Students must acknowledge their arrest record if they wish to re-enter or remain in the United States when they apply for renewal of their visa. Individuals convicted of certain crimes, including most drug crimes and other “crimes involving moral turpitude,” may be found to be inadmissible to re-enter or remain in the United States.

3.4.8. F-1 Visa and Financial Solvency and Obligations

Pursuant to federal regulations governing F-1 visas found at 8 CFR 214.2(f)(1)(i)(B), all F-1 students must have documentary evidence of financial support in the amount indicated on the SEVIS Form I-20. If there are changes to finances (personal, family or Minerva financial aid), students should contact the DSO to report the changes to ensure accuracy in their SEVIS records.

Students who accrue past due amounts at Minerva University may be in violation of this regulation concerning their F-1 visa status. Students with past due accounts will be denied various services, including but not limited to course lottery/registration, requests for CPT and OPT benefits until their balances are paid in full.

3.4.9. Employment during F-1 Status

Under US visa regulations, an F-1 student may work “on-campus” for up to 20 hours per week or full-time when school is not in session or during the annual vacation. However, Minerva limits the weekly work time for work-study students to 7.5 hours per week when classes are in session.

F-1 students must not engage in any unauthorized employment, paid or unpaid, this includes any remote work. Any unauthorized employment is a serious violation of the student’s F-1 visa status, and leads to immediate termination of the student’s SEVIS record with no advance notice. Ignorance of the law is no defense. Students must consult with the school’s Designated School Official before agreeing to or engaging in any employment, paid or unpaid.

Students who have not maintained F-1 student status for one full academic year (two continuous semesters) do not qualify for off-campus work authorization/CPT. First-year students and students returning from leaves of absence or whose visa status was recently reinstated are strictly prohibited from working off-campus in any capacity. **This includes both paid and unpaid work.**

Paid off-campus work includes but is not limited to: working online, working in a store or restaurant, an internship, receiving a stipend for a position or project, receiving goods in exchange for services, freelancing, pet sitting, babysitting, selling homemade crafts online, selling goods regularly on eBay or similar sites, selling photography or other art, getting paid for posting videos or blogs, etc.

Unpaid work is also not allowed and could include: offering to work “for free” at a company to gain experience, unpaid internships, receiving goods instead of money in exchange for services, etc.

F-1 students can volunteer their time at a humanitarian organization, religious, or nonprofit entity where no compensation is provided and the work does not benefit an employer. Working on civic projects is allowed as part of the required curricular classroom experience

In the event of an emergent financial circumstance, students can apply to US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) for off-campus employment authorization based on “severe economic hardship,” which would permit them to work off-campus for up to one year. The term “severe economic hardship” is defined as a financial condition caused by unforeseen circumstances beyond the student's control that make it difficult for a student to continue their education in the United States. USCIS approves or denies such requests on a case-by-case basis.

Emergent circumstances include:

- Loss of financial aid or on-campus employment (if the student is not at fault)
- Large increases in tuition or living costs
- Substantial decrease in the relative value of currency that the student depends upon to pay expenses
- Unexpected changes in the financial condition of a student's sources of financial support
- Unexpectedly large medical bills not covered by insurance
- Other substantial, unexpected expenses.

Contact a DSO at Minerva for further information about applying for off-campus employment authorization.

3.5. Social Security Numbers (SSN)

Students who participate in on-campus work, such as work-study or other types of authorized employment (see below), are required to obtain a Social Security Number (SSN) at the Social Security Administration (SSA) office in order to be paid. Students must have work authorization prior to applying for a SSN and must apply within 10 days after arriving in the United States. Students cannot apply for SSN from abroad.

To apply, students must take the following hard-copy documents to the Social Security Administration (SSA) office:

- Passport (with F-1 visa inside)
- Form I-20
- Copy of I-94

- Signed Internship Offer Letter - provided by Minerva or employer
- SSA Request Letter from Minerva - provided by Minerva
 - Only for Work Study students: Summer interns or students with external internships need only bring their updated I-20 with CPT authorization.
- Social Security Application form ([complete and print this form](#) before going to the SSA office) -

Social Security information for F-1 students can be found [here](#).

A visit to the SSA may take up to two hours, as applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. SSN cards are mailed to recipients in about two weeks. Students will be given a letter from the SSA office at the time of their visit that confirms that their application is approved and being processed. This letter allows students to begin working before the physical SSN card arrives by mail. Students may begin their work-study position (or any other type of authorized work) only once they have received this letter from the SSA office. Students are responsible for reporting their SSN through Paycom while working on campus.

Any problems obtaining a SSN should be reported immediately to Global Student Services at studentservices@minerva.edu.

3.6. Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is a temporary authorization for practical training that is alternative work/study, internship, cooperative education, or any other type of required internship or practicum; that is offered by sponsoring employers through cooperative agreements with the institution; and that is an integral part of an established curriculum. CPT authorization is necessary for both paid and unpaid training opportunities.

Only students who have maintained F-1 student status for one full academic year or longer immediately prior to potential CPT, qualify for CPT. Students may be authorized for part-time CPT during the academic term or full-time employment during the summer months and winter break. A student who has completed an aggregate of 12 months of full-time CPT is no longer qualified for OPT (Optional Practical Training). There is no regulatory limit to part-time CPT.

A request for authorization for CPT must be made to the Designated School Official by completing this [Request for CPT Authorization Form](#). Students should apply at least two weeks in advance of their internship start date to ensure that authorization is granted before they start work. Students must be in good academic standing and make satisfactory academic progress in order to be eligible for CPT. Students should not have any past-due balance owed to Minerva University. Applying for CPT authorization does not guarantee that it will be approved. Students who receive an approval for CPT may either receive credit for EL199, B199 or EL190.

Students may begin an internship only after receiving a Form I-20 with the DSO endorsement authorizing CPT. Any changes in employment, internship dates or work capacity must be reported to the DSO prior to the change taking place.

Any unauthorized employment is a serious violation of the student's F-1 visa status, and leads to immediate termination of the student's SEVIS record with no advance notice. Ignorance of the law is

no defense. Students must consult with the school's Designated School Official before agreeing to or engaging in any employment, paid or unpaid.

3.7. Optional Practical Training (OPT)

After completion of all course requirements for the degree and continued enrollment, students may be eligible for temporary employment under Optional Practical Training (OPT) benefit that is directly related to their major area of study for a period of up to 12 months. Eligible students may apply for the OPT benefit 90 days before the end of their program or within 60 days after completion. All OPT applications must be submitted to USCIS for adjudication within 30 days of the recommendation by the DSO. OPT is a privilege, not a right, and, like CPT, applying does not guarantee approval. Students submit their request for recommendation from Minerva using the appropriate Prepare module. Detailed information about OPT can be found on [myMinerva](#).

3.8. STEM OPT

There are two Minerva academic majors that qualify for a STEM-OPT extension: Natural Sciences and Computational Science. Minors, concentrations, and courses do not qualify for a STEM-OPT extension. Graduates are responsible for contacting the DSO for STEM recommendation and are responsible for submitting a complete application to USCIS for adjudication within 30 days of the recommendation by the DSO. The STEM OPT Recommendation form can be found on [myMinerva](#).

3.9. Presence In Country

Minerva's undergraduate program is SEVP-certified because of the required residential nature of the program. First-semester students in San Francisco must refrain from traveling outside the U.S., and students in global rotation cities must arrive on time and refrain from traveling outside their assigned city and to the United States when classes are in session or by departing the city before the end of the semester. Students must establish their presence in the rotation city before the start of Elevation by checking in, in-person, with the Student Life City Team; this applies for both Minerva housing and Independent Housing students. Students approved for late arrival must check-in, in-person, within one business day of arrival in the city. Students who choose to travel outside of scheduled breaks or weekends and/or depart a city early without prior authorization will risk losing their U.S. F-1 visa status and associated benefits without further notice. Students who petition to leave the city due to urgent medical circumstances need to supply the Minerva staff with medical documentation from a Medical Doctor, Doctor of Osteopathy or Clinical Psychologist.

Students who take a leave of absence from Minerva or who do not study in one of the rotation cities do not maintain F-1 student status. Their SEVIS record will be terminated for an authorized early withdrawal from the program. Students returning to Minerva after a leave of absence, who are interested in re-establishing their F-1 visa status, must return to San Francisco no more than 30 days

before the beginning of the next academic term and complete the term in San Francisco before being permitted to rejoin their cohort in the next global rotation city while retaining active F-1 status. Returning students will be issued a new SEVIS record/Form I-20.

3.9.1 Travel during the semester and early departure

Pursuant to TITLE 8 OF CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS Sec. 214.2 (f)(6)(i)(G), students are required to have classroom presence and are not allowed to maintain F-1 status if they are taking only distance education courses at Minerva University and not participating in the residential program. To ensure compliance with federal regulations, Minerva's students are required to live together in residential housing and are required to physically attend and complete integral portions of the program, including city experiences, LBAs, and group assignments with faculty and staff. For this reason, travel during the semester when classes are in session or departing early will likely result in termination of SEVIS records with no advance notice. As part of the in-city requirement for the Global Learning course, students arriving more than three weeks after the start of the term, departing from the city more than three weeks early, or who travel outside the city for an accumulated time of more than three weeks during term time, will receive a No Pass in the course for the term. More information about the course can be found on the [Global Learning myMinerva page](#).

Students will only be approved to travel during term time or to depart early from their rotation city due to medical conditions if a DSO determines that such travel is necessary. Students who do not get permission but leave their rotation city anyway will have their SEVIS record terminated with no advance notice and will receive the *remote* learning citation on their transcript discussed in section 2.2 of the Student Handbook. Students who would like to request early departure or term travel must do so from within the appropriate Prepare module; requests will be reviewed by the Petition Review and Policy Committee. These policy exceptions will only be granted for extenuating circumstances.

3.9.2 Travel for academic-related purposes

Students may request to travel for academic-related purposes (Academic Travel), which will be reviewed by the Policy Review Petition Committee. Academic Travel should generally be limited to one week, but may be extended for up to two weeks with compelling rationale in rare instances. To be eligible for Academic Travel during term time, students must:

- Be in good academic standing
- Provide a letter of support from their college Academic Advisor indicating the opportunity is beneficial towards the students long term academic or professional goals
- Submit a plan detailing how the student will maintain academic performance while outside the rotation city

3.10. Failure to Maintain Student Status

Students who fall out of status and whose SEVIS record has been terminated no longer have an active I-20 or student status.

Students who fall out of status and are in the U.S. must leave the country immediately after their record being terminated. Once out of the U.S., the student may continue classes remotely, but will no longer be able to enter the U.S. on their F-1 visa or take advantage of other benefits of maintaining F-1 student status, such as CPT/OPT work authorization. Please note that students who do not participate in full global rotation will have an annotation on their transcript indicating remote learning.

Students whose petition to take a leave of absence has been approved by Minerva will no longer maintain student status or have an active SEVIS record. Students must return to San Francisco for one full term in order to activate their F-1 status and gain eligibility to participate in global rotations and other F-1 benefits. Returning students will be issued a new SEVIS record (I-20) which will require a I-901 payment. Students whose F-1 visa has expired will have to reapply for a new visa using the new I-20. If students' visa has not expired, they only need to obtain the new I-20 and may travel on their F-1 visa. Advising following the termination of a SEVIS record is provided on a case-by-case basis by the Designated School Official.

3.11. Grace Period After Graduation

When students have completed a full course of study and/or 12 months of post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT), they have a 60-day grace period before they must leave the United States, apply for transfer, or otherwise change their status to one that allows them to remain in the U.S.

Students may periodically receive updated I-20s after being authorized for OPT authorization or endorsed by the DSO for international travel. Students should keep digital copies of every I-20 that they are issued over time, which they will have to submit to USCIS when applying for immigration benefits. Previously issued I-20s are available for download via [myMinerva](#) in the section titled "student related documents."

Please remember that compliance with these laws is required by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), part of the Department of Homeland Security in the U.S., and Minerva University cannot grant exceptions to immigration rules or regulations.

3.12. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

3.12.1. Disability Accommodation Policy

This policy governing provision of services for students with disabilities has been created to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended.

3.12.2. Provision of Services

Minerva University has an institutional commitment to equal access to all educational opportunities for students with disabilities. Minerva commits to complying with state and federal laws and additionally commits to accommodations, auxiliary services and support to provide for the most inclusive experience.

Each accommodation request will be addressed in an individualized and interactive manner. Accommodations will be developed to address barriers resulting from a disability that adversely affects equal educational opportunities. In a collaborative manner, the Disability Resource professional will work with appropriate administrators and staff to develop reasonable and effective accommodations that are appropriate for the student and yet do not alter fundamental aspects of the educational program.

3.12.3. Resources

Minerva's Accommodation Specialist is responsible for determining and coordinating appropriate accommodations and auxiliary aids and services for qualified students with disabilities. Minerva maintains an online resource dedicated to assist students in understanding disability-related terms, the accommodation request process, and frequently asked questions. This disability resource information may be found at [myMinerva](#). Students who have additional questions or need to schedule a meeting with the Accommodation Specialist should email accommodations@minerva.edu.

3.12.4. Eligibility

Students are eligible for consideration for accommodations and/or auxiliary aids and services if they have a documented disability. Students should initiate the process through the Prepare module and communicate directly with the Accommodation Specialist about the specific impact of their disability on their studies at Minerva. Minerva's Accommodation Specialist reviews documentation, communicates directly with students, and determines those functional limitations of the disability that require reasonable accommodations, auxiliary aids and/or other services.

3.12.5. Student Responsibility

Each student bears the responsibility of initiating a disability-related accommodation request through the Prepare module, prior to the time it is needed. While requests may be initiated at any time, academic accommodations generally must be requested prior to the final four weeks of the semester for which they are being requested.

Housing accommodations are limited to the style, size, room type, features, and contracts in place for each residence hall and city. Students who complete and are approved for housing accommodations prior to May 30 will receive priority consideration for the upcoming academic year. These guidelines are in place to allow staff sufficient time to receive, process, plan, and communicate any approved accommodations to the student and staff members responsible for providing the accommodation.

Accommodations are not retroactive and can only be implemented upon receipt of the formal accommodation letter. The formal accommodation letter will include all approved accommodations and their effective dates, guidelines for their use, and instructions for implementation.

Each student may request to continue their accommodation(s) for future semesters by completing an accommodation renewal form in Prepare. The student should complete an accommodation renewal form in Prepare for each academic year that follows their initial approval. The student will continue to receive an accommodation approval letter for each academic year that they are approved for accommodations. Please note that the impact of a disability may change over time, especially for those that are temporary in nature. Therefore, accommodation renewal requests may require updated documentation from a provider on a case-by-case basis.

3.12.6. Documentation

Documentation is often required to substantiate a disability and the need for accommodation. The process for requesting accommodations, including documentation guidelines for students and medical providers, can be found by [visiting myMinerva](#). Throughout the process, the Accommodation Specialist and student will navigate the documentation needs together. Every request is unique and will be approached in an individualized process. The request for any accommodation will be evaluated promptly once a student engages in this interactive process.

3.12.7. Examples of Accommodations

Accommodations include not only disability-related accommodations, but also disability-related services and auxiliary aids. Accommodations are designed to remove barriers and restore access to Minerva's educational programs and activities. Accommodations must be reasonable and appropriate and not fundamentally alter aspects of the educational program.

Possible modifications and accommodations are based on a student's specific needs, course and program requirements, and appropriate documentation; not all accommodations are necessarily provided to each student in a particular disability category. The following are the kinds of

accommodations that Minerva may grant. These and other kinds of accommodations are considered on a case-by-case basis.

- Extended time permitted for completion of the degree program
- Reduced course load
- Conversion of materials into alternate formats (e.g., e-text, large print, Braille)
- Assistive technology, software and/or hardware (e.g., screen readers, speech-to-text applications)
- Sign language interpreting
- Computer-aided real-time transcription (CART)
- Captioned videos
- Housing modifications
- Individualized and targeted support for academic workload management

3.12.8. Housing Accommodations

Minerva does not own its buildings and does not have complete control or authority over the physical access features of the sites and residences. Minerva is not able to guarantee that all sites will offer the same level of accessibility that a student can expect within the United States. Housing accommodation requests are only accepted through the Prepare module. Requests received before May 30 will receive priority consideration for the upcoming academic year. Single occupancy rooms are extremely limited or not available in most rotation cities. Students are permitted to find their own independent housing or may request remote status, if needed.

3.12.9. Confidentiality

Minerva treats all student disability information as confidential, and will not share information except as required or permitted by law or as necessary for institutional processes. These processes include facilitating reasonable accommodations, addressing health and safety issues, or investigating claims or charges.

4. Student Life

Student Life promotes the health and safety of students and their growth, development and experiential learning outside the classroom. Student Life seeks to create a positive living and learning environment and to provide resources, support and activities to engage every student. It focuses on residential life, community development within Minerva, civic engagement with the community outside Minerva, city and cultural immersion, health and wellness, and integrated learning.

4.1. Student Privacy Rights and Responsibilities

Minerva University respects the rights of students to have their educational record kept private and to have access to official records. The section sets forth those rights in detail. It should be noted that because Minerva University does not receive funding from the US government, it is not required to comply with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), but does largely operate in accordance with FERPA guidelines. Minerva University does comply with relevant laws including those in California where it does business and with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which applies to students from or studying in one of the countries that are signatories to the GDPR.

Students at Minerva University have the following rights regarding education records:

Students have the right to inspect and review education records. Education records are defined as formal records that directly identify the student and are maintained by the various offices of Minerva University. Education records do not include assessments of students conducted prior to admission. Requests for the inspection and review of education records must be submitted directly to the custodian of the record (registrar@minerva.edu), following policy and procedure of the office in whose custody the record is maintained.

Students have the right to seek to amend education records. Individual offices have established procedures for challenging the accuracy of education records. Students may also submit a written request for review of a particular education record to the appropriate office. Grades are exempted from this provision, falling under the established grade dispute process described elsewhere in this Handbook.

Students have the right to have some control over the disclosure of information from education records. Students may request that Minerva restrict the release of directory and other information by submitting a written request via a form available on the Registrar Office's [myMinerva page](#). Such restrictions remain in effect until canceled in writing by the student. Students may authorize Minerva to release non-directory information to their parents. Such authorizations remain in effect until canceled in writing by the student. Parents/legal guardians are permitted access to all non-directory information of their student without a release if the student is under the age of 18.

Minerva University has designated the following items of information as directory information: name and student username; email address; citizenship; major field of study; enrollment status; degrees and awards received. Directory information is defined as information that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. Unless restricted by the written request of a student, Minerva may release directory information without the prior consent of a student. Directory information required for course or classroom participation in courses may not be withheld from faculty and students connected with the particular course.

Minerva allows access to student directory and non-directory information by education officials when a legitimate educational interest exists for specific education records. A legitimate educational interest

exists when an education official demonstrates the need to know specific information to accomplish instructional, advisory, administrative, research, supervisorial, or other administrative responsibilities assigned by Minerva. Education officials may include employees, faculty, staff, designated representatives of Minerva, and contracted agents and agencies of Minerva including accrediting agencies. Minerva may outsource some operations requiring the disclosure of information from education records. Providers of such services include the National Student Clearinghouse. Education officials and other contracted providers who receive education records must comply with this policy and all applicable laws and regulations regarding disclosure and the privacy of such education records.

