



Student 2010-2011 PLANNER & *Handbook* *Where University Comes to Life...*



Student PLANNER & Handbook

Where University Comes to Life



Name: _____

Student Number: _____

While every effort was made to ensure that this 2010-2011 Student Handbook is accurate and up-to-date, some information may have changed between the printing date and the actual distribution of this handbook.

Message from the Dean of Student Affairs



Dear Members of the Wolf Pack,

Welcome to the Wolfpack Family, a community of learners embracing many cultures, nationalities and ideas. We are a community where students, faculty, and staff Learn, Think, and Become together. Whether you are new to the family or are continuing to pursue your dreams and aspirations, know the primary mission of the Division of Student Affairs is to enhance overall student welfare. The Departments that serve you are Admissions, Registration, Student Success Center, Student Life, Clinic Services, Office of Parent Relations and Alumni Affairs and the Dean of Student Affairs Office.

We understand that college can be an overwhelming experience. This handbook is designed to help you get started and stay on track. From providing you with a planner to help you manage your time, to informing you of the myriad of resources available to setting out the expectation of standards of conduct, success is at your finger tips.

Being a part of the Wolfpack family affords you the opportunity to acquire knowledge, leadership skills, and experiences that will last a lifetime. We will challenge you to seek new ways of examining the world and provide you opportunities to become engaged in clubs, athletics, and service. Our support systems will ensure you meet and exceed your own expectations. Use your talents, skills and experiences both inside and outside of the classroom! Have an exhaustive collegiate life but make sure you maintain a healthy lifestyle; college is also a physical endurance test.

It is your responsibility to be familiar with the Student Handbook, University Catalog and other official communications of the University. Your being here signifies that you believe in the mission and values of AUK. Students are the reason we are here. The common denominator is YOUR SUCCESS! Let the journey begin!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Carol A. Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Carol A. Ross

Dean

Division of Student Affairs

“Where University Comes to Life”

Table of Contents

Message from the Dean of Student Affairs	1
Table of Contents	2
About the American University of Kuwait	6
AUK and Dartmouth College	9
AUK Symbols and Meanings	10
Contact information	11
Basic Principles of AUK	13

Planner

Academic Calendar	14
AUK Class Meeting Pattern	21
2011 – 2013 Calendar	22
Academic Planner (September 2010 – August 2011)	26

Student Codes

I. University Code of Conduct	156
• Introduction and Purpose	157
• Standards of Integrity and Quality	157
• Compliance with Laws	157
• Contractual Obligations	158
• Confidentiality and Privacy	158
• Conflict of Interest	158
• Human Resources	158
• Financial Reporting	158
• Use of University Resources	158
• Profession-Specific Standards	159
• Reporting Possible Violations	159
• Consequence of Violations	159
• Questions	159
II. Student Rights & Responsibilities	160
Student Rights	160
Student Responsibilities	160
III. Student Code of Conduct	161
Campus Welfare & Safety	162
• Non-physical Misconduct	162
• Physical Misconduct	162
• Endangering Behavior	162
• Hazing	162
• Fire Regulations	162
• Controlled Substances	162
• Alcohol	162
• Weapons and Dangerous Materials	162
• Discrimination	162
• Sexual Harassment	163

• Violation of Law and AUK Discipline	163
University Operations	163
• Dress Code	163
• Inappropriate Conduct	163
• Disorderly Conduct	163
• Gender Separation	164
• Offensive Material	164
• Disruption	164
• Disruptive Students	164
• Unauthorized Demonstration	164
• Non Compliance with Directions	164
• University Identification	164
• University Guests and Visitors	164
• Pets	165
• Unauthorized Soliciting or Distribution of Materials	165
• Charitable Fundraising	165
• Violations of published AUK Policies/Procedures, Rules or Regulations	165
• Bribery	165
• Abuse of Student Discipline System	165
University Facilities, Property, & Resources	166
• Unauthorized Usage of University Facilities	166
• Unauthorized Usage of University Resources	166
• Unauthorized Usage of University Materials/ Falsely Representing AUK	166
• Theft or Damage to Property	166
• Unauthorized Entry and Key Usage	166
• Obstruction of Movement	166
• Computer Usage	167
Dishonesty & False Representation	167
• Dishonesty	167
• Furnishing False Information to Any AUK Official or Faculty Member	168
• Forgery, Alteration, or Misuse of Any AUK Document, Record or Instrument of Identification	168
• False Representation	168
• Tampering with the Election of Any Recognized AUK Student Organization	168
• Recording Prohibition	168
Student Organizations	168
Maintaining Educational Environments: Policies and Procedures	169
Non Discrimination Policy	169
• Purpose	169
• Definitions	169
• Scope	170
• Procedures	171
Administration	171
Informal Complaints	171
Formal Complaints	171

