

5.2.1 POLICY ON STUDENT CONDUCT

Section 1: Student Conduct Philosophy

Academic institutions exist for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students and the general well-being of society. This Policy is intended to ensure that members of the College community are able to pursue their goals in an atmosphere free from unreasonable interference or threat of interference.

This Policy is also intended to foster the development of important values, including accountability, responsibility, fairness, respect for self and others, appreciation of personal freedoms and a recognition of the importance of physical safety in the College community. Compliance with the Policy provides an opportunity to develop and practice skills in leadership, group process, decision making and ethical and moral reasoning. Students who demonstrate these values and possess these skills are more likely to find success and fulfillment in their academic, professional, family and personal endeavors.

This Policy sets forth a number of expectations for student conduct and prescribes procedures for enforcement. Since students are assumed to be at various stages of moral and social development, sanctions imposed should attempt to assist students in their growth and development, wherever possible. However, the paramount consideration must always be to protect members of the College community and the educational process from harm.

Section 2: Application of the Student Conduct Policy

This Policy applies to student conduct on campus and on other property or facilities owned, controlled or used by the College. It also applies to student conduct on premises not owned, controlled or used by the College if the off-campus conduct impairs College-related activities or affairs of another member of the College community or creates a risk of harm to any member or members of the College community.

Conduct on or off College premises that is prohibited by federal, state or local law, codes and ordinances is also covered. Students who engage in behavior prohibited by law may be subject to civil or criminal sanctions as well as to the sanctions of this Policy.

Additionally, where a court of law has found a student to have violated the law, a College has the right to impose the sanctions of this Policy even though the conduct does not impair the College-related activities of another member of the College community and does not create a risk of harm to the College community. The decision to exercise this right will be in the sole discretion of the President or his/her designee.

For purposes of the Policy on Student Conduct, a “student” is any person who has registered for at least one (1) course, credit or non-credit, at the College. Student status continues in effect for two (2) calendar years after the conclusion of the last course in which the student was registered, unless the student has formally withdrawn from the College, graduated or been expelled.

Section 3: Expectations for Student Conduct

Consistent with the Student Conduct Philosophy set forth in Section 1 of this Policy, students are expected to:

1. Demonstrate respect for the College community by acting in accordance with published Board policies and College rules and regulations;
2. Demonstrate academic integrity by not engaging in conduct that has as its intent or effect the false representation of a student’s academic performance, including but not limited to: a. cheating on an examination, b. collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course, c. plagiarizing, including the submission of others’ ideas or papers (whether purchased, borrowed or otherwise obtained) as one’s own, d. stealing or having unauthorized access to examination or course materials, e. falsifying records or laboratory or other data, f. submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course, and g. knowingly assisting another student in any of the above, including an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance,

- examination, or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed;
3. Demonstrate respect for the property of the College and of others by not damaging or destroying or attempting to damage or destroy such property, and by not possessing or attempting to possess such property without authorization, including unauthorized entry to or use of College premises;
 4. Demonstrate respect for others by: a. refraining from conduct that constitutes a danger to the personal health or safety of other members of the College community and guests or licensees of the College, including intentionally causing or attempting to cause injury; b. refraining from conduct that obstructs or seriously impairs or attempts to obstruct or seriously impair College-sponsored or College-authorized activities; and c. refraining from harassment, which is defined as conduct that is abusive or which substantially interferes with a person's pursuit of his or her customary or usual affairs;
 5. Demonstrate respect for others by refraining from sexual misconduct (see the Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence Statement);
 6. Be truthful in all matters and not knowingly make false statements to any employee or agent of the Board or the College with regard to a College-related matter, nor forge, alter or otherwise misuse any document or record;
 7. Comply with the directions of College staff members acting within the scope of their employment responsibilities;
 8. Contribute to a safe and healthy learning and working environment by refraining from the unauthorized possession or use of weapons or dangerous instruments as defined by law and pursuant to Board Policy, and by refraining from possessing or using other objects in a manner that causes harm, threatens or endangers oneself or others;
 9. Respect oneself and others in the community by refraining from knowingly possessing, using, transferring, selling or being under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined by law, or possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages unless specifically authorized, pursuant to Board Policy. Use or possession of a drug authorized by prescription from a licensed medical practitioner is not covered by this statement;
 10. Refrain from any unauthorized use of electronic or other devices to make an audio or video record of any person while on College premises without his/her prior knowledge or without his/her expressed consent;
 11. Conduct oneself in a civil and respectful manner, both within and outside the College. Students may be sanctioned for behavior that is not in accordance with the above-stated expectations.

Section 4: Sanctions

The prior conduct record of a student shall be considered in determining the appropriate sanction for a student who has been found to have violated any part of Section 3 of this Policy. Sanctions shall be progressive in nature; that is, more serious sanctions may be imposed if warranted by the prior conduct record of the student.