In compliance with applicable law, privacy rights in the postsecondary environment are reassigned from parents to students when the student turns 18 years old. Minerva may disclose information from education records to parents and to other third-party entities in specific situations and under certain conditions. Among these situations are the following: to educational institutions where the student seeks, intends, or has enrolled; to lenders and others in connection with financial aid; to certain government authorities, including U.S. military recruiters for US citizens and permanent residents; to US visa officials; to entities conducting studies or audits on behalf of Minerva; to comply with court orders and subpoenas where health and safety are at risk or in the event of student status changes; when violations of federal, state, or local regulations have occurred in regard to a student having committed a crime.

In any circumstance where a Minerva University's representative reasonably believes in good faith that a health or safety issue or threat exists, appropriate faculty or staff members may contact the student's emergency contact or parent (in the case of a minor or where permissible by law). Referral may also be made to Minerva student services personnel including mental health personnel and/or to law enforcement.

4.2 Safety/Emergency Response

Minerva is committed to providing a safe and healthy living and learning environment for students, faculty, and staff. Minerva is also required to meet health and safety standards as specified by federal, state, local, and country-specific laws (depending on where a residence hall is located).

The emergency procedures followed by Minerva are described in detail in the Minerva Emergency Management Plans for each Minerva location, made available to all students, faculty, and staff via the student information website, [myMinerva](#). Students will be informed of all precautions, including those to which they must adhere, prior to their arrival in cities. Students are provided with safety training in each rotation city and staff are trained in safety and emergency procedures.

Among the services and resources to help students in cases of emergency are phone numbers to report emergencies to the Minerva staff, including live-in professionals in some cities, trained Work-Study students, residence hall, training exercises and drills for students, and an automatic messaging system to advise students of major emergencies in the area where they are living. Students

are advised of the emergency procedures during Elevations and Foundation Week and required to sign up for messaging systems.

4.3. Minerva's Values and Commitment to Diversity and Belonging

Minerva University reflects and celebrates human diversity. We encourage all members of our community to engage deeply with one another, with open hearts and minds, to learn and grow together from both our shared and individual experiences, knowledge, and perspectives. Furthermore, Minerva confronts and rejects all manifestations of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin or citizenship, religious or political beliefs, social class, or any of the other differences among people that have been excuses for conflict, exclusion or hatred..

4.4. Residence Halls

Serving as the common ground for the social and intellectual community at Minerva, the residence halls are staffed with professional live-in staff members during the first two years of students' study. Trained Work-Study students also provide support and handle emergencies at every location. Student Life staff members are trained in basic first aid and emergency response procedures and support activities that promote wellness and build community. Minerva staff also coordinate a variety of programming and initiatives, covering areas that include health and safety topics, social gatherings, community service activities, civic partnerships, environmental sustainability, and professional development opportunities. Faculty members and others also visit each city and engage with students on the ground in various activities.

Minerva students are expected to use the residential experience as an opportunity to develop personal relationships with other Minerva students from around the world and to become global citizens who have deep intercultural competency skills. This uniquely cosmopolitan living arrangement is an ideal setting for mature students to practice self-governance, to interact amidst a broad spectrum of cultural norms, and to practice personal accountability. Within the residence hall, students construct their own norms around issues such as food purchasing and cooking, trust and respect for one another, and facilitating community-based dialogue about the shared living space.

Student Life seeks to promote a culture of wellness that supports student learning by building awareness of what it means to live a healthy and fulfilling life and encouraging students to make choices and engage in activities that contribute to their wellbeing. Minerva hopes and expects the social norms embedded in the Integrated Learning Outcomes, residential agreements, and conduct code to be implemented and upheld by all students. When necessary, the staff intervenes, especially if the safety or wellbeing of any student is being compromised. The rules that support student safety and wellbeing are the responsibility of every student. All Minerva students are subject to disciplinary

proceedings if found to be in violation of the residential agreement, building-specific house rules or property management guidelines, and other student conduct policies.

4.4a Residential Agreements

The city-specific **Residential Agreements**, which must be signed by every student living in Minerva housing, outline policies about residential life, health and safety, and conduct. The Residential Agreement must be signed and submitted in Prepare before the start of the move-in period. Students who fail to submit their Residential Agreement may be subject to a daily \$5 fine beginning on the first day of move-in, which will accrue until the Residential Agreement is signed. Students who fail to sign their Residential Agreement after 14 days from the start of the move-in period may lose their housing privileges and are not eligible for a refund for their housing fees.

4.4.1. Living in Residence

The style of Minerva housing varies greatly depending on the specific location and may be dormitory, hotel, or apartment style. Please note that single sleeping rooms are not available in most locations, and priority for those rooms, if available, is allocated to students who have formally approved disability accommodations for a single sleeping room. There are communal facilities for cooking either in a large shared kitchen in the residential building or in smaller kitchens in residential units. Students have a variety of outside dining options, including local restaurants, markets, food trucks, and delivery services.

First-year are required to live in residence. Second years are strongly encouraged to live in residence. Living communally is a key learning experience for Minerva students and supports the development of a healthy student community. In the first two years, students set norms, develop deep connections with those who come from different cultures and backgrounds and learn together how to navigate the challenges of co-living. Students are eligible to request specific roommates starting in their second year.

Individuals who are not enrolled at the University are not able to live in Minerva University housing. If an individual becomes disenrolled or withdrawn from the Minerva while living in Minerva housing, that individual will have to vacate University housing. If no concern for community health or safety exists, students may have up to 72 hours to move-out of housing. Students can be asked to leave housing immediately if there is pending disciplinary action as a result of behavior that endangers community safety.

Students in Remote or Independent Housing status are not able to live in Minerva University housing; this includes students seeking to reside in a building operating as the Minerva University residence hall under an external lease. Those students are considered guests and must adhere to all guest policies. Students who violate these policies will face disciplinary action.

4.4.1.1 Security Cameras in Residential Facilities

While considering individuals' reasonable expectations of personal privacy, Minerva and the owners of the buildings where Minerva students reside employ video and audio surveillance cameras to promote

the safety and security of students, employees, and to protect property. The primary purpose of the video and audio surveillance cameras is to promote safety and security while discouraging behavior that violates laws or policies. Viewing of surveillance camera footage (either live video footage or recordings) is conducted only by authorized law enforcement or institutional personnel for a legitimate purpose such as investigating a reported policy violation or crime.

Video surveillance cameras will be used in accordance with university policy.

- Video and audio surveillance are only placed in common areas, including, but not limited to hallways, lounges, community kitchens, and lobbies.
- If the Student Life or Housing Operations staff determines that video and audio footage needs to be reviewed, it will only be reviewed by individuals who have a legitimate need to do so, including faculty and staff working on conduct or disciplinary concerns and law enforcement officials.
- Any information obtained from the recordings is protected by Minerva's policy on Student Privacy Rights and Responsibilities and will be only shared with those who have a qualified need to review it.

4.5. Roommates

First-year students are assigned to a room within a residence hall prior to their initial move-in. First-year students are matched with students, usually from another country, and also based on lifestyles as reflected in surveys that they complete. In subsequent years, students are asked to express their preferences for roommates and these preferences are met as fully as possible. Students are expected to adopt roommate agreements in each of the cities, and sign Unit Condition Reports upon check-in and check-out.

4.6. Enrollment and Housing Commitment

Each spring, students are required to complete an Enrollment and Housing Commitment as part of the *Prepare* process for the subsequent academic year. The Enrollment and Housing Commitment (EHC) serves as a binding commitment for the non-refundable financial responsibility of securing placement in Minerva housing and is a prerequisite to being registered in classes for the following year. Students must have access to Prepare in order to officially sign their Enrollment and Housing Commitment. Students without access to Prepare due to *Holds* on their account will need to resolve the *Hold*-issue before the EHC submission deadline or forfeit the right to re-enroll for the upcoming academic year.

4.6.1. Pre-departure Information for Global Rotation

Pre-departure information is provided to students before they move to each new city. This includes practical information to help students prepare for their journey to and arrival at their rotation city, including information on travel arrangements, weather, packing, housing, and important local resources. All pre-departure information about each city is found on its respective city section of the

myMinerva. Incoming first-year students are provided a dedicated SF Pre-Departure Guide, which they receive over the summer.

4.6.2. Immunizations and Vaccinations

This policy mitigates the risk of our students contracting vaccine-preventable illnesses that could be acquired in a residential environment. Minerva requires Incoming Students to obtain the vaccinations and screening for communicable diseases recommended for colleges and universities by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). These vaccines currently include: measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), varicella/chickenpox (VZV), hepatitis A (Hep A), hepatitis B (Hep B), polio, and tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap). In addition, meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) is required for students aged 21 and younger. Students must submit their vaccination history in Prepare. In order to protect themselves and the community, Minerva strongly recommends that students obtain flu and COVID-19 vaccinations each year. Students who do not have the required immunizations and vaccinations will not be allowed to reside, or continue to reside, in Minerva housing.

While traveling on the rotation, students may be required to receive additional vaccinations in order to secure visas and entry into the host country. Students are responsible for meeting these requirements and for the cost of obtaining these immunizations. Additional information for each city can be found in [myMinerva](#).

Students with documented medical reasons may apply for an exemption from this policy.

4.6.3. Students in Independent Housing

Students in Independent Housing must maintain contact with that city's Student Life team through the course of the semester. This is especially important for emergency/risk management purposes. Students in Independent Housing must check in with the Student Life City Team in person before the start of Elevation programming, or within one business day of their arrival in the rotation city if approved for late arrival, and will need to provide their passport/visa stamp for verification purposes, as well as hard copy proof of their local address in the Minerva city (via a lease agreement etc.), copies of all of which will be retained for city/local immigration authority records. Any students who fails to check in satisfactorily as above will be considered an unauthorized Late Arrival to the city, and as such will have their case reviewed by PRPC, potentially leading to late arrival fines, loss of work study eligible hours, and termination of their F-1 visa, among other sanctions.

4.6.4. Visas and Residency

Host countries require citizens of different nationalities to meet a specific, yet often diverse, set of requirements in order to secure visas for entry and to establish residency once present in-country. Students participating in Minerva global rotations are required to meet all visa securements and alien

registration processes in a timely fashion, and must meet deadlines and fulfill any and all requirements of Minerva partner institutions that sponsor student visas.

Students are required to follow Minerva's global visa process and must enter our rotation cities and countries on the appropriate visa to study. Students who do not apply for visas in a timely fashion may not get visas in time to enter the city/country for Elevation. Students who are unable to obtain a visa by the start of Elevation will lose the ability to go to that city. While countries may approve visas for set periods of time, partners, visa program regulations, and Minerva academic calendars may result in other restrictions related to visas and lawful presence in any given city.

4.6.5. Students in Remote/Off-Rotation Status Visiting Global Rotation Cities

Students may only live in an operational Minerva city if they opted into that city, were approved by the University and have the appropriate visa/government authorization to study in that city. However, those in good standing may visit the global rotation city, once, and fully participate in Minerva activities for a maximum of three consecutive weeks during a semester. These students are not able to reside in Minerva residence halls and must also honor the guest policy of Minerva residence halls. As a Minerva student visiting the city, students must comport themselves in accordance with all policies and procedures under general student conduct, and as established by this Handbook and the Minerva team in that location. If a student is discovered to have violated this policy, the student is charged the relevant city fees as if they were living in independent housing, unless the student is found to be residing in the building acting as the residence hall which will result in fees as if they were living in Minerva University housing; assignment of this fee does not grant independent or Minerva University housing status. Students must alert the Student Life team in the city at least two weeks prior to arrival and should share their arrival and departure dates and housing information. Students who do not give at least two weeks' notice to the Student Life ground team will not be able to participate in city or community events. As with residential students, attendance at city-based Student Life events is subject to availability.

4.7. Growth and Learning Outside the Classroom

Minerva prepares students to be effective leaders and thoughtful global citizens through a portfolio of applied learning programs outside the classroom over their four years. The purposes of these programs and activities are for students to apply what they are learning in class to the world outside class, to share a sense of belonging within a tight-knit Minerva community, to understand how they can contribute meaningfully to society, and to develop their knowledge, skills, values and attitudes reflected in Minerva's Integrated Learning Outcomes.

4.7.1. The Minerva Community

Community is realized when a set of values is translated into practice. By joining the Minerva community, students, faculty, and staff commit to the continued pursuit of living by Minerva's Manifesto. Community values are reflected in how we treat one another and in the traditions and rituals of community programs and milestone experiences. Together with our Integrated Learning

Outcomes, these values and the experiences that grow from them help us form a vibrant, supportive and strong learning community — for the four undergraduate years and beyond.

4.7.2. Minerva Traditions and Milestone Events

Minerva has several signature events each year that engage students with one another to build community and to promote interpersonal engagement:

- 10:01s are gatherings where students learn about and celebrate the many cultures and backgrounds of Minerva students, sharing stories, music and food.
- Minerva Talks are gatherings for students to hear another student's life story, focusing on their development and on transformational moments.
- Feasts are milestone celebrations that bring all students together to prepare and share a meal. They take place several times a year.
- Students may be required to RSVP and confirm their attendance to specific milestone events in order to participate, such as at Friendsgiving and Quinquatria; while other milestone events, such as Foundation Week, Elevation, and Continuum are mandatory and require students' in-person presence.

4.7.3. Cultural and Civic Immersion in the Cities

Civic Projects are opportunities for students to work on a social impact challenge with local professionals. Partners may be non-profit, for-profit, or government agencies. Work on civic projects can sometimes be incorporated into graded assignments and final academic projects, or towards EL199 credit. Civic projects are a required component of the first year Cornerstone Curriculum and the second year Japanese Culture Course (applicable to all students living in Tokyo). Civic projects help students immerse deeply in the cities, build their portfolios, gain experience working in professional settings, and apply what they are learning in their coursework to issues in the community where they are living and studying. Students who engage in these project-based learning opportunities must make a professional-level commitment to their project.

4.7.4. Cultural and Experiential Engagement in the Cities

Students have many opportunities to engage with people and organizations in the cities where they live and study through a wide array of activities related to the arts; business; technology; political, economic and social issues; the professions; and contemporary matters of public interest. Staff curate on-going experiences, to help students connect with the city, culture, and history of their rotation location; as part of the Global Learning Course students are required to attend at least one staff-curated City Experience. Arriving late or missing a program that required prior registration may result in losing the option to attend future programs. Students should review Elevation and Foundation Week guides for the specific consequences.

4.7.5. Legacy Groups

Each new student, faculty, and staff member is assigned to a Legacy group when they join the Minerva community. Legacy groups share a common set of experiences that cross classes, roles, and locations across the world. Legacy groups continue beyond graduation for students as part of the alumni network.

4.7.6. Student Initiatives

Student Initiatives are events, programs, and clubs that are both organized and facilitated by students at Minerva. These initiatives range in structure from common interest groups to structured multi-cohort organizations to one-time events to recurring wellness programs. The opportunity for students to create experiences and build community for one another gives student leaders experience in operating and managing their own initiatives, from the local to the global scale. Students who elect to be leaders of these groups will learn a variety of valuable lifelong skills such as project management, team building, experience design, professional outreach, and community engagement.

Students who wish to start a Student Initiative should review the [information available at myMinerva.edu](https://myMinerva.edu). They meet 1:1 with their Student Initiative Mentor who will walk them through the resources that are available to them: connections to the city and its locals, seed funding, leadership building opportunities, designated pages for them on the Community Portal, access to cross-class collaboration channels, communal space reservations, content-based mentorship from Minerva staff and faculty, professional and leadership coaching from the CTD team, and more. Students seeking to build for their community and create opportunities for others to learn and engage will be supported by Minerva staff throughout the development and journey of their SI.

4.7.7. Unofficial Student-Sponsored Events or University Representation

Students organizing events for Minerva students without official sponsorship or approval should be aware that Minerva assumes no responsibility for student safety at these events or for any contractual or legal obligations incurred by the event sponsors. Additionally, students are not permitted to host events on behalf of Minerva University or misrepresent the institution's identity. This includes falsely acting as a host or sponsor in Minerva's name, using its logo or likeness, or claiming institutional representation without authorization.

4.8. Student Health

Minerva provides resources to support students in developing life skills, adjusting to new cultures and environments, improving their mental health, and much more. We take a public health approach to this part of Student Life and offer this information in a range of ways. While all staff at Minerva are responsible for contributing to the overall wellness of the community, Student Life staff have a special role in supporting these initiatives.

4.8.1. Health Insurance and Medical Care

As noted above, all residential students, including those in independent housing, are required to have health insurance (offered through Minerva at cost) as a condition of enrollment at Minerva. Minerva

seeks to provide the most affordable and complete coverage available to students. Policies change annually as students travel. Complete information is provided on [myMinerva](#). Students are enrolled automatically in Minerva's approved plan based on their location. Insurance rates cannot be prorated if a student arrives at their designated location late. Refunds will only be issued to students who are unable to arrive at their location because of an emergency or other situation beyond their control, and must be requested within 30 days from the beginning of the semester.

U.S. citizens studying in the U.S are required to have their own coverage under U.S. law. Dual citizens who were born in the U.S. and do not permanently reside in the U.S. are not eligible for Minerva health insurance policy while studying in San Francisco. In this situation, students are expected to obtain their own local health coverage or be covered by a government plan. Minerva does not issue waivers and requires students to participate in the approved insurance. Waivers are not granted because most policies are not as extensive as the ones that Minerva requires or are not recognized as widely by local health care providers.

Students are informed about how to access local medical care, for both routine matters and emergency services, during the orientation period at the beginning of each term. Staff members assist students in accessing these services and seeking medical care. Staff and Residential Assistants (RAs) are also trained to handle basic first aid and respond to emergency situations. For insurance enrollment questions, please contact Bursar's Office at bursar@minerva.edu

Students also have access to mental health resources including Counseling and Psychological Services, which are described in detail below.

4.8.2. Self-Management and Wellness

Minerva places high value on the importance of student health and wellbeing as integral to learning. These values are codified by the intentional inclusion of Self-Management and Wellness as one of our Integrated Learning Outcomes: Students should "practice self-sufficiency and effective help-seeking, and develop skills for self-efficacy, resilience, stress management, and the capacity to balance self-care with responsibilities." We expect students to develop in this area over all four years and to graduate from Minerva with a clear sense of how to manage and prioritize their own health and wellbeing, fully prepared for post-university life.

To ensure that students stay well and on track, we ask that you do the following:

- Be aware of your needs and identify the resources that you need to help you.
- Reach out to the right people to help you proactively and in a timely manner.
- Keep your appointments with people who are supporting you.
- Follow the advice and recommendations of professionals who are supporting you.
- Take medication as prescribed.
- Communicate regularly with everyone who is supporting you including your coach/advisor and professors.
- Self-monitor and assess how you are doing on an ongoing basis and identify what you need to facilitate your wellness, which may at times include modifying your living or academic plans (e.g., by taking a leave from Minerva, or having a lighter course load).

Minerva does not have a hospital or health care clinic that provides services directly to students, but staff are familiar with local healthcare resources that students can access. Minerva staff contacts local hospitals, urgent care facilities, and clinics in advance of students' arrival in each city to ensure that they will recognize the insurance that Minerva students carry, which expedites the delivery of care. Minerva staff members may assist students in receiving medical services but do not provide direct medical care themselves. Additionally, Minerva has a range of mental health resources available, including Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), which provides services for students who are experiencing mental health challenges.

