

## **Grievance Policy**

Grievances should always be resolved at the most immediate level possible. Students will not be subject to unfair actions as a result of initiating a complaint proceeding. No student shall suffer any negative administrative or academic consequences for the submission of either an academic or a non-academic grievance.

In the case of academic complaints or disputes:

1. The student is directed to communicate the problem to the faculty or other academic member involved and attempt to resolve the issue.
2. If a complaint or dispute is not satisfactorily resolved by the faculty member, the student appeals to an academic director or vice president (VP).
3. The director/VP investigates and may choose to involve other administrators, as appropriate.
4. If the complaint or dispute is still unresolved, the student may appeal in writing to the president, whose decision is binding.

In the case of non-academic complaints or disputes:

1. The student is directed to communicate the problem to the staff member involved and attempt to resolve the issue.
2. If a complaint or dispute is not satisfactorily resolved by the staff member, the student appeals to the supervisor of the staff member.
3. If the complaint or dispute is still unresolved, the student may appeal in writing to the president, whose decision is binding.

If the student complaint cannot be resolved after exhausting the university's grievance procedure, the student may file a complaint with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and/or the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).

Under the aegis of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) the University of North America accepts oversight by the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) for students enrolled in Distance Education courses or programs. Grade appeals and student conduct appeals are not allowed under SARA.

The student should submit such written complaints directly to the regulatory agency:

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia  
Private and Out of State Postsecondary Education  
101 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, James Monroe Building, Richmond, VA 23219

And/or

New England Commission of Higher Education  
301 Edgewater Place, Suite 210, Wakefield, MA 01880  
TEL: (781-425-7785) E-Mail: [info@neche.org](mailto:info@neche.org)

For students who are GI Bill® beneficiaries, the Virginia State Approving Agency (SAA) approves education and Virginia training programs. The SAA office investigates complaints of GI Bill® beneficiaries. While most complaints should initially follow the school grievance policy, if the situation cannot be resolved at the school, the beneficiary should contact the SAA office via email at [saa@dvs.virginia.gov](mailto:saa@dvs.virginia.gov); GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by the VA is available at the official U.S. government website at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.