Resolution	172
Prohibition of Retaliation	172
Confidentiality	172
Frivolous or Malicious Complaints	172
Concurrent Grievance	172
Disruptive Student Policy	172
• Purpose	172
• Definitions	172
• Scope	173
• Procedures: Dismissal of Disruptive Students	173
Initiation and Investigation of Disruptive Students	173
Immediate Intervention	173
Follow-Up	173
Evaluation of Disruptive Students	173
Dismissal of Disruptive Students	174
• Re-entry Procedures	175
Prohibition of Sexual Harassment	175
• Purpose	175
• Definition of Sexual Harassment	176
• Scope	176
• Reporting Procedures	176
• Resolution Proceedings	177
Adjudication Procedures: Student Code of Conduct	178
Article I: Jurisdiction & Enforcement	178
Article II: Student Conduct Process & Proceedings	179
• Initiation	180
• Initial Review	180
• Investigations and Gathering Evidence	180
• Hearing	181
• General Principles Applicable to Student Conduct Processes and Proceedings	181
Article III: Code of Conduct Board	182
Article IV: Sanctions	184
Article V: Appeals	186
Article VI: Grievance Process For Non-Instructional Issues	187
Article VII: Interpretation & Revision	189
Article VIII: Records of Disciplinary Actions	190
Article IX: Definitions	190
IV. Code of Academic Honesty & Integrity	191
Violations of Academic Honesty & Integrity	192
• Cheating	192
• Plagiarism	192
• Violations of Copyrights	192
• Dishonesty in Papers	192
• Work for One Course Submitted for Another	192
• Falsification of Data	193
• Inappropriate Collaboration	193
• Dishonesty During Exams	193
• Adjudication of Academic Dishonesty and Integrity	193
Jurisdiction	193

• Faculty Jurisdiction	193
• Administration Jurisdiction	193
Penalties	194
Student's Right of Appeal	195
Records of Disciplinary Actions	195

Student Resources

Additional Information	197
Self Service Guide.....	200
MyAUKPortal.....	201
Which Student Form Do I Use For.....	203
Where Do I Go For Assistance On Campus.....	204
Office of Admissions	205
Arabian Heritage Project	206
AUKuwait Review	207
Campus Activities Board	208
Center for Continuing Education	209
The Diner	210
Finance	211
Gulf Studies Center	212
AUK Health Center	213
Intensive English Program	214
Information Technology	215
Library.....	217
Office of Parent Relations and Alumni Affairs.....	218
Office of the Registrar	219
Safety and Security.....	220
Student Life.....	221
L.E.A.D. at AUK	223
Athletics and Recreational Sports	224
Student Government Association	225
Student Success Center	226
Academic Advising	227
Peer Academic Leaders	228
Tutoring Services	229
The Voice of AUK	230
The Writing Center	231

Extras

Photo Gallery.....	233
Restaurant Directory.....	240
Helpful Numbers	243
Useful Links.....	244
Gyms in Kuwait.....	245
Physical Activities Charts.....	247
Champions League Match Calendar.....	248
Sudoku.....	249
Address Book.....	253
Notes.....	255
Stickers.....	Appendix

About the American University of Kuwait

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and coeducational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural, and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English.

Established by Amiri Decree 139 in 2003, AUK was accredited in 2006 and re-accredited in 2008, by the Private Universities Council, Ministry of Higher Education - State of Kuwait.

AUK offers students a quality education based on an American college model. The faculty, administration, and staff work hard to create a caring environment where every aspect of the student's development gets attention and support. The course of study is designed to prepare students for the contemporary world where critical thinking, communication skills, and life-long learning have become imperative. The Liberal Arts education fulfills students' educational goals and requires rigorous effort in the Major discipline (field of study); it also brings the rewards of a broad general education useful in their future career, whatever field they choose.

The AUK faculty is a highly qualified group of international academics with first-hand experience of the American style of higher education. There are over ninety faculty members, including over 50 undergraduate faculty with PhDs or terminal degrees. With a class size of 10 to a maximum of 32 students, it is easy for students to get to know their professors and classmates.