We request that new students notify Minerva staff of ongoing health conditions through the Health History Form and that continuing students update staff as conditions change. Prior to arrival in each rotation city, students with a health condition that requires ongoing care should locate appropriate healthcare providers and prescription services and update those records as conditions change. This information is handled with the utmost attention to student privacy, in accordance with U.S. law. For students with active prescriptions, please note that it is not always possible to carry every kind of prescription drug into all the countries on the global rotation or to have prescription drugs shipped to you from outside that country. Students should consult with their prescribers to plan accordingly before they leave for each rotation city including San Francisco. Additionally, if you have health conditions that will require working with medical providers while you are a student, you should establish care with those providers in advance of arriving in each city.

Ultimately, students are responsible for managing their own life in a way that will benefit their health, which includes reaching out to resources that can help when needed. In addition to managing your own health and wellness, we believe part of a strong community comes from looking out for others and helping them with their challenges. Both managing your own health and assisting others help our entire community maintain a high level of wellness, which allows everyone to have the best possible experience at Minerva.

4.8.3. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) & Mental Health Resources

The mission of Counseling and Psychological Services is to support students' mental health as they pursue completion of their academic program and engagement in social, cultural, and co-curricular and extracurricular activities. CAPS accomplishes this by providing a range of mental health services in an inclusive, compassionate, and culturally competent environment. CAPS has trained professionals that assist students with their mental health needs. Minerva also contracts with additional services to ensure that a comprehensive program of resources is available.

Students are highly encouraged to use CAPS and the other services as needed throughout their Minerva journey. To learn more, including how to make an appointment or how to get urgent help, and see what specific services are available based on your geographic location, please visit the [CAPS page on MyMinerva](#).

4.9. Coaching & Talent Development (CTD)

The Coaching & Talent Development team supports Minerva's mission by empowering Minerva students in exploring, identifying, testing, and developing the skills and characteristics that will

support them in thriving personally and professionally. The CTD team delivers on this through one-on-one and group coaching, job search and graduate school advising, career management-related workshops, and curated resources. The team also provides guidance to students on Minerva-sponsored professional development opportunities, including term-time and summer internships at Minerva.

The CTD team collaborates across Minerva to align professional development-related programming and support and to provide access to a global network of professionals and industry leaders.

Specific modes of engagement with students vary by class year, based on what is most effective for students at each stage of their Minerva journey. Some important highlights include:

- A foundational series of small group coaching sessions offered for first-year students to help them develop the core competencies to understand themselves better to help them define and pursue their professional interests.
- A primary CTD coach who will support students throughout their Minerva journey. This model allows students to develop rapport with one coach over time. This CTD coach will also serve as the students' main thought and accountability partner in setting and reflecting on their Integrated Learning goals.
- Students interested in graduate or professional school are referred to faculty members who have volunteered to support students who are interested in pursuing jobs or graduate schools in the discipline in which the faculty member teaches and works.

Students' level of engagement with the coaches and talent development programming — and with the quality of interactions with faculty, staff, and external professionals in the Minerva network through civic projects, Minerva's term-time (work study) and summer internships, co-curriculars and other forms of in-city or virtual engagement — dramatically affects Minerva's ability to support students as they explore and pursue their professional goals. The job market, academic research ecosystem, and graduate and professional school application process often introduce constraints that require students to invest time and to take action to become a strong candidate. To help students navigate these constraints, CTD staff may define Minerva-specific milestones and deadlines that students must meet to access support.

Policies and procedures have been established to align student behaviors and interactions related to their professional growth with other aspects of the Minerva experience. A student's engagement with and access to coaching and professional development opportunities (e.g., Minerva internships, civic projects) will be affected by their academic status, honor code violations, disciplinary actions, work-study or internship performance, input from faculty and staff, and leave of absence status. Please see MyMinerva or talk to a coach for details.

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have secured the proper work authorization for internship opportunities, whether those opportunities are during the school year or during the summer. In some cases, employers may support the visa process by providing relevant documentation prior to a student's appointment with the appropriate consulate or embassy; however, the student is ultimately responsible for learning about and following the process based on requirements for their country of citizenship and the country in which they have an offer to work. Minerva does not provide support for work- and internship-related visas outside the US. Non-US students pursuing work opportunities in

the United States must work with Minerva's Designated School Official (DSO) to complete the CPT or OPT processes.

A full description of the Coaching & Talent Development programs and services may be found on [myMinerva](#).

4.10. Associated Students of Minerva (ASM)

Founded in 2016, the ASM was established to create a vehicle for communication and collaboration between students and the administration of Minerva University. ASM seeks to identify and help address issues that affect all or a large proportion of students. Two representatives of each class are elected by students each spring and each serve for a year, except for graduating seniors who serve until the end of Manifest. The representatives, who meet regularly with each other, have regular engagement with members of the administration to talk about student ideas and concerns and to serve as a sounding board for administration when considering or communicating new or changed policies. ASM provides students with opportunities not only to improve Minerva but also to develop and exercise leadership. For more information contact asm@minerva.edu.

5. Rules of Conduct and Disciplinary Policies

Minerva Student Life staff members review key rules of conduct with students in the materials and topics included with orientation – Foundation Week in the first year and Elevation each semester thereafter. The rules of conduct at Minerva are defined in keeping with local laws and Minerva's high expectations for student conduct. Some cities in the global rotation have city-specific policies. If students choose to engage in an activity that is not recommended by Minerva and that subjects them to risk of harm (for example, operating or riding a motorbike), students are required to sign waivers acknowledging that they engaged in this activity against Minerva's advice.

5.1. General Release and Waivers

[Assumption of Risk and General Release Form](#)
[General Event Participant Waiver, Release & Hold Harmless Form](#)
[Motorized Vehicle Waiver, Release & Hold Harmless Form](#)

5.2. Local Laws

All students are subject to the laws of the city, state, and country where they are living. These laws determine students' right to work and travel, and require them to behave in ways that may be different from the students' home countries. Although Minerva helps to orient students to local laws and norms,

it is the responsibility of each student to be informed about local laws. For example, if a student is in violation of a local law, such as drug possession or underage drinking, Minerva will not intervene between the student and local authorities. This is particularly important because Minerva students live in privately owned residence halls and other facilities in each city, and as such, local authorities can be summoned in the event of any disturbance or appearance of illegal conduct. In addition to any criminal charges or civil actions that may result against students who violate the law, students are subject to disciplinary action by Minerva for this conduct.

5.3. Minerva Student Code of Conduct

The Minerva Student Code of Conduct rests on four pillars: honesty, integrity, mutual respect, and personal responsibility. Minerva students are expected to conduct themselves with the highest levels of these qualities both inside and outside the classroom. As citizens of an academic community, Minerva students are expected to challenge themselves and one another considering each of the four pillars. Each individual who joins the Minerva community accepts this commitment to sustain and enhance personal, professional and institutional character and reputation.

Principles inherent in this Code of Conduct include:

- Students shall treat all members of the community with respect and without malicious intent.
- Students shall treat all members of the community in a way that ensures that students share equal opportunities.
- Students shall conduct themselves in a manner that upholds their honesty and integrity and promotes an environment of trust.
- Students shall conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate to serving as representatives of Minerva University.

Any member of the Minerva University community [may report conduct](#) by a student or students that may be a violation of the Residential Agreement, Student Code of Conduct, and/or other policies covered by this Student Handbook. Conduct violations related to Student Life can take place in a residence hall, at an event, in a classroom, online or in social media, or in any other real or virtual venue whether or not controlled by Minerva. Violations should be reported in writing to the Assistant Dean responsible for conduct through an incident report or through direct email.

Violations of the Code of Conduct that are not otherwise addressed below in the [Academic Honor Code](#) may lead to disciplinary action (Minerva's [disciplinary procedures](#) are described below). The following list of specific violations is not all-inclusive and other conduct that violates the Code of Conduct and Residential Agreements may be considered as a basis for disciplinary action:

1. **Unlawful Conduct:** Student conduct which violates US federal, state or local governmental penal and/or civil codes is prohibited, including but not limited to:
 - a. **Criminal behavior:** Actions that intentionally or recklessly threaten or inflict injury, harm, or violence on another person or property, and may also be a criminal offense, will be subject to discipline. Students do not need to be subject to legal proceedings in order for Minerva to proceed with the discipline process.

- b. **Discrimination and unlawful harassment:** Discrimination of all types is prohibited and violations will subject the student to discipline.
 - i. For conduct to be deemed intimidating, offensive or hostile, both the person complaining of harassment and a reasonable person standard must be met. Generally, statements and/or conduct legitimately and reasonably related to Minerva's mission of education do not constitute harassment (e.g., a debate about protections afforded to protected categories).
 - ii. This category of conduct also includes violations of the policy on Prohibited Sexual Conduct, which is posted on myMinerva [here](#), and may also be covered by the Social Media policy below.
 - iii. Retaliation against a person who reports, complains about, or participates in the investigation of harassment is likewise prohibited. Harassment is defined as persistent, repetitive, pervasive, or severe conduct (physical, verbal or visual) that creates an intimidating, offensive or hostile working or academic environment, or that substantially interferes with work or academic performance based on a person's protected status.
2. **Failure to abide by Minerva policies including:**
 - a. Violation of policies related to Work-Study; failure to honor confidentiality in a work-study or internship placement; or any other policy as outlined by the [Work Study Program](#).
 - b. Adherence requirements, including but not limited to violations of the Social Media, Alcohol, Drug, Smoking or Bullying policies below.
 - c. Unethical and inappropriate behavior, including in a Minerva-affiliated internship or civic partner project, including unprofessional and unethical behavior (e.g., claiming work as one's own when it was the product of a group or a colleague's efforts, working while intoxicated or under the influence of illegal substances).
 - d. possession of a weapon.
 - e. Residential Violations, including violations related to residence halls include changing rooms or roommates without permission, failing to comply with room or roommate reassignments, violating the policy on guests, having prohibited items in the residence hall, damaging the residence hall or property in a residence hall, making loud or disruptive noise during quiet hours, allowing a non-resident to enter the building of a closed-access residence, entering into private or unauthorized spaces, and any other conduct covered by the residential agreement or Minerva policy. These matters may be violations of the Student Code of Conduct whether or not the student is living in Minerva housing.
 - f. creating a health or safety risk.
 - g. Conducting oneself in a manner that violates the pillars of honesty and integrity defined within our Code of Conduct
3. **Interference with academic activities:** Intentionally or negligently interfering with academic activities. For this purpose, academic activities include, but are not limited to studying, teaching, research, advising, administration, judicial proceedings; and such administrative operations as security, safety, fire, police, or health emergency activities.
4. **Failure to respond or comply with reasonable instructions from Minerva staff and faculty.** Students are expected to comply with:
 - a. requests for communication and/or meetings with faculty and staff. It is the responsibility of each student to respond to such requests and to manage their correspondence and availability in a timely manner.

- b. sanctions and reasonable mandates or restrictions given by Minerva staff and faculty.
- 5. **Damage or destruction of property:** Prohibited is the intentional destruction, theft of, or damage to Minerva property or the property of Minerva faculty, staff or students, as well as to the property of Minerva partners in the rotation cities, including housing providers.
- 6. **Dishonesty and misrepresentation:** Prohibited is any form of dishonesty not covered by the Academic Honor Code, such as misrepresentation on a resume or in another communication or action related to financial aid, work-study, internship, visas, civic projects, internships and employment; purposely furnishing false information to any member of the faculty or staff; concealing or misrepresenting information in a conduct or honor code matter; or theft of any kind.

5.4. Alcohol and Drug Policy

Minerva University would like to emphasize the importance of educating students about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse. In this effort, Minerva provides alcohol and drug abuse prevention education for all new students.

Minerva is committed to upholding local, state and federal laws; requiring proper management of events and activities where alcoholic beverages are served; and minimizing the misuse of alcoholic beverages. This policy applies to all registered Minerva students seeking to serve or consume alcohol. Alcohol is prohibited in the residence halls and all residential agreements spell this out in detail. This is the case even for students who are of legal drinking age in a city. Students are prohibited from possessing or consuming any alcoholic beverage on Minerva-operated premises except for officially sponsored and sanctioned events at the time of graduation, held outside the residence halls. No member of the Minerva community may serve or furnish any alcoholic beverages to persons under the legal drinking age of their residential city, particularly if those persons cannot establish that they are of legal drinking age according to local laws.

- The use of illegal drugs is prohibited. This includes hallucinogens, cannabis, barbiturates, amphetamines, narcotics, and prescription and controlled drugs, except as expressly permitted by law.
- Students may not possess, use, distribute, sell, or manufacture illegal drugs.
- Attending Minerva events, experiences, or programs while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs is prohibited

Minerva believes that it is the personal responsibility of each student to call for medical assistance for themselves or for any other member of the community in the event of an alcohol or drug related overdose or in any instance in which medical attention is needed. In these instances, any student who assists a fellow student in getting necessary medical attention will not be subject to disciplinary action by Minerva for drug or alcohol conduct violations immediately connected to the incident.

5.5. Smoking Policy

Minerva is committed to providing a safe, healthy and productive work environment for all students, faculty, staff and visitors. Consistent with this commitment, and in compliance with federal, state, and local regulations, Minerva remains smoke and drug free. Smoking and/or the use of all illegal drugs, including cannabis (marijuana) is prohibited in all indoor and outdoor facilities on Minerva leased property with no exception, including within vehicles parked on those properties. This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and other persons on campus, regardless of the purpose for their visit, and to all Minerva leased facilities and vehicles.

- Smoking is prohibited in any facility leased by Minerva, regardless of location.
- Smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of an area that surrounds Minerva leased facilities, including entrances, exits, mechanical system air intake structures, public and common areas for such facilities. Local regulations in Minerva's rotation cities may enhance this policy further.

Any student caught smoking, vaping, or possessing smoking apparatus or paraphernalia in any area of Minerva-leased properties will be charged \$250 per occasion and may be subject to removal for continued violations.

5.5.1. Definitions

Smoking is defined as inhaling, exhaling, burning, vaping, carrying or possessing any lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, electronic cigarette that creates a vapor, hookah or other lit product and including the use of any substance, including but not limited to tobacco, cloves or marijuana. Illegal drugs include all forms of cannabis, including in amounts and forms otherwise permitted by California law in non-campus locations.

5.5.2. Accountability

The success of this policy depends on the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of all members of the Minerva community. All students, faculty, and staff share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy. Refusal by students, faculty, or staff to comply with this policy may result in appropriate disciplinary action. Visitors who refuse to comply will be asked to leave should they persist.

5.6. Hazing and Bullying

Hazing and bullying are fundamental violations of Minerva's guiding principles and are strictly prohibited. The expressed or implied consent of the victim is not a defense. Apathy in the presence of hazing or bullying is also not a neutral act and is a violation of the code of conduct. Acts that intentionally or recklessly inflict physical, mental, or emotional pain are prohibited.

5.7. Student Solicitation of Funds

Students are prohibited from soliciting funds from members of the Minerva faculty and staff for any purpose without the express written permission of a Dean-level administrator from the Student Life department. This applies to fundraising for individual students or group activities and events of any kind.

5.8. Social Media and Community Messaging Outlet Policies

The use of social media is governed by the Student Code of Conduct and federal and state laws. Students are responsible for their own use of social media and messaging outlets, which may or may not be monitored or regulated. It is up to each user and participant in a virtual discussion to regulate content that is added or shared with the community.

Within these general guidelines, students are prohibited as follows:

- Students may not post any content that is discriminatory, including any posts that are vulgar, false, obscene, harassing, or disparaging to the race, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of any individual with whom a student comes into contact as a result of being a member of the Minerva community. (Note: Because Minerva is a global community with students from more than 70 countries, students must be especially mindful that attempts at humor based on the differences within the student body may be perceived as disparaging to others.)
- Students may not disclose any financial, proprietary, or other confidential information of Minerva.
- Students may not present themselves as official representatives of, or spokespersons for, Minerva unless asked to do so by a Minerva staff or faculty member.
- Students may not utilize Minerva's trademarks or logos without permission of Minerva.
- Students may not represent themselves as another person, real or fictitious, or otherwise attempt to obscure their identity as a means to circumvent the prohibitions included in this policy.
- Students may not share or distribute videos or still shots of classes or events without the explicit written permission of the course faculty member and college head overseeing the course and any student whose image appears in the video or photograph.

If found in violation of these policies, students will be subject to disciplinary actions including warning, probation, suspension, or withdrawal from Minerva.

5.8.1. Guidelines on Anonymous Postings on Social Media and Community Messaging Outlets

One of Minerva's guiding principles is Being Authentic, explained as follows:

We communicate openly and candidly, addressing people directly and conveying heartfelt emotion. We welcome honest dialogue, even about sensitive or controversial topics. We impart accurate information with genuine sincerity, building trust and establishing mutual respect. We avoid anything artificial, false, or contrived; hyperbole breeds suspicion and erodes credibility.

In keeping with this principle, we do not support or value anonymous platforms as appropriate means of communication in the Minerva community. Anonymous posts are likely to spread confusion, misperceptions, and uncertainty, without holding anyone accountable for being authentic. They undermine our collective intentions to promote honest dialogue in a context of respect for one another. Furthermore, we believe that an anonymous post is likely to provide the author with a false sense of privacy, while breeding an environment in which others are motivated to uncover the author's identity.

We recognize the need for confidentiality and privacy regarding sensitive and/or personal information that should not be shared broadly. The Minerva staff respects student privacy within legal limits and will support individual students as they negotiate how and when to share personal information with others. Moreover, Minerva students have access to confidential counseling services from our professional Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff and other mental health services. We encourage all students to reach out (as described on [myMinerva](#) and elsewhere) as relevant, rather than post an anonymous message as a way of expressing their need for support.

It is important to understand that when students reach out to appropriate resources, we can support them; we can also verify, investigate, and adjudicate any issues, as necessary. When we learn of a possible issue by way of an anonymous post, we are not able to support students directly, thereby reducing our overall ability to keep students healthy and safe.

We recognize that students might write anonymous posts as a way of sharing harmless, fun, or lighthearted thoughts or feelings. Although such posts do not carry inherent risks, they are not consistent with the principle of being authentic in our communications with others. We encourage students to consider how such messages might be better expressed openly, with a sense of accountability to one another.

Anonymous posts might also be seen as a means of venting, or expressing dissatisfaction about some aspect of life at Minerva. If directed at other students, an anonymous post could cause hurt feelings or anger, without a means of responding personally. If directed at staff or faculty, we are unable to provide direct feedback. However, we actively seek student feedback and encourage you to email studentlife@minerva.edu if you find that other methods of feedback solicitation (e.g., surveys, focus groups, RA meetings, office hours) are not appropriate or adequate.

As Minerva seeks to create and foster a real life community, cohesion among members of the community is paramount. We do not endorse and strongly discourage the creation and/or facilitation of anonymous platforms and we will not monitor the content of such. We urge all members of the

Minerva community to have a zero tolerance policy for anonymous communication, especially the kind that can cause discord or panic. Those specifically seeking to cause such harm to the Minerva community will be subjected to the same student conduct rules at Minerva as facilitators or originators of uncivil discourse in general.

5.9. Computing Policies

Minerva seeks to provide education in an environment where the free exchange of ideas is encouraged and protected. Minerva makes available computing and network facilities (CNF) resources for use by students. These services are provided for educational purposes and to carry out the legitimate business of Minerva University. Responsible, considerate, and ethical behavior expected by Minerva extends to use of computing and network facilities resources. These CNF resources may include but are not limited to:

- Video and ethernet cables and adapters
- Learning Management Systems and virtual platforms
- Data networking equipment systems, including remote and wireless access
- Computer software
- Electronically stored institutional data and messages
- G Suite for Education
- All other similar resources owned, controlled, and/or operated by Minerva
- Services to maintain these resources

Minerva retains absolute ownership rights of the CNF resources.