A "sanction" may be any action affecting the status of an individual as a student taken by the College in response to a violation of this Policy, including but not limited to the following:

1. "Expulsion" is a permanent separation from the College that involves denial of all student privileges, including entrance to College premises;
2. "Suspension" is a temporary separation from the College that involves denial of all student privileges, including entrance to college premises for the duration of the suspension, and may include conditions for reinstatement;
3. "Removal of College privileges" involves restrictions on student access to certain locations, functions and/or activities but does not preclude the student from continuing to pursue his/her academic program;
4. "Probation" is a status that indicates either (a) serious misconduct not warranting expulsion, suspension or removal of College privileges, or (b) repetition of misconduct after a warning has been imposed;
5. A "Warning" is a written notice to the student indicating that he or she has engaged in conduct that is in violation of Section 3 of this Policy and that any repetition of such conduct or other conduct that violates this Policy is likely to result in more serious sanctions;

6. "Community restitution" requires a student to perform a number of hours of service on the campus or in the community at large.

Section 5: Procedures

The following procedures shall govern the enforcement of this Policy:

1. Information that a student may have violated this Policy should be submitted to the Dean of Students or other designee of the President (hereinafter referred to as "the Dean"), normally within thirty (30) days of the date of a possible violation or within thirty (30) days of the date that the facts constituting a possible violation were known.
2. Upon receipt of information relating to a possible violation, the Dean may immediately place restrictions on or suspend a student on an interim basis if, in the judgment of the Dean, the continued presence of the student at the College or continued participation in the full range of college activities poses a danger to persons or property or constitutes an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process.
 - a. "Interim restrictions" are limitations on the student's participation in certain College functions and activities, access to certain locations on campus or access to certain persons, that do not prevent the student from continuing to pursue his/her academic program. A student upon whom the Dean has placed interim restrictions shall be afforded written reasons for the restrictions, as well as the time period during which the interim restrictions shall apply. The decision of the Dean regarding interim restrictions shall be final.
 - b. "Interim suspension" is the temporary separation of the student from the College that involves the denial of all privileges, including entrance to College premises. Prior to imposing an interim suspension, the Dean shall make a good faith effort to meet with the student. At this meeting, the Dean shall inform the student of the information received and provide the student an opportunity to present other information for the Dean's consideration. Based upon the information available at that time, the Dean shall determine whether the student's continued presence on campus poses a danger to persons or property or constitutes an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process. A student suspended on an interim basis by the Dean shall be provided written reasons for the suspension and shall be entitled to an administrative conference or a hearing as soon as possible, normally within ten (10) business days from the date the interim suspension was imposed. The decision of the Dean regarding an interim suspension shall be final.
3. Following the imposition of interim restrictions or interim suspension, if any, the Dean shall promptly investigate the information received by meeting with individuals who may have knowledge of the matter, including the accused student, and by reviewing all relevant documents. If upon the conclusion of the Dean's investigation, the Dean determines that there is insufficient reason to believe the student has committed a violation of any part of Section 3 of this Policy, the Dean shall dismiss the matter and shall so inform the student in writing.
4. If, upon the conclusion of the Dean's investigation, the Dean determines that there is reason to believe the student has committed a violation of any part of Section 3 of this Policy and, after considering both the possible violation and the prior conduct record of the student, that a sanction of less than suspension or expulsion is appropriate, the Dean shall schedule an administrative conference with the student. The student shall be given reasonable notice of the time and place of the conference. At the administrative conference, the student shall have the opportunity to present information for the Dean's consideration. At the conclusion of the administrative conference, the Dean shall determine whether it is more likely than not that the student has violated the Policy and, if so, impose a sanction less than suspension or expulsion. The Dean shall provide the student with a written explanation for the determination. The decision of the Dean shall be final.
5. If, upon the conclusion of the Dean's investigation, the Dean determines that there is reason to believe the student has committed a violation of any part of Section 3 of this Policy and, after considering both the violation and the prior conduct record of the student, that a sanction of suspension or expulsion is appropriate, the Dean shall provide the student with reasonable written notice of a meeting and shall inform the student that his/her failure to attend the meeting or to respond to the notice may result in the imposition of the maximum permissible sanction. At the meeting, the Dean shall provide the student with a written statement that shall include the following: a. a concise statement of

the alleged facts; b. the provision(s) of Section 3 that appear to have been violated; c. the maximum permissible sanction; and d. a statement that the student may resolve the matter by mutual agreement with the Dean, or may request a hearing by notifying the Dean in a writing, which must be received by 5:00pm on the following business day.

