

By the same token, students are also subject to all laws, the enforcement of which is the responsibility of duly constituted authorities. When students violate laws, they may incur penalties prescribed by legal authorities. In such instance, college discipline will be initiated only when the presence of the student on campus will disrupt the educational process of the college. However, when a student's violation of the law also adversely affects the college's pursuit of its recognized educational objectives, the college may enforce its own regulations. When students violate college regulations, they are subject to disciplinary action by the college whether or not their conduct violates the law. If a student's behavior simultaneously violates both college regulations and the law, the college may take disciplinary action independent of that taken by legal authorities.

## II. STUDENT RIGHTS

- A. All rights and privileges guaranteed to every citizen by the Constitution of the United States and by the state of North Carolina shall not be denied any student.
- B. Students are free to pursue their educational goals. Appropriate opportunities for learning in the classroom and on the campus shall be provided for by the college. Student performance will be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards.
- C. Students have the right to freedom of expression, inquiry, and assembly without restraint or censorship subject to reasonable and non-discriminatory rules and regulations regarding time, place, and manner.
- D. Students have the right to inquire about and to propose improvements in policies, regulations, and procedures affecting the welfare of students through established student government procedures, campus committees, and college offices.
- E. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 provides safeguards regarding the confidentiality of and access to student records, and this Act will be adhered to by the college. Students and former students have the right to review their official records and to request a hearing if they challenge the contents of the records. No records shall be made available to unauthorized personnel or groups outside the college without the written consent of the person involved, except under legal expulsion.
- F. No disciplinary sanctions other than temporary removal from class or activity (only for duration of said activity) may be imposed upon any student without due process. Due process procedures are established to guarantee a student accused of a Student Code of Conduct violation the right of a hearing, a presentation of charges, evidence for charges, the right to present evidence, the right to have witnesses on one's behalf and to hear witnesses on behalf of the accuser(s), the right to counsel, and the right of appeal.

## III. STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The college reserves the right to maintain a safe and orderly educational environment for students and staff. Therefore, when, in the judgment of college officials, a student's conduct disrupts or threatens to disrupt the college community, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken to restore and protect the sanctity of the community.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with generally accepted standards of scholarship and morality. The purpose of this code is not to restrict student rights but to protect the rights of individuals in their academic pursuits.

The following regulations set forth rules of conduct which prohibit certain types of student behavior. Violation of one or more of the following regulations may result in one of the sanctions described in Section V.

- A. Academic Dishonesty - taking or acquiring possession of any academic material (test information, research papers, notes, etc.) giving help during test; submitting papers or reports (that are supposed to be original work) that are not entirely the student's own; not giving credit for others' work (plagiarism).
- B. Theft of, misuse of, or damage to college property; or theft of or damage to property of a member of the college community or a campus visitor on college premises or at college functions; unauthorized entry upon the property of the college or into a college facility or a portion thereof which has been restricted in use and thereby placed off limits; unauthorized presence in a college facility after closing hours.
- C. Possession of or use of alcoholic beverages or being in a state of intoxication on the college campus or at college-sponsored or supervised functions off campus or in college-owned vehicles. Possession, use or distribution of any illegal drugs, except as expressly permitted by law. Any influence which may be attributed to the use of drugs or of alcoholic beverages shall not in any way limit the responsibility of the individual for the consequences of his/her actions.
- D. Lewd or indecent conduct, including public, physical or verbal action or distribution of or wearing clothes bearing obscene or libelous written material.
- E. Mental or physical abuse of any person on college premises or at college-sponsored or college-supervised functions, including verbal or physical actions which threaten or endanger the health or safety of any such persons or which promote hatred or racial prejudice.
- F. Any act, comment, or behavior which is sexually suggestive or of a harassing nature and which in any way interferes with a student's or an employee's performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.