5.9.1. Privacy and Security

Students' personal documents, files and electronic mail stored on a Minerva-networked computer or server are normally accessible only by the student. However, any file or document placed on a Minerva-owned computer or network is subject to access by Minerva, and thus, should not be regarded as private or confidential. All staff members working in information technology have clear guidelines that prohibit violations of privacy and confidentiality and, in the normal course of their work, do not view the contents of user files or email. However, authorized Minerva personnel will take appropriate steps to investigate when there is a suspicion of inappropriate use of computing or networking resources.

Many educational and business activities at Minerva require network access to resources on the Internet. To ensure adequate bandwidth to these sites for primary educational and business purposes, Minerva IT staff may restrict the amount of traffic to particular sites and the amount of traffic of specific types.

From time to time, these network monitoring activities may allow systems managers to identify individuals whose activities downgrade the performance of the community network or a segment of the network, or which appear to violate the general guidelines for appropriate use of computing and

network resources. In such instances, Minerva staff may ask you to cease these activities. If you continue such activities, or if they include illegal activities, appropriate authorities may be notified. In extreme cases, network privileges may be revoked on an interim basis pending resolution of the issue.

5.9.2. Passwords

Individuals who are entrusted with logins and passwords, or who inadvertently discover them, are expected to guard them responsibly. These passwords are not to be shared with others. Passwords may be used for the purpose of security, but the use of the password does not affect Minerva's ownership of electronic information.

5.9.3. Access to Resources

Access to CNF resources is a privilege. All users must understand and abide by the responsibilities that come with the privilege of use. Such responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Students are expected to understand and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- Students must not intentionally seek information about, browse, copy, or modify non-public files belonging to other people. Students must not attempt to “sniff” or eavesdrop on data on the network that is not intended for them.
- Students are authorized to use only computer resources and information to which they have legitimately been granted access. Any attempt to gain unauthorized access to any computer system, resource or information is expressly forbidden. If students encounter or observe a gap in system or network security, they must stop accessing data immediately and report the issue immediately to Minerva University staff at helpdesk@minerva.edu.
- Sharing passwords with others is expressly forbidden.
- Minerva's policies on harassment and use of social media apply equally to electronic displays and communications as to more traditional (e.g., oral and written) means of display and communication.
- Messages, sentiments, and declarations sent as electronic mail or postings must meet the same standards for distribution or display as physical (paper) documents.
- Unsolicited mailings and unauthorized mass mailings from campus networks or computing resources (i.e., “spam”) are prohibited.
- Spoofing, and attempts to spoof or falsify e-mail, network or other information used to identify the source, destination or other information about a communication, data or information are prohibited.
- Students must not degrade computing or network performance in any way that could prevent others from meeting their educational or business goals. This includes preventing others from using shared resources by running unattended processes, by playing games or by “locking” systems without permission.
- Students must conform to laws and policies regarding protection of intellectual property, including laws and policies regarding copyright, patents, and trademarks. When the content and distribution of an electronic communication would exceed fair use as defined by the federal Copyright Act of 1976, users of campus computing or networking resources must secure appropriate permission to distribute protected

material in any form, including text, photographic images, audio, video, graphic illustrations, and computer software.

- Students must not use campus computing or networking resources or personal computing resources accessed through campus network facilities to collect, store or distribute information or materials, or to participate in activities that violate federal, state or local laws or Minerva policies or guidelines. This includes, but is not limited to, policies regarding intellectual property and sexual or other forms of harassment.
- Students must not create or willfully disseminate computer viruses, worms, or other software intended to degrade system or network security. Students must take reasonable steps to prevent their systems from being used as a vehicle for such actions. This includes installing system and software patches as well as anti-virus signatures files.
- The use of CNF resources for advertising, selling, and soliciting for commercial purposes or for personal gain is prohibited without the prior written consent of Minerva.
- The disclosure of individually identifiable non-directory information is protected by the Minerva's policy on Student Privacy Rights and Responsibilities and by applicable laws.
- Downloading, storing, posting, forwarding, screen-capturing, recording, or in any other way sharing videos of class sessions is a violation of Social Media policy and may also violate the privacy rights of students under Minerva's policy, and other applicable laws.
- Willful or unauthorized misuse or disclosure of information owned by Minerva will also constitute just cause for disciplinary action, including expulsion, regardless of whether criminal or civil penalties are imposed. It is also expected that any user will report suspected abuses of CNF resources. Failure to do so may subject the individual to loss of CNF access and/or disciplinary action.
- Minerva may immediately suspend service to an individual or computer found to be significantly degrading the usability of the network or other computer systems or to be accessing data without authorization. Inappropriate use will be referred to the Student Life team to take action, which may result in discipline up to and including dismissal from Minerva.

5.9.4. Computer Loan Policy

Minerva has a limited number of loaner computers available in each rotation city for students to check out during the semester when they need a temporary computer because of immediate loss, maintenance, or damage to their own computer. Priority goes to students who need to borrow a computer to take class, and thus a loaner laptop may need to be shared by students, depending upon need. In general, a loaner laptop may be checked out by a student for no more than two weeks at a time, and no more than twice a semester. The number of loaner laptops in a city is limited and at certain times none might be available. When this happens, a waitlist will be honored based on when requests are received. If a loaner laptop is returned in damaged condition or not returned to a Minerva staff member within the two-week time limit or other appointed deadline, the student is automatically charged the total cost of the issued laptop and/or other equipment, billed directly to the student's account. Minerva might also charge a refundable deposit to secure the loaner laptop. The loaner laptop (and charger when applicable) must be returned to Minerva staff in the same location from which it was borrowed.

5.10. Disciplinary Procedures

The process described below is administrative in nature and is separate and distinct from the criminal and civil legal systems and the Minerva Honor Code policy on academic dishonesty. Separate procedures for violations of the Prohibited Sexual Conduct policy are included in the policy found on the [myMinerva](#).

Resolution through the disciplinary process does not preclude someone from pursuing legal action now or in the future. If the conduct in question is alleged to be a violation of both Minerva policy and law, Minerva will normally proceed with its usual conduct process, regardless of action or inaction by outside authorities. Violations of the conduct code, policies, and residential agreements may be resolved through an informal process or handled through the formal process set forth below. The decision to handle a matter informally or formally depends on the gravity of the violation, the student's previous record, and other relevant factors, including previous violations and the student's willingness to take responsibility for their actions. Faculty or staff in each city will consult with the Global Director responsible for conduct if needed to determine whether a violation rises to the level of warranting a Formal conduct process. If student conduct places the community at immediate risk, Minerva may take whatever steps necessary to protect the community first, and institute interim sanctions immediately, in addition to Formal proceedings as soon as reasonably possible after the event.

The process of adjudicating alleged violations of the conduct code or other regulations cited in this section is the responsibility of the Student Life Assistant/Associate Dean assigned to disciplinary oversight or their designee. When violations are referred to the Student Life Assistant/Associate Dean assigned to discipline, that person conducts the initial investigation and determines if disciplinary proceedings should be commenced. The Student Life Assistant/Associate Dean may delegate all or part of the investigation to a City Director if the alleged violation takes place in one of Minerva's global locations, or to another designated staff person as circumstances require.

Informal Conduct Process

Violations referred to the informal disciplinary conduct process are handled by the informal conduct officer assigned to the rotation city, or by another designee assigned by the Assistant/Associate Dean with disciplinary oversight. The default informal conduct officer within each rotation city is generally the Residential Life Manager. Students referred to the informal disciplinary conduct process will receive a Notice of Alleged Violation, in writing, within 21 days of notification of conduct. Students will have the opportunity to meet with the informal conduct officer to discuss the incident, review the alleged violations and relevant details, and receive an impartial determination after sharing their perspective. If the student is found Responsible for violation of policy during the informal disciplinary conduct process, the student signs a *Statement of Responsibility* and receives relevant sanctions. Students may expect to receive a Finding of Responsibility within five (5) business days after their meeting with the informal conduct officer.

In an effort to ensure that conduct matters are resolved in a timely manner, Minerva reserves the right to move forward with the resolution and disciplinary process if:

- a student fails to respond at any point in this process or the student fails to respond to notifications or requests for response within the time allowed, or
- the student withdraws or is dismissed from Minerva after the date of the alleged action giving rise to the complaint, whether or not the informal conduct officer has initiated either the investigation or discipline process.

The student may appeal the Finding of Responsibility to the Formal Conduct Process and escalate for review by a Student Conduct Committee by reaching out to the Assistant/Associate Dean with disciplinary oversight. The appeal must be in writing and submitted directly to the Assistant/Associate Dean within five (5) business days of receiving the finding. Appeals at the informal level must be on the basis of: 1) a substantial mistake of fact; 2) a fundamental misinterpretation of the policies, rules, or regulation involved; 3) a substantial procedural error; 4) new information that was not available at the time of the review and that could have reasonably affected the determination or sanction; or 5) conflict of interest or bias by the informal conduct officer. The student must include the basis for the appeal and provide clear information on the basis for appeal. Once the appeal is received, the Assistant/Associate Dean will commence with the Formal Conduct Process.

Alternatively, the student may appeal what they believe to be an unreasonable sanctioning without appealing the Finding of Responsibility by submitting a written appeal to the Assistant/Associate Dean with disciplinary oversight within five (5) business days of receiving the finding, requesting a review of the assigned sanctions. An appeal for appropriate sanctions will be adjudicated by the Assistant/Associate Dean with disciplinary oversight, or their designee, within 10 days.

Disciplinary records at the informal disciplinary conduct level are maintained by the Office of Student Life and are not part of students' permanent records..

Formal Conduct Process

When matters are referred to the Formal conduct process, the investigation commences within a reasonable time, usually within 30 days of notification of the conduct. The student is informed of the commencement of proceedings in writing, stating the rules, laws, regulations or policies violated, and gives the student the opportunity to prepare a written statement for submission in the proceeding. The student is given a reasonable amount of time to submit such a statement, usually 5 business days; this period is known as the investigation period. The Student Life Assistant/Associate Dean shall provide the student the option to meet and discuss the process and proceedings which may follow, and answer questions the student may have during the 5-day investigation period.

The Student Life Assistant/Associate Dean or designee appoints three persons, one or two each from the Minerva faculty and staff, to serve as a Student Conduct Committee within 10 days of completion of the investigation period. Each committee member should have no prior close involvement with the student(s) as an advisor, mentor, or supervisor, and no involvement with the incident that gave rise to the proceeding.

The Student Life Assistant/Associate Dean or designee provides the Student Conduct Committee with the investigation report, the student's statement, if any, and recommendations for sanctions, if appropriate. The Committee convenes within 10 days of appointment. It may investigate further or ask the Student Life Assistant/Associate Dean to investigate further, as appropriate, to ensure that all relevant information is considered.

The Committee shall consider:

- **Information**
 - Is there any additional information needed to make a decision?
 - Is there anything in the record that is incomplete or unclear?
- **Responsibility**
 - Has the student admitted to the conduct?
 - If not, is there substantial evidence that the student engaged in the alleged conduct?
 - Is the conduct a violation of the law, residential agreement, student code of conduct, and/or other Minerva policy?
- **Fair and Appropriate Sanction**
 - Considering the conduct in question and the record of the student, is the sanction recommended fair and appropriate?
 - Has the student been given notice and a chance to address their participation in the conduct?
 - Is the sanction proportional to the gravity of the conduct?
 - How does the student's previous record affect the kind of sanction that should be imposed?
 - Has the student been a good member of the Minerva community?
 - Based on past and this conduct, is the student likely to be a good member of the community in the future?
 - Does the student pose any risk to the community?
- **Aggravating and Mitigating Circumstances**
 - Are there aggravating or mitigating circumstances that affect the sanction?
 - Did the student openly admit the misconduct?
 - Did the student take responsibility for the misconduct?
 - Did the student express remorse about the conduct?
 - Did the student indicate that they learned anything from this incident?
 - Does the student have a record of discipline?

The Committee deliberates and makes a recommendation to the Student Life Assistant/Associate Dean within 5 business days of convening, unless further investigation is required, in which case the Committee must reconvene within 5 business days of completion of additional investigation and make a recommendation at that time. The student shall be provided timely updates if any such additional review time is required by the Student Conduct Committee

In an effort to ensure that conduct matters are resolved in a timely manner, Minerva reserves the right to move forward with the resolution and disciplinary process if:

- a student fails to respond at any point in this process or the student fails to respond to notifications or requests for response within the time allowed, or
- the student withdraws or is dismissed from Minerva after the date of the alleged action giving rise to the complaint, whether or not the Assistant/Associate Dean has initiated either the investigation or discipline process.

The Student Life Assistant/Associate Dean considers the recommendation of the panel and makes a final decision. The Global Director then informs the student of the outcome by email, including the sanction and rights of appeal.

The student may appeal to the Dean of Students. The appeal must be in writing and submitted directly to the Dean of Students within 5 days. The Dean of Students or designee will consider appeals based only on one of the following bases:

1. **A substantial mistake of fact**
2. **A procedural error that could have affected the determination or sanction(s)**
3. **A fundamental misinterpretation of the policies, rules, or regulations**
4. **New information is available that was not available at the time of the petition review which could have reasonably affected the determination or sanction**

The student must include the basis for the appeal and provide clear information on the basis for appeal. The Dean of Students reviews the written record and may interview the Student Life Assistant/Associate Dean, Student Conduct Committee and/or the student as deemed necessary to make a decision. The Dean of Students acts promptly in the appeal, usually within 5 business days and informs the student by email with a copy of this communication to the Student Life Assistant/Associate Dean. If the appeal is granted, the Student Life Assistant/Associate Dean carries out next steps as set forth by the Dean of Students. If the appeal is denied, the Student Life Assistant/Associate Dean implements the original decision.

The decision of the Dean of Students or Designee is final and unappealable unless it is returned for further review to the Committee, at which time the Committee may provide a novel determination which is subject to an additional appeal by the Dean of Students.

Disciplinary records at the Formal disciplinary conduct level are maintained centrally and become part of students' permanent records. In specific instances the institution may deem it necessary to add disciplinary notations on a student's transcript.

5.10.1. Interim No Contact Orders

The Student Life Assistant/Associate Dean responsible for discipline may immediately issue a no-contact order on an interim basis prior to a Student Conduct Committee meeting if it is reasonably believed necessary to protect a person's safety and/or preserve a safe environment. A no-contact order prohibits a student, a group of students, or a student initiative from contacting a specific individual or individuals. These may result in change of residence location, change of work study arrangements, and/or change of academic class assignments, or other academic accommodations. If a no-contact order is issued, the Student Life Assistant/Associate Dean will make every effort to communicate such action in writing to the student as soon as is practicable after such a decision is made.

5.10.2. Sanctions

Any one or more of the following sanctions may be imposed on a student who is found responsible for a violation:

1. Restitution: Reimbursement by the student to Minerva, the complainant(s), and/or a member of the Minerva community to cover the cost of damage to property or other loss.
2. Fine: A monetary penalty assessed as appropriate to the violation.
3. Service Hours: A defined number of work hours the student must complete, either in the residence hall or in another appropriate location.
4. Educational Program/Project: Programs and activities designed to help the student become more aware of conduct policies and understand the inappropriateness of the student's behavior, including, but not limited to, participation in an educational program.
5. Loss of Privilege(s): Denial of specific privilege(s) for a defined period of time. Privileges include, but are not limited to participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities and events such as social events, student organizations and activities, and student government; loss of services and support and access; loss of financial aid; and loss of the privilege of living in a residence hall or participating in the global rotation.
6. Restricted Access: Conditions which specifically dictate and limit the student's presence in Minerva-controlled locations (virtual or physical) and/or participation in Minerva-sponsored activities. The restrictions may include, but are not limited to, presence in certain buildings or locations or a no-contact order in relation to a particular individual or individuals.
7. Removal of Offending Cause: Requirement to remove weapons, pets, stereos, or other identified property.
8. Warning: Conduct warning is issued when a student has violated a policy and is being warned that further violations will escalate the matter to a Formal Proceeding.
9. Relocation/Loss of Housing: Requirement that the student relocate to another residence hall or non-Minerva location by a specified date.
10. Conduct Probation: Formal, written notice that the student's behavior is in violation of the Principles of Community and/or another policy or policies and an expectation that the student must exhibit good conduct for a defined period of time. Any further violations during the probationary period may result in suspension or expulsion from Minerva.
11. Suspension: Separation from Minerva for a defined period of time. During the suspension period the student is not permitted in any Minerva-controlled building and is not permitted to participate in any Minerva-sponsored or affiliated program or activity. The terms of the suspension may include the designation of special conditions affecting eligibility for readmission or special conditions to be in effect upon readmission.
12. Expulsion: Permanent separation from Minerva. A student who has been expelled is not permitted in residence halls and is not permitted to participate in any Minerva-sponsored or affiliated program or activity.

Sanctions 9-12 may only be imposed through Formal Disciplinary Procedures.

5.11. Records of Student Disciplinary Matters

Minerva University retains student disciplinary records for seven (7) years from the date of the outcome letter and may keep records for longer periods of time at the discretion of the Dean of Students or designee. Students may review disciplinary records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act's provision for viewing their educational records; they do so by scheduling an appointment with the Dean of Students or designee at least five (5) business days in advance.

Records may be redacted so that information relating to other students, administrative file notes, and other confidential information is removed prior to student inspection or issuance.

Suspensions and expulsions are noted on student transcripts. Minerva may place a hold on official transcripts, diplomas, graduations, and course registration pending the outcome of an appeal of suspensions and expulsions. Students may request a stay of these holds from the Provost within two (2) business days of the notice of the sanctions. The request will be evaluated by the Provost or designee, whose determination is final. Other conduct violations and sanctions are noted in the student file, unless the sanctions do not carry this notation.

Minerva may release the name, nature of the violation, and the sanction for any student who is found in violation of a policy that is also a crime of violence, including: arson, burglary, robbery, criminal homicide, sex offenses, assault, destruction/damage/vandalism of property, intimate partner violence, stalking and kidnapping/abduction. In doing so, Minerva will inform other students who reported or witnessed the act and will not release any information that could lead to the identification of a student who reported or provided information about the violation.

5.12. Prohibited Sexual Conduct

Minerva has enacted the Prohibited Sexual Conduct Policy in order to:

1. maintain our community values and expectations that all community members are free from sexual misconduct and all forms of sex and/or gender discrimination and harassment,
2. describe our procedures for determining when this policy has been violated, and
3. provide recourse for individuals and the community in response to policy violations.

Minerva's [Prohibited Sexual Conduct Policy](#) applies to all members of the Minerva community and complies with applicable laws that prohibit sex and/or gender-related discrimination.

Minerva is committed to the principles of academic freedom, including free inquiry and expression. This policy is not intended to stifle the freedom of Minerva students, faculty, and staff to properly engage in vigorous discussion and debate and to express ideas that may be controversial, provocative, or unpopular. However, this protection of free speech has limits, such that speech or

conduct that rises to the level of unlawful harassment on the basis of gender is neither legally protected expression nor an exercise in academic freedom. Minerva supports an environment free of sex or gender-based harassment and misconduct.

Minerva does not tolerate acts of Prohibited Sexual Conduct. This term refers to the following forms of behavior:

- Sex or Gender-Based Harassment
- Sexual Misconduct, which includes Sexual Assault, Non-Consensual Sexual Contact, Sexual Exploitation, and Stalking
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Prohibited Relationships by Persons in Authority
- Retaliation against a person who inquires, reports, or otherwise participates in good faith regarding this policy

Any report of Prohibited Sexual Conduct will be taken seriously and addressed promptly. Minerva will act to end the prohibited sexual conduct, prevent its recurrence, and appropriately sanction responsible parties. Individuals who violate these policies are subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment at Minerva (faculty or staff), expulsion (students), and/or other appropriate sanctions.