AUK currently offers thirteen degree programs. In addition, students receive instruction in academic skills, time management, and stress reduction. At AUK students will find opportunities for internships, creative talent development, health and fitness maintenance, and community involvement. Advising is very important in the American-college Liberal Arts model, so students should be sure to seek guidance from the academic advisors and counselors at the Student Success Center and their professors.

Mission

The American University of Kuwait is a liberal arts institution, based on the American model of higher education. It is dedicated to providing students with knowledge, self-awareness, and personal growth experiences that can enhance critical thinking, effective communication, and respect for diversity. AUK seeks to create leaders and life-long learners who aspire to the highest standards of moral and ethical responsibility in their societies.

Values

The values that guide AUK:

- AUK values freedom of thought and expression and emphasizes the need for students to learn to think critically, to develop the art of questioning, to understand cause and effect, to communicate effectively, to write expressively, to learn about the world and to become life-long learners.
- AUK values self-awareness with a moral and ethical responsibility throughout its learning community.
- AUK values the importance of a strong and diverse educational experience and knowledge in varied fields.
- AUK values a multi-cultural and diverse environment and an active campus life.
- AUK values staff commitment to service.
- AUK values the role of faculty in teaching, scholarship, creative expression and service.

University Culture

The American University of Kuwait is committed to creating an enlightened and progressive educational culture in which all students, faculty and staff, regardless of nationality, creed, or position, will co-exist and help create a dynamic and equitable environment. All members of AUK are expected to respect the diverse nature of the AUK community and interact in a manner that is respectful of such, and that supports a commitment to life-long learning and the pursuit of academic excellence in higher education. The University encourages the freedom to engage in academic inquiry, and the fair exchange of ideas, and as such supports open access to and dissemination of information.

The University founders uphold the philosophy that one cannot create a true enlightened academic environment without practicing the very virtues and ideals it hopes to instill in its students. In upholding the highest standards of professional behavior and ethical conduct among its faculty, staff and students, the University hopes to create a community of scholars and students who will benefit from AUK's collegial atmosphere. Through these principles, AUK is prepared to reinvent and improve itself continuously as a community of life-long learners.

University Faculty

The faculty of the American University of Kuwait is a group of highly qualified and trained academicians and professionals who are committed to high standards of teaching excellence and proficient in the use of technology in teaching and research. Full-time teaching faculty members have acquired terminal degrees from institutions in the Middle East and abroad in addition to having taught in a variety of international systems of higher education. The AUK faculty is a diverse group of exceptionally talented teachers-scholars, several of whom are and have been involved with the Fulbright Scholarship Program, a program that has international prestige. AUK regularly hosts U.S. participants in the Fulbright Program, students and faculty alike.

Segregation

As per law no. 34 of 2000 on the “Establishment of Private Universities” in the State of Kuwait (Article 6), private universities/colleges and branches of foreign universities shall abide by the following:

1. Operate its buildings to ensure gender segregation in all departments, disciplines and students activities.
2. Observe Islamic values and time-honored traditions in relation to students’ costumes and activities.

College Program Accreditation

American Academy for Liberal Education (AALE)

The programs in the Division of Humanities and Arts, and the Division of the Social Sciences are candidates for accreditation by the American Academy for Liberal Education (AALE), and agree to uphold the Academy’s Education Standards for the institution’s academic requirements, practices and performance in the pursuit of excellence in liberal education. Student concerns and complaints related to the Academy’s measures of accreditation can be addressed to the American Academy for Liberal Education, 1050 17th ST NW, Suite 40, Washington, DC 20036, (202.452.8611) www.aale.org <<http://www.aale.org>> .

Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP)

The Business and Economics Division is seeking ACBSP accreditation of all five of the BBA majors. Based on the completed pre-self study, ACBSP has recommended that the Business and Economics Division may proceed with the self-study, to be submitted in August 2010. The ACBSP Site visit will take place in October 2010.

AUK and Dartmouth College

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) and Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire (USA), have worked closely together since 2003, when the two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding that facilitated a series of advisory, consultative, and co-operative projects. That initial agreement was renewed in June 2008 to extend through 2013. The two institutions share a commitment to excellence in higher learning, and the agreement between them reflects AUK's growing stature as a premier academic institution in the Gulf region and beyond. With its deep and historic commitment to the liberal arts, Dartmouth recognizes the importance of AUK's mission and works to support the University as it develops a superlative education, based on the principles of critical inquiry, mastery of subject material, depth of curriculum, and a vibrant, out of the classroom experience.

