

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Bentley Core Values

Bentley University is a community of students, faculty, and staff who are committed to learning. To create the best environment for learning to occur, we as a community embrace these core values to guide our conduct:

Caring

We practice understanding, compassion, and kindness. We recognize the whole person and their well-being, and we think beyond ourselves and our immediate goals to consider the impact our actions have on other people.

Collaboration

We welcome new perspectives as we work with others toward a common goal. We seek out opportunities for partnership and teamwork, readily sharing our knowledge and expertise with others.

Diversity

We are all different and that makes our community stronger. We embrace and seek to understand those with different beliefs, backgrounds, and life experiences. We celebrate those differences as opportunities to learn and grow. We protect and affirm the right of all people to be themselves.

Honesty

We act with honesty and integrity in our academic, personal, and professional affairs. We are dedicated to ethical and transparent behavior, and we hold ourselves accountable for our words and actions.

Impact

We recognize our potential to make a difference. We use the power of business and innovation to positively impact individuals, organizations, and the communities we serve at home and abroad.

Learning

We are here to learn and develop. We are passionate about knowledge and want to continue to learn throughout our lives. We are eager and willing to try new experiences and ways of thinking. We appreciate that much of our learning will occur by interacting with others, inside and outside of the classroom.

Respect

We treat others as they would like to be treated. We recognize the inherent dignity and worth of all members of our community and strive to better understand and appreciate everyone. We are committed to keeping our community free of vandalism, hate speech, violence, and harassment.

University Policies

Bentley University is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in education and employment. The University prohibits discrimination against individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, or national or ethnic origin in programs and activities. All members of the Bentley community are entitled to an environment free of unlawful discrimination, bias, harassment, or sexual misconduct. Bentley University's policies and practices reflect the university's commitment to its mission and core values (<https://www.bentley.edu/about/strategic->

[plan-process/mission-statement-and-core-values/](#)) as well as compliance with applicable state and federal laws. The university complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, among other laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination.

The Office of Equal Opportunity and Institutional Equity (OIE) oversees the University's response to claims of discrimination, including sexual misconduct. Anyone who has experienced discriminatory conduct may file a report through the appropriate reporting system found on the OIE's Reporting Page (<https://www.bentley.edu/offices/institutional-equity/>). The OIE team will review all reports received and will follow up accordingly. Anonymous reporting is permitted, but note that it may limit the University's ability to respond. For the most up to date policies, procedures, resources, and support available, please visit the OIE's website.

The Student Handbook (<https://www.bentley.edu/offices/registrar/student-catalogues/>) contains a comprehensive list of policies within the Bentley University community. For any questions regarding the Student Handbook or its contents, please reach out to the Office of Student Development, Conduct, and Care by calling 781-891-2161 or email GA_StudentConduct@bentley.edu.

State Distance Education Complaint Process

SARA is an acronym for the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement, which is an interstate agreement that allows colleges and universities located in a SARA member state to offer online classes in other SARA member states without needing to obtain authorization to do so from each state individually. The Commonwealth's Department of Higher Education (DHE) serves as the Massachusetts state portal entity for SARA. This means the DHE receives and evaluates institutional SARA applications, administers the student complaint process for students of SARA institutions operating in Massachusetts, and provides support to SARA institutions in Massachusetts. Bentley University is approved by DHE to operate under SARA in providing distance (online) education. The Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, in its capacity as the SARA portal entity for Massachusetts, reviews and evaluates student complaints regarding distance learning programs offered by Massachusetts-based institutions that are members of SARA in accordance with 610 CMR 12.07. Complaints that should be filed as a SARA Complaint are those that pertain to distance (online) education provided by Massachusetts-based SARA institutions to students residing in other states pursuant to SARA only. Complaints about a SARA institution's operations or activities in Massachusetts can be filed at the link below and will be resolved pursuant to 610 CMR 2.00 or otherwise in accordance with Bentley's policies. To learn more about this complaint process, please visit this webpage (<https://www.bentley.edu/graduate/apply/nc-sara/>) on our website.