The full policy, which can be accessed on [myMinerva](#), defines terms and prohibited conduct; describes Minerva's consent culture and related educational programs; sets forth reporting processes and rights of parties to a reported matter; establishes procedures for investigation, review, and appeal; and provides local resources.

Anyone who wishes to report a possible violation of this policy should contact any Minerva staff or faculty member or the Prohibited Sexual Conduct Coordinator via email psc@minerva.edu.

5.13. Mandatory Leave of Absence or Mandatory Non-Residential Study

Minerva's primary concern is the health and welfare of each individual student. Minerva provides a range of services to support the mental and physical health of our students and requires students to carry medical insurance. Students with physical or mental health conditions who need accommodations are encouraged to request accommodations through the process outlined [here](#).

In extraordinary circumstances, students whose psychiatric, psychological or medical condition significantly disrupts or threatens the life or safety of the student or others or prevents such a student from being able to care of themselves in Minerva's environment may be required to take a Mandatory Leave of Absence or to leave residency in Minerva housing and to study remotely. In these circumstances, students will be given the opportunity to request a voluntary leave of absence by submitting a Leave of Absence Request Form on the registrar site at myMinerva. If a student declines to take a voluntary leave and if it is determined after an individualized review of available information,

Minerva may require a Mandatory Leave of Absence or Mandatory Non-Residential Study. This policy establishes the procedures for a Mandatory Leave of Absence and Mandatory Non-Residential Study, and the conditions relevant to returning to residential study.

A Mandatory Leave of Absence or Mandatory Non-Residential Study under this policy is not a disciplinary matter or process. However, it is possible that conduct leading to a leave under this policy may also be subject to review under the Minerva's code of conduct and disciplinary process. Nothing in this policy limits Minerva from also taking disciplinary action against the student if warranted based on the student's conduct under the Academic Honor Code, Code of Student Conduct and Residential Agreement, as set forth above. Nothing in this policy limits Minerva's authority to take action to ensure the safety of the community or take steps under other policies such as placing enrollment holds, requiring students to meet outstanding financial obligations, or proceeding with relevant academic actions. Nothing in this policy relieves a student of financial obligations that were in place at the time a Leave of Absence or Non-Residential Study was imposed.

5.13.1. Criteria for Mandatory Leave

The decision to place a student on a Mandatory Leave of Absence or Mandatory Non-Residential Study is made by the Dean of Students, in consultation with other professionals as appropriate. The Dean may require such a Leave following an individualized review of student in which it is determined that a student reasonably meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Presents a substantial risk of harm to self or others or has engaged in threatening or violent activities.
2. Significantly disrupts the educational or other activities of the community.
3. Is unable or unwilling to adequately care for oneself and their safety in Minerva's learning environment.

5.13.2. Procedures for Determining Whether Mandatory Leave is Appropriate

When a Mandatory Leave of Absence or Mandatory Non-Residential Study is being considered, the Dean of Students or designee will notify a student that a Mandatory Leave of Absence or Mandatory Non-Residential Study under this policy is under review and specify the reason(s) for the review. Where possible, the Dean or their designee will encourage the student to take a voluntary leave of absence.

The student will have two (2) calendar days from the date on which notice was received to respond to any concerns raised in the notification. If the student declines to respond or is unable to respond because of exigent circumstances, the decision to proceed will be made without the student's statement.

The Dean may determine, based on the information available and in consultation with appropriate professionals, that the student's continued presence in Minerva facilities and activities poses an imminent threat of significant harm to themselves and other students. In such a circumstance, the Dean may remove the student from the community on an interim basis pending the outcome of the individualized assessment and review. The Dean will conduct an individualized and objective assessment to determine whether the student can safely participate in the program and the community.

Students are expected to cooperate in the assessment and may be required to undergo a mental or physical evaluation from a qualified specialist with expertise and experience in the areas that led to the action being taken (e.g., psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed mental health counselor, or medical doctor). The student is expected to sign a release of information to facilitate discussions between Minerva and the clinician conducting an evaluation. Students may also be asked to provide relevant medical and/or psychological information from their health care provider.

In consultation with appropriate professionals and school officials, the Dean of Students will review the available information to determine whether a Mandatory Leave of Absence or Mandatory Non-Residential Study should be invoked. The Dean may consider all relevant documentation and will confer with the Petition Review and Policy Committee and with individuals who may have relevant information about whether a leave or non-residential study is appropriate for a particular student. Although each case will vary, the Dean may confer with anyone on the faculty or staff who may be able to help in the assessment of the situation.

The Dean will provide written notice of the decision to the student. That decision may include: (1) that the student can remain enrolled, with no conditions; (2) that the student can remain enrolled, subject to the conditions outlined in the decision letter; (3) that the student will be placed on a Mandatory Leave of Absence; or (4) that the student will be placed on a Mandatory Non-Residential Study.

If a Mandatory Leave of Absence or Mandatory Non-Residential Study is imposed, the written decision will include the following information and conditions:

1. The time frame within which the student may be eligible to return.
2. The conditions that the student must satisfy to be eligible for return, including but not limited to providing documentation of a medical or other condition evaluated and treated by a qualified specialist who indicates the diagnosis, course of treatment, and the student's readiness to return to study and/or residence,
3. The procedures that the student must follow when re-enrolling.
4. The academic standing of the student and any conditions that the student must meet academically upon return.

Unless the decision letter states otherwise, the Dean's decision is effective immediately.

5.13.3. Appeal

A student placed on a Mandatory Leave of Absence or Mandatory Non-Residential Study has two calendar days from the receipt of the decision letter from the Dean to submit an appeal to the Provost. The student may appeal any decision of the Dean of Students, including any decision to impose the Mandatory Leave of Absence or the Mandatory Non-Residential Study, and/or the conditions imposed to return.

A student wishing to appeal must submit a written letter to the Provost within two calendar days of the decision. The letter must state why the student believes that the Dean's decision was not warranted and provide any additional information or documentation the student believes should be considered.

The Provost will review the student's appeal and may:

1. Uphold the decision without any modifications;
2. Modify the decision;
3. Overturn the decision; or
4. Return the decision for further review.

The Provost's decision will be communicated to the student in writing and will be considered final.

5.13.4. During the Mandatory Leave or Non-residential Study

Unless expressly permitted in writing, students on leave are not eligible to participate in Minerva University's activities or to access student services. Students who are enrolled in non-residential study under this policy are not permitted to be present at Minerva facilities and are not permitted to engage in any in-person Minerva activities or services. If the student is on Mandatory leave, the student's access to Minerva email, courses and Community Portal may be suspended.

5.13.5. Return from Mandatory Leave or Non-residential Study

A student will not be permitted to return to Minerva until the leave period specified in the decision letter has elapsed and the conditions for return have been satisfied.

A student must make a written request to return to the Dean of Students and must provide the documentation specified in the initial decision letter to support the request to be reinstated. The form for Petition to Return from Leave is available on the [Registrar site on myMinerva](#). To request return for fall semester, documentation should be provided on or before January 15, and for spring semester on or before September 15. Students returning in spring typically need to be remote as there may be limited Minerva housing available.

The request will be reviewed and determined by the Petition Review and Policy Committee, described below. The committee may ask for additional information from the student, including additional assessments from health care professionals and may confer with others to assist in making the determination about return.

5.13.6. Records

Transcripts will not distinguish between a voluntary and mandatory leave of absence or note whether the student was in residence when credits were earned.

When a student is placed on a Mandatory Leave of Absence after the beginning of the term, courses in which the student was enrolled after the drop deadline appear on the student's transcript and show the symbol "W" (withdrawal). Students who receive all Ws as the result of a Leave of Absence may be subject to academic standing policies although the Academic Standards Committee will take the leave into consideration.

5.13.7. Privacy

Minerva recognizes the sensitive and private nature of the circumstances leading to a Mandatory Leave of Absence or Mandatory Non-Residential Study determination. Use and limitations on disclosure of confidential student information will be guided by Minerva's policy on Student Privacy Rights and Responsibilities and by other applicable laws governing the privacy of student information.

5.14. Consequences for Noncompliance with Requirements

In addition to the usual fees set forth in the section on Financial Information and the disciplinary sanctions noted above, the following fines and fees may be imposed on students who fail to meet important requirements and deadlines. Most fees or fines are imposed because a student has either failed to meet a requirement and/or failed to communicate regarding requirements established in the Prepare process, the Enrollment and Housing Commitment, the Student Handbook, pre-departure materials, Residential Agreements, and other published policies. Fines may be imposed for additional policy violations and increased for multiple offenses. Fines may also be coupled with the imposition of another sanction, like official warnings, account holds, suspension or expulsion.

5.14.1 Fees and Fines for Noncompliance

The following is not an exhaustive list. Other fines, fees or consequences may flow from student conduct that does not meet published policies.

5.14.1.1. Not attending essential Foundation Week/Elevation/Continuum sessions or make-up session

Foundation Week, Elevation, and Continuum dates are published far enough in advance for all students to plan accordingly. Make-up work will never be the same as being in attendance. Therefore, students who do not attend Foundation Week, Elevation, or Continuum are required to attend make-up sessions and/or do make-up work on material that was missed to demonstrate that they understand the essential material. Should a student fail to complete this, the student will receive an account hold and be unable to gain access to the next Prepare process until doing so.

5.14.1.2. Attempted Subletting or Assignment of Minerva Housing Unit

Residents may not sublet their unit or assign it to another party. Residents who engage in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action and a \$300 fine (established policy found in Residential Agreements).

5.14.1.3. Minerva Housing Unit Changes

Resident students may not move from their unit to another without prior written consent from Minerva, and consent may be withheld in Minerva's sole discretion. Changing units in violation of this requirement will result in a \$150 fine and the student will be required to move back to the assigned unit (established policy found in Residential Agreements).

5.14.1.4. Smoke-Free Zones

Minerva leased properties are 100% smoke-free. Any student caught smoking, vaping, or possessing smoking apparatus or paraphernalia in any area of Minerva properties will be automatically charged \$250 per occasion and may be subject to removal for continued violations (established policy found in Residential Agreements).

5.14.1.5. Fire Safety

Candles and incense are strictly prohibited in all Minerva buildings, even if such items are unlit or being used for decorative purpose(s) only. The burning of anything, including candles, paper, and incense will incur a \$200 fine.

Misuse of fire safety equipment (such as fire alarms, external metal fire escapes and internal fire stair cases accessible from particular units) or Building equipment (elevators) may result in fines or discipline for repeat offenses. As noted in Restricted Building Access Points, use of fire escapes and fire staircases, except in the event of fire, will result in a minimum fine of \$300, and each time thereafter, with increasing fines and the second instance triggering disciplinary proceedings. In addition, such student(s) will pay the cost of any maintenance visit by a fire escape contractor, if needed, to return stairs to their prior condition. Intentional use of a fire alarm to issue a false alarm is subject to a \$500 fine (or the actual cost, if higher, of the local Fire Department response).

5.14.1.6. Restricted Building Access Points

The roofs, porches, fire escapes (whether external metal type fire escapes or fire escape staircases accessible from certain rooms) when there is no fire, window ledges, unfinished attics and mechanical equipment rooms of Minerva properties are restricted areas and may not be accessed unless such access is required to preserve life and limb. Violations of this policy will incur a \$300 fine (The established policy is found in Residential Agreements but applies to students whether or not they live in the housing where the violation takes place).

5.14.1.7. Not Returning a Loaner Laptop on Time

If a loaner laptop is not returned to a Minerva staff member within the two-week time limit or by another appointed deadline, the student will be automatically charged the total cost of the issued laptop and/or other equipment, billed directly to the student's account.

5.14.1.8. Not Completing Requirements for a Visa in a Rotation City

While students are on global rotation, courses or other programming offered through visa-sponsoring entities may be required in order for students to have a visa for that location. Students may also be required to establish residency in the city and country of rotation. The immediate consequences of failing to complete such a course or to obtain the correct residency documentation on time may include a \$250 fine and the ineligibility to take part in future Minerva city rotations. Failure to complete either courses required for a visa or residency documentation by the date specified in communications from staff is not an option and will result in disciplinary action in addition to the fine and loss of visa.

5.14.1.9. Not Completing Profile in SPRINTAX Tax Determination System

Students on financial aid that are non-U.S. residents are required to complete and keep current a profile on the Sprintax Tax Determination System used by Minerva to assist in the correct issuance of the 1042-S form. Students who fail to do so by the posted deadline will be fined \$100 and may lead to the same consequences outlined in Section 2.3.5 for late payments.

5.14.1.10. Leaving a City during Term Time without Permission

Students are not permitted to travel out of rotation cities except on weekends, scheduled breaks when class is not in session, or with the permission of Global Student Services. If a student violates these important visa requirements, the student could lose their work-study role, be fined up to \$500 and, if the student has an F-1 visa, the visa may be terminated.

5.14.1.11. Not Completing All Parts of Required Student Life Courses

Minerva requires students to complete training courses, including in-person and online educational programs on alcohol and drugs and sexual misconduct. Students who fail to complete these required courses (in all of their parts) by the published deadline dates are charged a fine of \$100 per course AND students must complete all parts of the online and other required courses by specified deadlines or the student will be unable to gain access to their courses or the next Prepare process until doing so. If in-person sessions are missed, the student MUST attend the make-up sessions or a \$100 fine will be charged.

5.14.1.12. Departing a Minerva Rotation City without completing the Departure/Check-Out Form on time.

Improper departure from Minerva housing will result in a \$150 fine and result in termination of F-1 visa. Improper city departure may include, but is not limited to, departing the city early without early departure approval from the PRPC or Student Services, not being prepared at the time of check-out, failing to complete or submit relevant departure forms, or failing to secure a checkout appointment through the appropriate channels.

5.14.1.13. Moving out of Minerva Housing without checking-out and/or signing off on the Unit Condition Report.

Students who move out without completing a Unit Condition Report or undergoing a proper check-out for their rotation city are charged a fine of \$100 in addition to any other residence/key charges, other charges for damages or breach of the residential agreement.

5.14.1.14. Fees for Returned Payments

Any Flywire or Nelnet Campus fees that Minerva incurs from student payments that are returned to the payer will be charged to the student's account and accompanied by a \$50 administrative fee for the additional work caused.

5.14.1.15. Not Completing Prepare Modules on Time

Students will not be registered for, or may lose access to, classes until Prepare modules are completed. Any absences as a result of this action may negatively impact students' scores or ability to receive a passing grade for the course.

5.14.1.15a. Not Completing Prepare Modules on Time: Residential Agreement

Students failing to sign and complete their Residential Agreement module will be subject to a daily \$5 fine at the start of the term, and after failing to sign the Residential Agreement may have their housing rights revoked; in such instances students are not eligible for a refund relating to their housing or residential fees.

5.14.1.16. Changing Location

Students pay residential fees for the housing and city option originally selected when signing the Enrollment and Housing Commitment. If the student fails to live in this location, the housing fees are nonrefundable, no matter what the reason for failure to attend, and the student loses access to the room. If the student chooses to live in another Minerva city in Minerva housing, the student is responsible for paying residential fees in that location as well.

5.14.1.17. Late Opt-in to a City or Being Off-Rotation

Students who are off rotation or do not submit their Enrollment and Housing Commitment by the deadline are not guaranteed visa support or Minerva housing and are provided Minerva housing only subject to availability. If not available, the student must find and secure their own independent housing, if approved to be in Independent Housing by the PRPC, and pay designated Student Life and city Residential Services fees associated with independent housing.

5.14.1.18. Changing Rotation Cities After Signed EHC

Students who are approved to change city locations after the EHC has been signed will be charged a \$300 fee. This is for administrative costs associated with a change of status inclusive of changing cities or moving to remote status.

5.14.1.19. Late Arrival to Rotation City

Students must arrive in their rotation city and check into the residence hall (if applicable) by the end of the designated Move-In period as listed on the [Master Calendar published on MyMinerva](#). Students will only be approved to arrive after the Move-In period ends with documented evidence of extenuating circumstances beyond a student's control. Extenuating circumstances beyond a student's control might include an accident leading to hospitalization or the death of an immediate family member. Students must file a Request for Late Arrival through the *Arrival Info* Prepare module and attach documented evidence of their circumstances for consideration of approval of late arrival. Students who arrived late to their rotation city but failed to file an official Request for Late Arrival will receive a fee at 150% of the amount compared to students who appropriately filed requests.

Students who arrive late are not guaranteed Minerva housing. Penalties for any student who is not present in the city by the end of the official Move-In period for that semester include:

- late arrival fee between \$100-\$500 depending on expected arrival date
- change to Remote status
- Loss of F-1 status (if applicable) and associated benefits
- adjustment of financial aid including loss of work-study eligibility/role for the duration of their Remote status (if applicable)

5.14.1.20. Early Departure from Rotation City

Students must remain in their rotation city and check out of the residence hall (if applicable) during the designated move-out period as listed on the [Master Calendar published on myMinerva](#). Students are expected to remain in their rotation cities through the last day of the semester term (generally one week after classes end).

Students who depart early are subject to consequences. Departing a city more than three weeks in advance will lead to a No Pass for the Global Learning course. Additionally, students should be aware that departing a city early could mean loss of F-1 visa (if applicable) and abandoning a visa application for their next rotation city. Minerva is unable to assist students who depart early with new visa applications for their next rotation city or allow late arrivals as a result of visa delays this may cause. Students who departed early from their rotation city but failed to file an official Request for Early Departure will receive a fee at 150% of the amount compared to students who appropriately filed requests.

Penalties for any student who leaves a city before the start of the Move-Out period for that semester include:

- early departure fee between \$100-\$500 depending on departure date
- change to Remote status
- Loss of F-1 status (if applicable) and associated benefits
- adjustment of financial aid including loss of work-study eligibility/role for the duration of their Remote status (if applicable)

5.15. Petition Review and Policy Committee

This Committee acts on petitions and other requests from students. Among the kinds of requests it considers are Leaves of Absence; Reinstatement; Deviation from Global Rotation or for Remote Study; Reduced or Increased Course Load. The scope of the Petition Review and Policy Committee (PRPC) is limited and requests submitted to the PRPC which extend beyond the committee's purview will be returned to the student with guidance to the correct department. Because of the nature of the issues that the committee reviews, it often considers ways to improve policies, procedures, communications, and practices and makes recommendations accordingly. It has representatives of all units within Minerva University that connect directly to students' education and experience: Academics, Student Life, Student Services, and Financial/Financial Aid. The committee may consult with others as it carries out its work.

Petitions submitted to the Petition Review and Policy Committee (PRPC) are reviewed in a reasonable time, usually within seven (7) business days, and a decision is provided within five (5) days of the committee's convening. The committee reserves the right to request additional information for a fair determination, which may extend the prescribed timeline. Once a decision has been communicated, students may request a second review by the Committee for reconsideration of the decisions provided by the PRPC if they are unsatisfied with the determination, or have additional information which may reasonably change the decision. Once a second review has taken place, the decision provided is considered a final determination.

Students may appeal final determinations rendered by the PRPC to the Dean of Students. Appeals must be submitted to the Dean of Students within five (5) business days upon receipt of the

Committee's final determination. The Dean of Students or designee will consider appeals based **only** on one of the following bases:

1. **A substantial mistake of fact**
2. **A procedural error that could have affected the determination or sanction(s)**
3. **A fundamental misinterpretation of the policies, rules, or regulations**

Appeals must be sent via written communication. The Dean of Students or Designee will receive the appeal and provide a decision within five (5) business days via written communication.