Dartmouth and AUK collaborate on numerous programs, and Dartmouth provides a wide range of administrative and academic consulting services to AUK. The two institutions have developed a flourishing relationship that involves faculty, students, and staff in both locations. Dartmouth experts in engineering, information technology, library sciences, communications, governance, and other areas routinely visit Kuwait while students, faculty, and staff from Kuwait travel to the United States to work with their counterparts at Dartmouth. AUK's commitment to providing a premier learning environment based on the American model resonates with Dartmouth's history and its understanding of the importance of higher learning in a global context. Since the relationship began, the two institutions have steadily deepened and expanded their partnership, creating a dynamic, evolving, and unique cross-cultural collaboration.



Photos courtesy of DARTMOUTH College (www.dartmouth.edu)

AUK Symbols and Meanings

AUK SEAL

"Circle of Life, the Open Book, the Dhow, the Torch, and the Falcon"

The Circle of Life embodies the never-ending relationships among the elements that form AUK's unique culture. The Open Book depicts the dedication to knowledge, self-awareness, and personal growth. The Dhow represents aspiration, exploration, adventure, diversity and tradition. The Torch stands for freedom and the passing of the light of knowledge and wisdom from one generation to the next. The Falcon represents the vision, pride, courage and leadership of the AUK family.



AUK LOGO

The American University of Kuwait is founded on the principles of American higher education. The coming together of this Kuwaiti culture and American principle is symbolized in the University logo by merging the Al-Seif Palace and U.S. Capitol Building. Thus, the marriage of both symbols reflects the quality and the character of AUK.



UNIVERSITY COLORS

Garnet and Gold

Garnet symbolizes love and devotion, passion and courage. Gold symbolizes excellence, wealth and prosperity. Together, they symbolize AUK's devoted passion and courage in the pursuit of excellence in all that we do.



AUK MASCOT

Wolfpack

The Wolfpack symbolizes the unity of AUK, our common vision, values, and belief system.

Team Work: Wolves are highly social animals, usually living in packs, and work as a community. Characteristics of the AUK community.

Integration: Wolves as a pack care for the young, thus enhancing one's chances of success. The Pack is similar to the AUK family value of mentoring new members of the community.

Communication: The call of the wolf is the howl. Done in harmony, bringing the pack together to ward off any fears while facing down any enemy. When the AUK community calls, it is one for all and all for one.



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Basic Principles of AUK

In any civilized society, there are basic principles by which the community lives. At AUK, recognizing that we live and operate in the framework of the State of Kuwait, we believe in the following principles:

Academic Freedom

Universities exist to promote the free inquiry and exchange of ideas. At times, individuals may find that they object to a particular idea or its formulation. However, by embracing the free inquiry and exchange of ideas, the American University of Kuwait provides a space for frank and earnest debate. Academic freedom is the right granted to members of the university community to explore, investigate, test, and publish topics of their choosing, respecting the bounds of academic honor.

The maintenance of such an open environment is difficult and contingent on active participation of all community members. A free exchange of ideas is not a license for personal attacks, slander, or libel. Likewise, individuals are expected not to impose their beliefs on other members of the university community through implied or explicit threats of violence.

Freedom of Expression

Freedom of expression and an open environment within which to pursue scholarly inquiry and to share information are encouraged, supported, and protected at the American University of Kuwait.

Students, student organizations, faculty, and staff at AUK are free to examine and discuss all questions of interest and to express opinions publicly and privately. They should always be free to support causes by orderly means that do not disrupt the regular and essential operation of the university or community and are not in violation of Kuwaiti law. At the same time, it should be made clear to the academic and larger community that students or student organizations, and individual members of the faculty or staff, speak only for themselves, not for the university as an institution, in their public expressions or demonstrations. AUK does not allow disruptive behavior at community events or on campus.

Non-Discrimination

As a liberal arts university charged with broadening the intellectual horizons of its students, the American University of Kuwait is committed to providing a quality education to all qualified students regardless of age, national origin, religion, or gender. The faculty and staff are hired and promoted without regard to these factors. All facilities and services are open for use by students, faculty, and staff in compliance with the laws of Kuwait.

Instructional Language

English is the instructional language at the American University of Kuwait. Official meetings with students and disciplinary proceedings are conducted in English and it is the responsibility of non-English speakers to secure assistance as needed.