The decision of the Dean of Students or Designee is final and unappealable unless it is returned for further review to the Committee, at which time the Committee may provide a novel determination which is subject to an additional appeal by the Dean of Students.

6. Academic Policies and Procedures

6.1. Four-Year Curricular Structure

The Minerva curriculum is designed to prepare students to become leaders, innovators, broad thinkers, and global citizens. To achieve this goal, the curriculum has a distinctive structure.

6.1.1. First Year: Foundation

During their first year at Minerva, students study foundational learning outcomes that foster critical thinking, creative thinking, effective communication, and effective interaction. All students take four year-long Cornerstone seminar courses: Formal Analyses (which focuses on thinking critically), Empirical Analyses (which focuses on thinking creatively), Multimodal Communication (which focuses on communicating effectively) and Complex Systems (which focuses on interacting effectively). This material is also used (and assessed) during the subsequent three years while students major in specific subjects and within the Capstone and Manifest courses.

6.1.2. Second Year: Direction

The second year of study is devoted to the core courses that form the basis of a student's major(s). Students take core courses within their intended college major and, if desired, a second major or minor(s). Core and concentration courses not in a student's major fulfill breadth requirements.

6.1.3. Third Year: Focus

Students continue to specialize their course of study during the third year by choosing one or more concentrations within each major, and taking the two Capstone seminar courses, during which they begin developing their Capstone project.

6.1.4. Fourth Year: Synthesis

During their final year, students complete their majors by taking tutorial courses (if applicable), additional concentration courses or if a business major the practicum, and completing any additional degree requirements. The tutorials are collaborative, student-driven faculty-facilitated explorations of specific topics within the student's chosen field. As noted under Senior Tutorials below, students can elect to substitute a research/internship experience or an additional major Concentration course from their major for a tutorial. The business practicum is a required course during the summer between the third and fourth years, ideally associated with a summer internship or job. Students also complete their Capstone project and participate in the final Manifest term in May.

6.2. Global Learning Course

Minerva has several ways of integrating student's learning in and outside the courses, including Location-Based Assignments that are part of credit-bearing courses and an array of mandatory and voluntary programming and activities that are directed toward students achieving the Integrated Learning Outcomes set forth in the first section of this Handbook.

All students residing in a Minerva-rotation city are enrolled in a Global Learning (GL) course every semester, designed to help students to immerse themselves in the community around them. However, when students spend their two-semester rotation in Tokyo, Japan, they will not take the normal GL course but instead be required to take a 2-credit Japanese Society & Culture course in the Fall semester and a 1-credit Japanese Civic Project course in the Spring semester. Within the GL courses and the Japanese Society & Culture course and Japanese Civic Project course, students engage in learning beyond the classroom where the learning journey is extended, contextualized, and deepened through real-world experiences. The purpose of engaging students in diverse environments is to support and facilitate their connection with diverse minds, skills, beliefs, practices, and traditions around the world. The Global Learning course supports students in their development of global competence and a global consciousness during these four years. Moving from a parochial to a cosmopolitan mindset is increasingly necessary in a continually globalized, interconnected, and interdependent global community. The development of global competencies and a global consciousness is, in part, meant to support students to address the dynamic and future challenges the world faces.

The course sits at the intersection of Student Life and Academics and provides a total of four semester credits, taken in half-credit increments each semester. Much of the course seeks to acknowledge efforts by students already taking place and course components include cultural

pre-readings prior to the start of the semester, attendance at Foundation Week/Elevation and Continuum, ethnographic assignments, reflection sessions, attendance at city experiences, and a virtual scrapbook.

The GL course is a Pass-No Pass, assessment-based course. As part of the in-city requirement for the course, students departing from the city more than three weeks early, or who travel outside the city for an accumulated time of more than three weeks during term time, will receive a No Pass in the course for the term. If students cannot take a GL course, they must make up the credits by completing sufficient alternative credits (see section 6.18. Alternative Course Credits).

More information about the course can be found on the [Global Learning myMinerva page](#).

6.3. Academic Advising

Academic Advising is overseen by the Administrative team along with the College Faculty Advisors. These members will work with all first-year students prior to their declaration of a major or majors.

Once a major has been declared, students work exclusively with their home college advisor to ensure their academic success at Minerva. More information can be found here <https://my.minerva.edu/academics/academic-advising/>. In addition, all students work with the Coaching & Talent Development (CTD) team over the course of their four years at Minerva. See section 4.8 for more information about CTD services.

During the first year, students participate in group and one-on-one coaching sessions, career exploration workshops and conversations with faculty and industry professionals, and information sessions about major options, as they transition into Minerva and ultimately choose a major that aligns with their academic interests and their professional goals. Each college has an advising service, run by a faculty member and supported by student interns. This service provides 1:1 meetings to assist with degree planning, holds workshops and information sessions about the college's courses and focus areas, course lottery registration and works closely with CTD.

6.4. Minerva University Course Offerings

The comprehensive, up-to-date catalog of all undergraduate- and graduate-level courses offered at Minerva can be found in the [Course Catalog](#) on myMinerva.

6.5. Majors, Minors, and Concentrations

6.5.1. Degree Planning

Degree Planning tools are available at the [Academic Advising page on myMinerva](#) and all students can also receive guidance from their home college advisor. Degree planning workshops are offered throughout the academic year to help students navigate the requirements for degree completion in four years.

6.5.2. Majors

Minerva students may major in one or two areas of study. For more precise major requirements, please see the Course Catalog and get advice from your college advisers.

6.5.3. Concentrations

A concentration represents the student's area of focus within a major. Typically a student will declare a concentration within their major, taking a set of pre-approved concentration courses for that area of study within the college, available on the Minerva website at <https://www.minerva.edu/undergraduate/majors-concentrations/>. As of Fall 2025, students who do not declare a concentration will have only their major appear on their transcript. Students without a concentration complete their major with their choice of concentration classes, provided they meet prerequisite eligibility requirements for them and any other rules within their major regarding distribution requirements and total credits at the concentration course level.

Students are advised to pay close attention to the elective breadth requirement discussed below when considering the number of concentration courses to take within their major. Minerva tuition covers a maximum of 120 attempted semester credits. An additional per-credit hour fee is charged for credits attempted beyond the 120 credits that a student is required to complete to earn a degree. Alternative credits such as EL199 and EL190 do not count toward calculating 120 attempted credits, nor will they satisfy breadth requirements. (See Financial Information section for more information on costs associated with exceeding 120 attempted credits.)

6.5.4. Minors

Students may elect to take a minor in a discipline outside of their major that would also contribute toward completion of the breadth requirement of electives. A more complete list of available minors and minor requirements are in the [Course Catalog](#). In addition to college-specific minors, students may elect an interdisciplinary minor in Neuroscience, Sustainability, or Interdisciplinary Digital Practices.

6.5.5. Intended and Declared Major(s) and Minor(s)

Students are required to officially submit their intended major(s) in January of Year 1. Students need to confirm (or change) their primary major and to determine their concentration(s) (if applicable), second major (if applicable) or minor (if desired) by January of Year 2. Students may request a change of major, minor or concentration by submitting the Major, Minor, and Concentration Request Form [available on the Registrar site at myMinerva](#). Please note that changing your major in Year 3 may result in the inability to complete all requirements within four years, and may increase the cost and affect financial aid eligibility for the additional credits needed.

Major, Concentration, and Minor Submission Deadlines

Submit intended primary major(s)	January 31 - Year 1
Submit revised major(s), intended concentration(s), or minors if pursuing one	January 31 - Year 2
Add revised/new majors/minors/concentrations	January 31 - Year 3
Revise/drop second major, concentration(s), or minor(s)	September 30 - Year 4

6.6. Electives and Breadth Requirement

Students must earn 120 semester credits to be awarded an undergraduate degree.

Electives - Elective courses are courses not part of the primary major requirements (cornerstones, cores, concentrations, tutorials or practicum) or graduation requirements (capstones and Manifest). Elective credits allow students to reach 120 semester credits to meet graduation requirements.

Breadth - At least 20 elective credits must be taken outside a student's primary major. As an example, If the primary major is Computational Science (CS), then at least 20 credits must be taken from core or concentration courses outside of CS. Students who double major automatically meet the breadth requirement.

IL120 Special Topics courses are offered on an as-available basis and earn 2 credits each. If they are anchored in at least one college, then the credits can be applied to breadth credits (if they are anchored outside a student's major college). Cross-listed IL120 courses can only count toward the breadth requirement if the student isn't applying them toward their major requirements. IL120 courses can be applied to Tutorial Replacement credits within a major. Since IL120 courses are offered

irregularly, students should be cautious when planning to use IL120 credits for major requirements. IL120 courses incur the regular course fees and count toward a student's total attempted credits.

IL181 Senior Tutorial courses that are cross-listed in two or more colleges can be applied to the breadth credit requirements, provided the Tutorial is *not* being used for a major requirement. In cases where a student enrolls in a cross-listed Tutorial as an elective, above and beyond what is required for their major, they can apply the credits to the breadth requirement, provided at least one of the cross-listed colleges is outside their major.

Alternative credits such as transfer credit, internship, or prior learning credits are not eligible to be used toward the breadth requirement, but do count as electives toward the 120-credit graduation requirement.

6.7. Senior Tutorials (Non-Business Majors)

The Tutorials (IL181) are collaborative, student-driven faculty-facilitated explorations of specific topics that grow out of the students' major(s) and concentration(s), carried out in concert with a small number of other classmates with shared interests (typically around eight students). Faculty- or student-generated ideas for Tutorials are circulated in late fall of a student's third year. Topics that garner sufficient student interest, and have a qualified faculty member identified to facilitate, are offered for student confirmation in spring of the third year. Once students are registered in their Tutorials (late March/early April in Year 3), they are not able to switch tutorials and they may not add Tutorials in the fourth year. Thus, it is very important that students seriously consider their major trajectory and how the Tutorials will or will not meet their graduation goals during the fall and spring of their third year.

Students work collaboratively with each other and the assigned professor to select the detailed Tutorial subject matter, specific readings, and design of the course. Students may pursue two Tutorials per major; however, if a Tutorial is cross-listed within two colleges, it is possible for double majors to count such a Tutorial for both majors and do two or three Tutorials instead of four. EL199 credits (see Alternative Course Credits section) can substitute for a Tutorial if the internship or research experience is appropriate for the major. Approval of the College Head is required. Students can also elect to substitute another concentration course from their major (in addition to the three concentration courses meeting the major requirements) or a pre approved elective such as CS130, NS125, or 2 2-credit major-approved IL120 classes in lieu of a Tutorial.

6.8. Business Majors Practicum

The Business College Practicum (B199) is part of Minerva's focus on "practical knowledge," which entails using material learned in class to address real-world issues. It is a four-unit course required for all business majors. Students reflect on how learning outcomes (LOs) from the Business Core (B110, B111, B112, and B113) are applied over the course of their internship.

Business Practicum is organized by a faculty supervisor and overseen by an internship supervisor (employed by the organization where the student is conducting the research or working as an intern). Students must create a written agreement with their internship supervisor, wherein the internship supervisor agrees to provide at least 240 hours of substantive work relevant to the curriculum that allows the student to apply LOs. Students must regularly verify to the faculty supervisor that they are meeting assigned responsibilities, and internship supervisors must provide an evaluation of the student's work and verify the number of hours worked at the end of the summer. Students also submit brief assignments throughout the summer as noted in the Practicum syllabus. Students may not also submit an EL199 to earn an additional 4 credits for the B199 practicum unless the student has accumulated 480 hours of work experience and receives approval to do so by the appropriate advisor via emailing academicaaffairs@minerva.edu. Students may not convert B199 credit to EL199 credit at a later date.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure regular communication with the faculty supervisor, including three required check-in classes throughout the summer when this course is taken between Year 3 and Year 4.

6.9. Research/Internships for Non-Business Majors

The research/internship option is also available to non-business majors, but is typically considered general elective credit. However, if the experience is within the field of the major, it may be substituted for a tutorial. More information is in the Alternative Course Credit section of this handbook.

6.10. The Minerva Capstone and Manifest

The Minerva Capstone is a major project that requires students to create a work of professional quality that is a novel contribution to their field. The Capstone should build on what students have learned during their previous years, applying the foundational learning outcomes from all the Cornerstones in creative new ways while also integrating their current studies in their major. We distinguish two distinct components of the Capstone: the seminar courses in the third year and the project itself, which is finished in students' fourth year as part of two directed study courses. During their culminating term in May, Manifest, students will teach a class on an aspect of their Capstone, attend other students' class sessions, and participate in other mandated graduation-related activities. Further details regarding the Capstone Project and Manifest are available in the Capstone Handbook, available on [myMinerva](#). A total of 14 units is earned for the combined Capstone Seminar, Capstone and Manifest courses.

6.11. The Academic Standards Committee (ASC)

The Academic Standards Committee (ASC) adjudicates academic honor code violations and violations of academic policies. In addition, the ASC advises on applications for Leave of Absence, Return from Leave, and reinstatement, as appropriate. The ASC consists of multiple members including deans,

staff and faculty, one of whom serves as the Chair. A student's coach may serve as a liaison to the committee upon request of the student or when deemed necessary by the ASC.

The ASC operates under the assumption that the academic rules and regulations should be followed. Petitions for relief must be clearly articulated and well supported with appropriate documentation. When considering exceptions, the ASC attempts to apply consistent standards while still responding to students' individual circumstances.

The process of adjudicating alleged violations of academic policies or student honor code is the responsibility of the ASC. It is administrative in nature and is separate and distinct from the criminal and civil legal systems and the Minerva policy on student conduct. It applies only to student honor code violations, class withdrawals, and dismissals from Minerva University. If a sanction is presented, a student must respond to the ASC's communication via email, within 48 hours, and provide supporting evidence that could lead to the sanction being overturned.

Members of the ASC shall consider:

- **Information**
 - Is there any additional information needed to make a decision?
 - Is there anything in the record that is incomplete or unclear?
- **Responsibility**
 - Is there evidence that the student committed the violation?
 - Is there evidence that the student followed written guidelines and policies?
- **Fair and Appropriate Sanction**
 - Has the student been given notice and a chance to address the alleged violation?
 - How does the student's previous record affect the kind of sanction that should be imposed?
 - Based on past experience, how likely will the violation occur in the future?
- **Aggravating and Mitigating Circumstances**
 - Are there aggravating or mitigating circumstances that affect the sanction?
 - Did the student take responsibility for the violation or misconduct?
 - Did the student indicate that they learned anything from this incident?

Sanctions may be reconsidered on the following bases

1. A substantial mistake of fact
2. A procedural error that could have affected the determination or sanction(s)
3. A fundamental misinterpretation of the policies, rules, or regulations
4. New information is available that was not available at the time of the petition review which could have reasonably affected the determination or sanction

Upon review of all the evidence including elements provided by the student, a decision will be made, unless the ASC opts to proceed to a hearing. If a sanction is imposed, it is final and unappealable.

For the most egregious of cases, the ASC may request a hearing involving the student, all members of the ASC, and the Dean of Students. The hearing is an occasion for the student to plead their case in

front of a larger assembly. At the end of the hearing, the hearing committee deliberates and communicates a verdict to the student. This verdict is final and unappealable.

6.12. The Academic Adjustment Committee (AAC)

The Academic Adjustment Committee (AAC) reviews petitions for adjustments to attendance and assignment policies in cases where rare, sudden and severe emergencies significantly impact a student's ability to participate in class, submit assignments or complete coursework by the last day of the semester, as defined in [Minerva University's master calendar](#).

The AAC operates under the expectation that standard academic policies in place for all students, including the adjusted versions for those under accommodations, already provide reasonable flexibility for short-term disruptions during the academic year. Petitions for adjustment, therefore, must be clearly articulated and justified, submitted no more than one week after the disrupting event, and supported with official documentation, as detailed in the [MyMinerva course policies page](#). Qualifying situations include sudden, serious, or unusual emergencies such as illness or injury requiring inpatient hospitalization, a family emergency requiring travel, or other extraordinary circumstances that demand significant time and attention. Examples that do not qualify include, for example, common illnesses, minor accidents, routine travel, medical appointments, short-term hospital visits, work-related events, interviews, vacations, family celebrations, religious holidays, mental health days or technical-related issues. When considering whether exceptions should be granted, the AAC applies consistent standards while responding to individual circumstances. Students with long-term or chronic conditions should not use the AAC petitioning pathway; instead, they should apply for academic accommodations through the Disability Accommodations process, as outlined in the "Accommodations for Students with Disabilities" section of the Student Handbook.

If a student's petition is approved, the AAC will outline adjustments to the standard academic policies as part of a plan for the student to complete the coursework. On the other hand, if the petition is denied, the student must follow the standard attendance and assignment policies. Student appeals to the AAC's determination will not be considered, and the AAC's decision is final.

6.13. Course Credit

A standard course of four units or credits (referred to simply as "a course") generally consists of two 90-minute formal seminars per week and one substantial Location-Based Assignment. Additionally, Minerva expects a minimum of eight to 10 hours of coursework outside of class per course per week.

There are some instances when a course might require fewer formal class meetings than the average course, but require proportionally more than eight to 10 hours of out-of-class work. Such courses involve unusually extensive, mandatory independent work (programming, reading, research, laboratory or field work, and writing). Minerva's Course Credit Policy can be found below.

6.14. Full-Time Student Course Load Requirement

Full-time enrollment is defined as a minimum of 12 semester units.

The typical course load per semester:

- 17.5 units per semester for first-year students.
- 13-14 units per semester for second-year students.
- 14.5 units per semester for third-year students.
- 12.5 units per semester for fourth-year students.
- 2 units for Manifest.

Information for specific cohorts on credits for Cornerstone Civic Projects - please note the below:

- M28 and beyond: students will receive 1 credit for FE50 and 1 credit for FE51 on their transcript
- M27: Students have already received 0.5 credits for FE50 and 0.5 credits for FE51 on their transcripts for the 1st year AND will receive 1 additional credit for CCP in their final semester.
- M26 & M25: Students will be receiving 2 credits from CCP that will appear on transcripts in their final semester.

Any student who drops below full-time enrollment of 12 semester units during a semester must petition for a course load adjustment no later than one week after falling below full-time enrollment. The Course Load Adjustment Petition Form is available on [myMinerva](#). Students wishing to take more units than the typical course load, which is considered an overload, must receive permission from the Provost, or Provost Designee, before being able to register for an increased course load. The main criteria used for approval are:

1. in prior semesters, the student has demonstrated a strong ability to handle the typical course load as demonstrated by being in good academic standing; and
2. a realistic plan for how the student will handle the overload given other commitments and responsibilities during the semester.

Please note that students will complete 116 to 118 of the 120 units required to graduate when taking the typical course load each year (depending on whether they complete the Tokyo IL123/IL124 course). They can earn the remaining two to four units with EL190, EL199, or transfer credits. There are also occasional special topic courses offered that are one or two units. Business majors receive an additional four units from the Practicum, which is completed in the summer between third and fourth years and therefore not counted in the numbers above.

Falling below full-time enrollment can result in the loss of student status for F-1 student visa holders. F-1 student visa holders should review the Course Load Requirements and Exceptions section of the Student Handbook, under Global Student Services, for more information about being authorized for a reduced course load. Students on an F-1 visa cannot drop courses without consulting with the DSO.

6.15. Cornerstones Pass Requirement

Students must pass all four of their Cornerstone courses (eight semester courses for 32 semester credits in total) in order to remain a student at Minerva. They must earn a final score of 2.0 or greater in all four Cornerstone courses (letter grade of C or higher) to fulfill prerequisite requirements for Core courses in subsequent years.

- Students with final scores below 2.0 in one Cornerstone course will need to retake the course during their second year. They will need to email academicaffairs@minerva.edu and request to work with an advisor to support their success in retaking the failed Cornerstone course in the next year alongside Core courses.
- Students with final scores below 2.0 in two Cornerstone courses may email academicaffairs@minerva.edu and request to work with an advisor to support their success in retaking both courses in the following year but will not be permitted to take any Core courses alongside the retakes.
- Students who fail to pass three or more of the four Cornerstone courses will be dismissed from Minerva.
- Students who obtain scores below 2.0 and do not intend to continue with Minerva's undergraduate program will receive a letter grade on their transcript consistent with the table above (D or F).

See section Cornerstone Grading for more details.

6.16. Adjusted Course Loads

After the first year, students may petition to adjust their course load above or below the full-time unit requirements. The petition should explain the circumstances that require a course load adjustment and present a detailed plan of study for each semester until graduation. Course load adjustment petitions to go above full-time enrollment must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the start of the semester in which the adjusted course load will commence. The Course Load Adjustment Petition Forms are available on [myMinerva](#). Non-US students should see the Global Student Services section of the handbook for more information about how course load adjustments may affect their F-1 visa status.

A petition for a reduced course load will likely **not** be approved if it requires an overload in a future semester. Alternative credits and/or enrolling for an additional semester following Manifest should be considered when petitioning for an adjusted course load.

6.17. Leave of Absence Policy

For a variety of reasons, students may need to interrupt their formal course of study at Minerva University for a period of time. To do so, the student must petition the Petition Review and Policy

Committee (PRPC) for a leave of absence (LOA). When it is relevant to the reasons for the leave of absence, the petition should include verifiable documentation to support the request.

The appropriate academic representative will make a recommendation to the Petition Review and Policy Committee regarding academic considerations for leave or reinstatements. The PRPC will determine whether or not to grant the LOA and the conditions under which the student may return to school, taking into account the following:

- The student must be currently enrolled in academic courses and in good standing, unless there are serious extenuating circumstances with appropriate documentation or when the student is subject to the Mandatory Leave policy.

The standard maximum leave of absence is two academic semesters; however, students may petition to extend a leave of absence up to a maximum of four academic semesters. It is the student's responsibility to keep Minerva informed of any change of circumstances while on a leave of absence. Students will ordinarily retain access to their Minerva email and platform dashboard while on leave. Students on leave lose their F-1 visas, access to work-study and US-work sponsorship (CPT).

A student wishing to return from an approved leave of absence must submit a petition for reinstatement to the PRPC, including a personal statement that addresses the student's readiness to return and the student's plan to successfully rejoin the Minerva community and resume coursework, with documentation when appropriate. Unless otherwise specified by PRPC in its official communication to the student, the reinstatement petition should be submitted no later than January 15 for returning the next fall semester and September 15 for returning the next spring semester.

When a student returns from a leave of absence, the student will re-enter the program at the point following the last full academic semester completed and will be subject to the curriculum, policies, and procedures in place at the time of reinstatement from the leave of absence. Students may be required to study remotely rather than be in residence after a leave of absence.

Financial information relating to a student granted a leave of absence is available in the Financial Information section of this handbook.

Students who do not return at the end of their leave will be considered to have voluntarily withdrawn from Minerva, and must submit a petition to the PRPC for readmission to the program, unless an extension is filed prior to the deadline.

The Leave of Absence Petition Form and the Return from Leave Petition Form are available on the Registrar site of [myMinerva](#).

6.18. Course Registration Policies and Procedures

During their first year, all students are enrolled in the required Cornerstone, the Civic Project and GL91/92 courses. Class schedules are released to students during Foundation Week. In the spring semester of the first year and all subsequent years, students work with their coach/advisors to select courses for the next academic year based on the student's major, concentration, and other interests.

Registration policies and procedures for upper-division classes are described below. These policies do not apply to the first-year Cornerstone courses required for all students.

6.18.1. Course Registration Process

Initial course preference typically begins in November (for spring) and March (for fall of next academic year). The course preference process is allocated via a lottery process, where students are put into their initial course registration. Students can add/drop courses (except Tutorials and Capstone seminars) directly in Forum during the Course Adjustment Period specified in the Master Calendar on [myMinerva](#). Not all Cores and Concentrations will necessarily be offered each semester, so students should carefully plan out their year looking at the course offerings for each semester.

First-year students are in a set curriculum and are auto-enrolled in all courses.

All other students are auto-enrolled into required courses such as GL91-98, Capstone Seminar, Capstone Directed Study, Manifest and in tutorials selected during the tutorial registration process.

6.18.2. Course Adjustment Period

During the course adjustment period just before and at the beginning of each semester, second through fourth year students may make adjustments to their course schedules. Students may drop non-required courses they no longer wish to take, and add courses for which they have satisfied the prerequisites if the desired courses have open seats and do not conflict with their other class times. Students are not allowed to drop required classes or to add courses after the end of the course adjustment period. Students cannot add tutorials after the designated tutorial registration process and must submit a Course Drop/Withdrawal form to drop a tutorial.

6.18.3. Switching Between Course Sections

During the course adjustment period, students may switch between sections of a course at any time if there is room in the desired section. If student enrollment drops below a threshold in a given section, that section may be canceled and the instructor may be changed in the remaining sections.

After the course adjustment period, students are unable to switch to a section of a course with a different instructor, unless they have a documented reason for the adjustment, there is room in the desired section, and the Registrar approves the switch. Please contact registrar@minerva.edu with adjustment requests that include documentation.

6.18.4. Dropping a Course After the Adjustment Period

Students may drop Core and Concentration Courses any time before the published drop deadline on the academic calendar, provided that the student remains registered for the minimum full-time course load. The deadline to drop a course is week 4, with the date specified in the Master Calendar on [myMinerva](#). The Course Drop/Withdrawal Request Form is posted on the registrar site via [myMinerva](#). After the drop deadline a course drop is determined to be a voluntary withdrawal and is given a “W”

grade notation on the student record, and counts toward attempted credits for purposes of calculating attempted credits for financial charges and aid. Students may not use the Drop/Withdrawal form to request withdrawal from required courses, like Cornerstones, Capstone courses, or required GL/IL courses.

When a student is administratively withdrawn from a course because of violations of academic policies, the course grade appears on the student's transcript as an "AW" and counts toward attempted credits for financial policy purposes.

All courses from which a student is withdrawn after week four of the semester (whether voluntary or administrative) are considered attempted credits, regarding tuition charges and financial aid toward the 120 attempted semester credits.

If a student withdraws from Minerva (permanent separation) during a semester, "W" grades will be applied to all courses for which the student withdraws after the first day of classes.

6.19. Alternative Course Credits

Minerva grants up to sixteen total semester units of credit for alternative course credits, which meet the criteria spelled out below. An aggregate of sixteen semester units can be satisfied by a combination of transfer credit, research experience/internship, and prior experiential learning. As noted below there is an eight credit limit for research experience/internship and prior experiential learning. These alternative course credits described herein can be in addition to the four units from the Global Learning courses (GL91-98), as long as all graduation requirements are met. Please note that using these alternative credits enables students to meet the 120-credit graduation requirement when following the typical course loads recommended each year.

6.19.1. Transfer Credits

Transfer credit is credit for academic courses taken at other colleges or universities. These courses are not eligible to fulfill major requirements and are considered electives by Minerva. A "Pass" grade will appear for all transfer credits and will not factor into a student's Minerva grade point average. Transfer credits may only be granted for undergraduate and graduate credit, as determined by US accrediting agencies or similarly recognized bodies.

To be eligible for transfer credit, a course must meet the following conditions:

- it was taken for a grade at a regionally accredited or equivalent institution,
- it met Minerva's standards of level and rigor, and
- it was assigned a letter grade and completed with a grade of C or better.

Students applying for transfer credit must complete a Transfer Credit Application Form, including uploading the course syllabus and an **official** college transcript showing the completed course, credits, and course grade. Unofficial transcripts will not be accepted as proof for transfer credit. The Transfer Credit Application Form is available on the registrar site at [myMinerva](#). A total of 16 units of

elective credit can be satisfied by transfer credits. Please note that if the maximum 16 credits is granted, there is no room for summer research experience, and/or prior experiential learning, as the total alternative credits is 16.

Transfer credit from non-U.S.-based institutions may require an evaluation from an accredited [NACES member](#), we recommend WES (www.wes.org). The evaluation verifies the U.S. equivalency of courses taken, and grades achieved, and should be uploaded, along with the original official transcript, when submitting the Transfer Application form (if requested by the Registrar's Office).

If a student withdraws or is dismissed from Minerva and seeks to be admitted and to transfer credit to another college or university, the other institution determines the extent to which credit is granted for work completed at Minerva. Minerva University is regionally accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission. Students transferring out of Minerva to other educational institutions should ensure enough time is given for official transcripts to be sent and processed.

6.19.2. Credit for Prior Experiential Learning

Minerva is focused on “practical knowledge,” which entails using material learned in class to address real-world problems. Some students have had considerable real-world experience before they arrived at Minerva. Such experience, along with completion of EL190 course assignments, can fulfill a requirement for four units of elective course credit. It is not possible to use EL190 credit for breadth or to substitute a four-credit experience for a senior tutorial in the student's major. The relevant course is EL190.

The process for this option is as follows

1. After the conclusion of the student's first year at Minerva, the student can apply by filing the Credit for Experiential Learning form on the registrar's page of [MyMinerva](#). The student will need to include the following information:
 - A brief summary of the previous experience
 - Evidence that the student actually had the experience (e.g., military discharge showing dates of service)
 - Identification of the college most closely associated with the experience.Students must submit this information by the end of their second year as a student at Minerva.
2. The Head of the appropriate College will determine whether the experience and affiliated deliverables would be substantial enough to warrant four units of semester credit. Once the deliverables are submitted, an appropriate reader/evaluator will be identified.
3. If approved, the student will be enrolled in EL190. Students must complete EL190 deliverables after enrollment. A grader evaluates the deliverables, scoring the learning outcomes and assigning a pass/fail grade based on the scores; a 2.0 mean score is required to pass.

4. If the student earns a “Pass” for their EL190 course, then the student earns four units of credit; if the deliverables do not earn passing grades, the student is given one chance to rewrite and resubmit by a deadline.
5. EL190 is not residential credit and therefore it can not be used toward credits to meet visa requirements, but it will count toward the 120 semester-credit graduation requirement.

6.19.3. Credit for Summer and In-Semester Research/Internship Experience

Minerva is focused on “practical knowledge,” which entails using material learned in class to address real-world problems or issues. Some of our students have had or plan to undertake summer internships or research projects while students at Minerva, and some students also perform substantial related work within a semester (through an internship, research, or civic project). Such summer or in-semester experiences for which students perform at least 240 hrs or 120 hrs of work respectively (along with a set of deliverables documenting that experience and how learning outcomes were applied) can fulfill a requirement for one four-unit elective or one two-unit elective for the course EL199. It is also possible to substitute a four-credit experience for a senior tutorial in the student’s major. No more than eight credits from EL199/EL190 will be accepted. No more than a total of 16 semester credits can be satisfied by a combination of transfer credit, internship/research experience or prior experiential learning.

To qualify for credit, students must conduct their internship or research project under the supervision of a qualified supervisor (typically a faculty member at another institution for research projects or someone employed by the organization where the student is interning or performing a civic project). Qualified Minerva staff or faculty members serve as evaluators. The internship or research project can fall within the supervisor’s larger project goals, but the student must contribute intellectually to the design and execution of the project and is responsible for submitting the final deliverable describing the project (see below).

The process for earning credit for a summer or in-semester internship or research/civic experience is as follows:

1. The internship/research experience can occur during the summer between semesters as a Minerva student (after the student’s first, second or third year) or during a semester beginning in the student’s second year. Seniors are not allowed to apply for EL199 credit in their last semester of enrollment. NOTE: students must limit their work hours on this project during the semester to no more than 120 hours, typically working no more than 10 hours per week over 12 weeks. Students may not apply for EL199 credit for Civic Projects conducted as part of classwork (e.g. GL or IL courses).

Students apply for approval using the Credit for Internship/Research/External Learning Experiences (EL199) Form on the Registrar site on [myMinerva](#), listing the company or academic institution and their supervisor. Students must also indicate whether they

want these credits to substitute for an elective or a senior tutorial (only eligible for four-credit options) and provide a brief description of the project (four to five sentences) such that the Registrar, and in some instances the College Head, can determine if the experience is sufficient to qualify. Once approved, the student is enrolled in the appropriate EL199 course (in-semester or summer, depending on intended minimum hours; 120 or 240), which is accessible on the student's dashboard. Students can use shorter summer internships (minimum of 120 hrs) for two credits.

2. Students must collaborate with their supervisor, wherein the supervisor agrees to provide at least 240 hours (for four credits) or 120 hours (for two credits) of substantive learning experiences (including, but not limited to, research, data analysis, marketing, product design, or content development) that allows the student to apply learning outcomes as relevant. Students and supervisors are expected to contact the Registrar during the course of the project if any issues arise that might impair the student's completion of the project. In the rare instances in which a student has worked 480+ hours for the same employer and wishes to earn 8 credits, students will need to complete distinct write-ups and HC applications for each 4-credit enrollment.
3. After completion of the project, to receive credit, students must:
 - Submit the completed supervisor's written and signed evaluation certifying the number of hours that the student worked and the work completed, and evaluating the student's performance.
 - Complete EL199 assignments, including experience reflection and skill reflections. Details on the assignments will be accessible once you are enrolled in the EL199 course..
4. After the student submits the assignments (by the predetermined deadline), a Minerva staff or faculty member will be assigned to evaluate it (pass/no pass grade) and to score the application of the learning outcomes. If the student's assignments "Pass," credit is earned for two or four credits as applicable. If the assignments are not satisfactory, the student will have one opportunity to revise and resubmit. If the assignments still do not earn a pass, the course is dropped from the student record.
5. Credit within the major: Students seeking to earn credit within a major must complete an additional assignment as part of their EL199 coursework, as assigned by the affiliated college head. If a student passes their EL199 assignments and has also completed an assignment affiliated with an application for credits within a major (to count toward a Tutorial requirement), then their additional major-credit assignment will be assessed by the affiliated college head on a pass/no pass basis. If the college head approves the EL199 major-assignment for credit, then the student will earn EL199 credit toward their major requirements. If not, then the student will earn general EL199 credits, which cannot be applied toward major or breadth requirements.

Business majors may participate in summer internships for credit in their first two summers as Minerva students, but these experiences do not substitute for the Business Practicum between the third and fourth years of study. Information about the Business Practicum, which is required for Business majors, can be found in the section on Business Majors Practicum under the description of Minerva University's majors and courses. Students may not use the same internship experience to count

toward fulfilling the B199 requirement and EL199 credit unless they have completed 480 supervised hours and it is approved by the appropriate advisor via emailing academicaffairs@minerva.edu. B199 credits count toward the overall 120-attempted credits calculation for tuition and financial aid purposes; EL199 credits do not. Students may not convert B199 course credits into EL199 course credits if they drop the BZ major.

6.20. Class Attendance and Standards of Conduct

Class attendance is a fundamental, primary essential function of the Minerva model. Class sessions are where students learn by building upon pre-class work and where students are provided formative feedback through assessments. Because our approach to active learning is the foundation of our entire model, class attendance is required. Students are required to prepare appropriately for each class session and actively participate in them. Students should read all assigned materials, watch assigned videos, and complete all assigned pre-class work, including solving pre-assigned problems and answering study guide questions. Because all of our classes are small seminars, all students must be prepared to be fully engaged participants—to shirk on preparation not only short-changes the individual student, but also undermines the experience for the other students.

Minerva's courses are virtual live synchronous classes, and students are required to be logged in and ready to participate in class by the class's stated start time. Details on policies with respect to tardiness, technology and network issues can be found on myMinerva [Academic Course Policies](#).

Assignment guidelines and deadlines are also a primary essential function of the Minerva model with scaffolded learning dependent upon completion of all assignments in a timely manner. We recognize that Minerva's pedagogical model can be challenging. It requires students to prepare prior to coming to each class session and to attend and participate in all class sessions. Our model results in a steady pace of work each week, which necessitates strong time management skills for carving out the time to work on assignments or problem sets, while also being prepared for classes.

Please refer to MyMinerva [Academic Course Policies](#) for details on all academic policies as they may vary depending on the type of course.

Students are responsible for their attendance and work submission and therefore for tracking their absences and assignments due dates on their dashboard. If any of this information appears to be incorrect, students should contact their instructor and absence@minerva.edu.

A certain number of absences are permitted for each course to cover unexpected circumstances. However, excessive absences may result in a student being administratively withdrawn from a course, and/or in a recommendation for the student to consider requesting a leave of absence. The maximum number of absences can be found at MyMinerva [Academic Course Policies](#).

6.21. Assessment of Student Work and Grading Policies

Faculty members are responsible for assessing the performance of each student during a range of class sessions and on assignments in terms of the course learning outcomes, using rubrics based on the standards of performance as detailed in each course syllabus. The rubric scale is 0-5. See [myMinerva Course Grading and Assessment Page](#) for more information.

Course grades are based on the student's completion of course requirements and an aggregation of learning outcome scores from class session and on assignments. Please refer to course syllabi for grading details.

6.21.1. Cornerstone Grading

Cornerstone course grades are based on completion of course requirements and performance on the Cornerstone learning outcomes. Please refer to the Cornerstone syllabi for more details and review the Cornerstone pass requirements described in a section above.

Students admitted in Fall 2023 onward will have each Cornerstone course viewed as a year-long course that spans two semesters. At the end of the first semester, students will receive a provisional Pass, In Progress, or No Pass grade on their transcript. These provisional grades will be updated and replaced at the end of the second semester with a final letter grade based on the arithmetic average course score over both semesters.

Details on the calculation of Cornerstone grades are available in the [Cornerstone syllabi](#) and [Cornerstone grading pages](#) in myMinerva.

6.21.2. Letter Grades and Grade Point Equivalents

Grades at Minerva reflect how well a student has mastered the course learning outcomes. The following table defines the grade points associated with each grade for calculating grade point averages (GPAs):

Course Score (Lower Bound)	Letter Grade	Grade Point Equivalent
4.00	A+	4.0
3.55	A	4.0
3.35	A-	3.7

3.15	B+	3.3
3.00	B	3.0
2.70	B-	2.7
2.30	C+	2.3
2.00	C	2.0
1.70	C-	1.7
1.00	D	1.0
0.00	F	0.0

A student must earn a letter grade of at least C or Pass to be granted course credit, or to use a course as a prerequisite.

6.21.3. Grade Point Average Calculation

Grade point averages (GPAs) are determined by multiplying the number of grade points for each course letter grade by the number of course units, taking the sum of the resulting product, and dividing by the total number of course units attempted by the student. Minerva calculates GPAs for each semester, and a cumulative GPA. Semester GPAs include all courses taken that semester. The cumulative grade point average listed on a student's transcript includes all courses taken at Minerva to date with letter grades. Pass/No Pass grades do not affect a student's GPA, nor do transfer credits.

A course in which a student receives an "F" grade does not count towards the requirement for the degree, but does count in computing the grade point average. If a student repeats a failed course and earns a passing grade, the second passing grade replaces the initial failing grade in the GPA calculation with the original grade marked as "Repeated" on the transcript.

6.21.4. Attendance and/or Coursework Adjustments

If a student experiences an emergency that disrupts the student's ability to attend class or submit assignment(s) on time, the student must provide supporting documentation and petition the Academic Adjustment Committee (AAC) for consideration. Petitions must be submitted within one week of the event, and no later than the last day of the semester by 5 PM UTC. The Committee reviews and decides on all petitions for consideration in keeping with current policies. A student must be in good standing in the course to qualify for consideration (i.e., no policy violations and a passing grade based on work done at the time of the petition).

The criteria to be considered and the process to submit a petition for consideration is detailed under myMinerva: [Policy Adjustments for Exceptional Circumstances](#). If the petition is approved, the student is required to submit all outstanding work by the deadline provided by the Academic Adjustment Committee. If the petition is denied, then the [Standard Assignment Submission Policy](#) is in effect and students should continue working on their coursework as soon as they are able to.

6.21.5. Other Grades and Transcript Notations

Minerva uses the following transcript notations:

- AW = Administrative Withdrawal, denotes a student exceeded limits on absences that resulted in withdrawal from a course
- I = Incomplete
- IP = In Process, denotes a course that is still being taken or is in the process of being graded
- NR = Not Recorded, indicates that a grade is missing because the instructor has not submitted it yet, or the grade is pending ASC deliberation.
- R = previously failed course retaken.
- W = Voluntary withdrawal from a course after the course drop deadline has passed

6.21.6. Graduation Requirements

In order to graduate, students must complete the following:

- Cornerstone and Civic Project courses
- Major Core and Concentration courses for their major
- Tutorials (or approved substitutions) or Practicum (based on major)
- Integrated Learning or Global Learning Courses
- Capstone Seminar, Capstone Directed Study and Manifest
- Breadth requirement of 20 credits of Core and Concentration courses not in student's major
- At least 120 total earned semester credits
- GPA of 2.0 or higher

Up to 12 semester credits needed to reach 120 units can be completed remotely in the fall following Manifest. Students *may* be eligible for Independent Housing in San Francisco. Students pursuing this option will have a graduation date of December rather than May.

6.21.7. Disputed Score/Grade Policy

Individual assignment dispute: If a student believes there is compelling evidence that the scores on a specific assignment were assigned or posted in error, the student should make an appointment with the instructor to discuss the issue within 5 business days of the score being posted. If the instructor decides the score should stand as initially assigned and the student still believes the score was not assigned or posted properly, the student may submit the Disputed Assignment Score/Grade Petition [at the Registrar site on myMinerva](#). The petition should be submitted no later than 5 business days

after the instructor's final decision, and include a detailed explanation as to why the student believes the score should be changed, along with any supporting documentation.

Course grade dispute: Disputed grade petitions must be submitted no later than one calendar month after transcript grades are posted. Disputed Grade Petition Forms are available on the [Registrar site at myMinerva](#).

The College Head may discuss the issue with the student or faculty member, and will decide whether the score or grade should be changed. Upon this review any/all scores on an assignment are subject to review and revision, not only those specified by the student. The Head's decision is final.

If there appears to be an administrative error, students must email registrar@minerva.edu with the error and documentation supporting the requested rerun of their scores.

6.22. Academic Records

A student's academic record (i.e., transcript) includes assessment of all Minerva University coursework for which credit can be granted and in which the student was enrolled, unless the student drops the class before the drop deadline. Students may view and download unofficial transcripts on the [Registrar](#) site at myMinerva.

Students may choose to release their academic records to a third party by submitting an Education Records Release Authorization Form, and may subsequently revoke access by submitting the Revoke Education Records Release Authorization Form. Both forms are available on the [Registrar site at myMinerva](#).

Official transcript requests must be made directly through the National Student Clearinghouse. The administrative fee per transcript is paid to the [National Student Clearinghouse](#). Electronic transcripts are typically processed within 3 business days. Paper transcripts are typically processed within 20 business days.

6.22.1. Lived/Preferred Name Policy

Minerva University recognizes that many students in our community use names other than their legal name to identify themselves. As long as the use of this different name is not for the purposes of misrepresentation, Minerva University acknowledges that a "lived name" can and should be used wherever possible in the course of business and education. This will promote a safe, inclusive, and non-discriminatory community. Students are free to determine the lived name they want to be known by in the student information systems. However, inappropriate use of the lived name process (including but not limited to avoiding a legal obligation or misrepresentation) may be cause for denying the request.

Under Minerva University's lived name policy, any student may choose to identify a lived name. The student's lived name may be used in many College contexts, including but not limited to in classes,

email address, and on ID Cards. However, for some other records, the College is required to use an individual's legal name.

Preferred names will never be used for official student record purposes, such as enrollment verifications, transcripts, diplomas, financial aid, student accounts, visas, SEVIS records and other instances where the legal name is required. In order to change a legal name, students must provide the official documentation of the legal name change, which must be the same as on their passport to the Office of the Registrar. The form to add or update a Lived/Preferred name is on the [Registrar site on myMinerva](#).

6.23. Academic Standing

At the end of each semester, the Academic Affairs team reviews student academic records to determine each student's academic standing. Academic standing classifications and potential consequences are described below.

6.23.1. Good Standing

A student is considered to be in good standing if the student:

- Is earning a predicted grade of C or above in all Cornerstone courses
- Earns at least a 2.00 GPA each semester after Foundation Year
- Meets the minimum academic progress standards in Capstone Courses
- Is within permitted absence parameters per course

6.23.2. Academic Probation

Academic probation may be imposed when any of the following take place:

- At the end of the fall semester of the student's first year, the student earns a No Pass (NP) grade in one or more courses At the end of the spring semester of the student's first year, the student earns a No Pass (NP) grade in one Cornerstone course. Student will remain on probation until their Cornerstone course grade is improved to passing
- A student is administratively withdrawn from one or two courses during a semester
- A second- through fourth-year student earns a semester GPA below 2.00, or has a cumulative GPA below 2.00.
- A second through fourth year student earns an F in one or more courses in a semester.
- A student in the third or fourth year fails to meet minimum progress standards on the student's Capstone project, including passing the Capstone courses, within the specified time frame
- A student is sanctioned for Honor Code violations

Students placed on academic probation should meet with their college advisors to devise a detailed set of expectations and a plan for substantial improvement of the student's academic performance

over the next semester. Students can be moved from Academic Probation to Good Standing, but the status record remains a permanent part of the student record. A student's academic status is communicated internally and may be considered in the evaluation of applications for civic projects, internships, and other external opportunities during the time the student is on Academic Probation — in order to ensure that meeting external obligations does not interfere with a student's ability to get back on track academically. Students on Academic Probation are not eligible for CPT. If a student is placed on Academic Probation for multiple and/or egregious honor code violations, they remain on academic probation for up to 2 semesters depending on timing of adjudication. If no honor code violations occur over that time, they will move back into good standing from an academic honor code perspective.

The U.S. government expects F-1 students to engage in their academic program actively. When the student is not attending classes, it may be interpreted as an intentional attempt to avoid the primary responsibility. Poor academic performance or other academic issues, by themselves, may not directly affect immigration status immediately. However, if these issues lead to academic suspension or a mandatory reduction in course load, they can impact immigration status. A reduction in course load (less than 12 credits) would be considered a failure to pursue a full course of study, which is required of all students to maintain their F-1 visa status.

6.23.3. Academic Dismissal

Dismissal may be issued when either:

- A first-year student is administratively withdrawn from two or more Cornerstone courses.
- A first-year student fails to pass two or more Cornerstone courses at the end of the first year.
- A student is on academic probation for three or more reasons in a given semester (e.g., honor code violations, falls below passing in two Cornerstone courses, has a semester GPA below 2.00, etc.).
- A second through fourth year student on probation does not return to good standing within one semester, as that exhibits failure to make adequate progress towards degree completion (e.g., failing a course, experiencing a trend of repeated violations listed in this Handbook).
- A student is found responsible for repeated and/or egregious academic Honor Code, academic policy or conduct violations.
- In all cases of finalized Academic Dismissal, students currently residing in any of Minerva's residence halls, in any rotation city, must permanently move out of the residence within 72 hours of dismissal. See Section 4.4.1 "Living in Residence".

6.25. Academic Freedom

Minerva has adopted the Academic Freedom Statement of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP, 1940), which reads as follows:

1. Teachers are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.
2. Teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce controversial matters into their teaching that have no relation to their subject. Limitations of academic freedom because of religious or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of the appointment.
3. College and university teachers are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

6.26. Academic Honor Code

The Minerva Honor Code rests on four pillars: honesty, integrity, mutual respect, and personal responsibility. Minerva students are expected to conduct themselves with the highest levels of these qualities both inside and outside the classroom. Each student serves as an ambassador to the community for Minerva. When one student exhibits inappropriate behavior outside the university, it reflects badly on every student and the institution as a whole.

Minerva students are citizens of an academic community whose members are expected to challenge themselves and one another to achieve greatness with honesty, integrity, mutual respect, and personal responsibility. Each individual who joins the Minerva community accepts this commitment in an effort to sustain and enhance personal, professional and institutional reputations.

Principles inherent in this Honor Code include:

- Students shall treat all members of the community with respect and without malicious intent to ensure that all students share equal opportunities.
- Students shall conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the principles of honesty and integrity in order to promote an environment of trust.
- Students shall conduct themselves as specified in the student conduct code, detailed elsewhere in this document.

To assist students in understanding their responsibilities under the Honor Code, the following is a list of actions pertaining to academic matters that violate the Honor Code. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to the following:

Plagiarism

- Knowingly appropriating the words, ideas, data, or code generated by other people or AI-tools and representing them as one's own.
- Utilizing Artificial Intelligence tools in a way that is not inline with the official policy or the guidelines determined by the instructor and/or that does not represent that learning is demonstrated by the student.
- Using the words, ideas, data, or code generated by other people or AI-tools without obtaining and acknowledging the source.
- Paraphrasing the words and ideas generated by others or by AI-tools without clear acknowledgment of the source (This includes instances of "Mosaic plagiarism" which occurs when ideas and wording have been used/borrowed without proper attribution-note that this includes other classmate's work as well as all other resources used for class/assignment work).
- Using one's own previously submitted coursework or written assignments (or portions of such previously submitted coursework or assignments) for alternate purposes and/or for other assignments without prior approval and clear citation.
- Modifying the code of another without clear acknowledgment of the source.
- Falsifying or fabricating a bibliography.
- Submitting data generated by AI-tools without independently obtaining credible sources that serve as evidence for that data (by passing along unchecked data generated by an AI-tool you may be at risk of fabricating data on assignments).

Cheating

- Unauthorized collaboration on assignments
- Using unauthorized resources during class and on coursework
- Using another's assignment or work product and presenting as one's own work
- Using and/or uploading/downloading of any Minerva material on "resource" and "library" websites such as, but not limited to, sites such as "Course Hero"
- Falsifying data for a class session or assignment

Obstruction of Honor Code

- Making false statements to an Honor Code investigator

Falsification of Information

- Knowingly making false statements or submitting misleading information related to academic matters to Minerva faculty or staff
- Intentionally attempting to deceive Minerva faculty or staff by engaging in, but not limited to, the following: uploading blank documents for assignments, submitting an incorrect/different assignment than what was required, adding links to assignments that do not provide access to the actual materials, completing pre-class work during the associated class session, altering time stamps on any submissions or course-related work
- Fabricating data on assignments
- Submitting falsified documents, such as transcripts, applications, petitions, etc.

- Modifying the functionality of academic tools (such as polls, etc.)

It is not a defense to charges of violating this Honor Code for students to claim that they have not received, read or understood this Code, or are otherwise ignorant of its provisions. A student is held to have notice of this Honor Code by enrolling at Minerva. Students must fully cooperate with investigations into potential violations of the Honor Code.

6.26.1. Charge of Honor Code Violation

6.26.1.1. Initial Charge and Informal Process

A faculty member, staff member, or student who wishes to make a charge of a violation of the Honor Code against a Minerva student must report violations to the ASC. It is the responsibility of students, staff, or faculty who suspect such a violation to make a charge in writing, using the Academic Dishonesty Charge Form. This form is available on the [Registrar site at myMinerva](#).

Upon receipt of an Academic Dishonesty Charge, an ASC member conducts a meeting with the accused student. Prior to the meeting, the ASC notifies the accused student in writing that a Charge of Academic Dishonesty has been submitted for a specific class, provides them the evidence, and informs them of their rights under the Honor Code. The initial meeting is recorded with the prior approval of the student, to provide an accurate record of the discussion. If the student does not agree to recording the meeting, two ASC members will participate in the meeting and take thorough notes. The student may request that their advisor or another witness also participate in the initial meeting. If requested by the student, the ASC member will schedule the meeting such that the advisor or other witness can attend.

If the accused student admits responsibility for academic dishonesty during the course of the initial meeting/preliminary investigation, the ASC meets to discuss and determine the appropriate sanction(s) (see Sanctions section below). The sanction(s) will be entered into a form which will then be sent to the student who is asked to sign the form documenting admission of guilt.

If the accused student does not admit responsibility for academic dishonesty, further investigation by the ASC may occur. Depending on the nature of the charges, the ASC may confer with the professor and seek additional information as appropriate, including speaking to the student again and with other students who may be involved in the potential violation. After this secondary investigation, the ASC may determine that there is not sufficient evidence to proceed. If they believe there is sufficient evidence, under the preponderance of evidence standard, the ASC will vote on appropriate sanctions, and enter them in a form where there is a place for the student to provide a signature admitting guilt. If the student does not admit responsibility in a serious case that may lead to class withdrawal or Minerva University dismissal, and the ASC believes there is substantial evidence to warrant a hearing, this is communicated to the student and the ASC proceeds to schedule the hearing. The latter is recorded with the student's permission and is attended by the Hearing Committee (ASC members and Dean of Students), the student, and the faculty or staff member(s) who initiated the charge. Should the need for a hearing be determined, the student has the right to present witnesses and exculpatory information. After receiving statements from all witnesses and considering all evidence presented, the Hearing Committee decides whether a violation of the Honor Code has occurred, determined by a preponderance of evidence standard. If so, the committee determines the appropriate sanction(see below). The verdict is then communicated to the student. It is final and unappealable.

The ASC informs the faculty member responsible for the course or associated academic activity of the outcome of the investigation and the process.

The student's rights include the following:

- The right to notice of the nature of the honor code violation and the activity and course or courses in which it is alleged to have taken place
- The right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty
- The right to solicit advice from others
- The right to have the matter be handled in a confidential manner
- The right to have the student's academic advisor and/or coach present at the initial meeting and any subsequent hearing that occurs
- Should the ASC request one, the right to a prompt hearing, which can be waived if the student admits responsibility for the violation in the investigative meetings
- The right to a reasonable amount of time to prepare for the eventual hearing, no less than five days after the initial investigative meeting is completed, and
- The right to present witnesses and exculpatory information at the hearing.

6.26.1.3. Sanctions

If the ASC determines the student committed no wrongdoing or there was insufficient evidence to proceed, no sanctions are imposed. If the student admits responsibility or the ASC determines that the student has violated one or more of the provisions of the Academic Honor Code, the ASC will impose sanctions. Sanctions may include but are not limited to Academic Probation, a reduced or failing grade for an assignment, a reduced or failing grade or withdrawal for a course, dismissal, revocation of financial aid eligibility, and/or withdrawal of an awarded degree/certificate.

- Academic Probation is not reported on the official transcript or diploma, and is only reported to external 3rd parties when permitted via signed release.
- Academic Dismissal is reported on the official transcript (no diploma is typically awarded), and is only reported to external 3rd parties when permitted via signed release.

Multiple violations of the Honor Code may result in the imposition of more severe sanctions such as Academic Dismissal, or revocation of an awarded degree.

6.27. Class Session Recording Retention and Access Policy

In order to allow for assessment of students' contributions to classroom discussions, each Minerva class session is video recorded. These recordings are available to students enrolled in the class section so that they can view the personalized feedback/assessments written by the professor and can review the class discussion. These recordings are not to be shared or distributed by students without the explicit written permission of the course faculty member, Dean of Faculty, Provost, and any students who are recorded on the video.

The video recording of discussion in a particular section of a course is made available to the students enrolled in that section shortly after the discussion concludes, and remains accessible to the students until the first day of the following academic year. Access to a recording from previous academic years can be requested for the purpose of appealing a grade or selecting video clips to include in a personal academic portfolio. Requests are reviewed by the Provost.

7. General Complaint Procedures

All faculty and staff at Minerva take student complaints seriously. We encourage students to resolve areas of concern informally through dialogue with the individuals involved. If students need support in how to handle an informal concern, they can reach out to Academic Affairs for academic/faculty related concerns or to the Dean of Students for Student Life/staff concerns.

We have established procedures to give aggrieved students a process by which they may express complaints without fear of retribution, especially if they believe they have been discriminated against on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, marital status, or handicap. The process described here is not intended to be used to question a rule, policy, or procedure established by an authorized faculty or administrative body. Rather, a person or persons shall use this procedure for a hearing and due process if they believe that a rule, policy, or procedure has been applied in an unfair or inequitable manner, or that there has been unfair or improper treatment.

Students who have a complaint regarding an academic-related grievance may present their complaint in person or in writing to the relevant faculty member or to the Dean of Faculty. If students have any other form of grievance, they may present their complaint in person or in writing to any Global or City Director, who will ensure that the appropriate administrator provides the student with an explanation of the process for addressing the particular complaint(s) and answers any questions to ensure a fair process.

If the student and a faculty or staff member are not able to resolve the grievance informally, or if the director is not able to assist the student in resolving the matter, the student may submit a written, signed statement to the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students will provide a copy of the complaint to the person involved who will be given an opportunity to respond in writing no later than five (5) business days after receipt of the complaint. In the event that the issue is still not resolved, the written complaint and response will be taken to the person's immediate supervisor. The immediate supervisor will then respond in writing to the appeal. If the student does not accept the decision, the Dean of Students will meet with the student, hear the grievance, review written materials and respond in writing with a decision within five (5) business days after receipt of the complaint. The Dean of Student's decision is final. If the complaint is against the Dean of Students, or the Dean of Students cannot be impartial in the process, the Provost will be designated to fill the role of the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students will maintain records of all such formal complaints and their resolution.

If a student is not able to resolve a complaint and believes that Minerva is in violation of accreditation standards, the student may also direct a complaint to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges – Senior College and University Commission (WASC) at <http://www.wascsenior.org>.

If a student believes that the complaint continues to warrant further consideration after exhausting the review by Minerva staff or faculty and/or WASC, the student may contact the California Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education as follows:

California Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95833
Telephone: 916-431-6924
Fax: 916-263-1897
Website: <https://www.bppe.ca.gov>

Nothing in this disclosure limits any right that you may have to seek civil or criminal legal action to resolve your complaint.

Some states have an additional complaint process available for students while they study and are residing in that state. Students should first exhaust the complaints process and procedures as defined in the Student Handbook before they submit a complaint in that other state.

If the processes outlined above do not address the concerns, students residing in Maryland during the course of study also may contact the state regulator. In Maryland, Minerva University is subject to investigation of complaints by the Office of the Attorney General or the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Complaints should be directed to:

Maryland Attorney General
Consumer Protection Division
200 St. Paul St.
Baltimore, MD 21202
410-528-8662/888/743/0823 (toll free)