6. If the student requests a hearing, he/she is entitled to the following: a. to be heard, within five (5) business days, or as soon as reasonably possible, by an impartial party or panel whose members shall be appointed by the Dean; b. if the Dean appoints an impartial panel, to have a student on the panel, if requested by the student; c. to appear in person and to have a nonlawyer advisor. However, if there is pending at the time of the hearing a criminal matter pertaining to the same incident that is the subject of the hearing, a lawyer may be present for the sole purpose of observing the proceedings and advising the student concerning the effect of the proceedings on the pending criminal matter; d. to hear and to question the information presented; e. to present information, to present witnesses and to make a statement in his or her behalf; and f. to receive a written decision following the hearing. (See Section 6 for additional procedures regarding sexual misconduct.)

7. As used herein, the term “impartial” shall mean that the individual was not a party to the incident under consideration and has no personal interest in the outcome of the proceedings. Prior to the commencement of the hearing, the student who is subject to the hearing may challenge the appointment of an impartial party or panel member on the ground that the person(s) is (are) not impartial. The challenge shall be made in writing to the Dean and shall contain the reasons for the assertion that the person(s) is (are) not impartial. The decision of the Dean shall be final.

8. The written decision of the impartial party or panel shall specify whether, based on the information presented, it is more likely than not that the student committed the violation(s) reported and shall state the sanction to be imposed, if any. The written decision shall be provided to the student.

9. Sanctions imposed by an impartial party or panel are effective immediately. The President may, for good cause, suspend imposition of the sanctions imposed by the impartial party or panel to allow the student time to prepare a written request for review. If a written request is received, the President may continue to suspend imposition of the sanctions until he has reviewed and acted on the student’s request.

10. A written request for review of the decision of the impartial party or panel must be received by the President within three (3) calendar days after the student is notified of the decision and must clearly identify the grounds for review. The review by the President is limited to the record of the hearing, the written request and any supporting documentation submitted with the request by the student. The decision of the impartial party or the panel shall be upheld unless the President finds that: a. a violation of the procedures set forth herein significantly prejudiced the student; and/or b. the information presented to the impartial party or panel was not substantial enough to justify the decision; and/or, c. the sanction(s) imposed was (were) disproportionate to the seriousness of the violation.

11. Decisions under this procedure shall be made only by the college officials indicated.

Section 6: Additional Hearing Procedures for Sexual Misconduct Cases

In any hearing conducted pursuant to Section 5, paragraph 6 of this Policy and involving allegations of sexual misconduct, the accuser and the accused student shall each have the right to:

a. be accompanied by a support person during the hearing (see Section 5, paragraph 6c of this policy regarding limited right to have a lawyer present.); and

b. receive a written report from the Dean indicating the determination of the impartial party or panel and the sanction(s) imposed on the accused student, if any.

Section 7: Miscellaneous

The written decision resulting from an administrative conference or a hearing under this Policy shall become part of the student's educational record and shall be subject to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). While student educational records are generally protected from disclosure by FERPA, there are a number of exceptions to this rule. Students should be aware that a record concerning his/her behavior while a student at the College may be shared with other colleges or universities to which the student may subsequently wish to transfer or be admitted. Similarly, prospective employers may require a student to provide access to his/her College records as part of the employment application process. A record of having been sanctioned for conduct that violates Section 3 of the Policy may disqualify a student for admission to another college or university, and may interfere with his/her selection for employment.

Any question concerning the interpretation or application of this Policy on Student Conduct should be referred to the President or his/her designee.

Section 8: Publication of Student Conduct Policy

This Policy shall be published in College catalogs and student handbooks and should be distributed in other ways that are likely to ensure student awareness of the Policy.

Section 9: Policy Review

Five years following adoption of this Policy, and as often thereafter as the Chancellor shall deem appropriate, the Chancellor shall designate a committee to review the Policy on Student Conduct, as necessary.

Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence Statement: To insure that each member of the Connecticut Community College community has the opportunity to participate fully in the process of learning and understanding, the Connecticut Community Colleges strive to maintain a safe and welcoming environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and relationship violence. It is the intent of the Colleges to provide safety, privacy and support to victims of sexual misconduct and relationship violence.

Sexual Misconduct is defined as:

- Non-consensual sexual intercourse, which includes any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any body part or object, by a man or a woman, without effective consent.
- Non-consensual sexual contact, which includes sexual touching, however slight, with any object, by a man or a woman, without effective consent.
- Sexual exploitation, which includes non-consensual, unjust or abusive sexual advantage taken by a student of another, for his or her own advantage or benefit, or to benefit or advantage any one other than the one being exploited, and that behavior does not otherwise constitute non-consensual sexual intercourse, non-consensual sexual contact or sexual harassment. Examples of sexual exploitation include, but are not limited to: prostitution, videotaping consensual sex without a partner's consent, peeping tommy and knowingly transmitting sexually transmitted infections without a partner's knowledge.

Definition of Consent: Consent must be informed, freely and actively given, involving an understandable exchange of affirmative words or actions, which indicates a willingness to participate in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. It is the responsibility of the initiator to obtain clear and affirmative responses at each stage of sexual involvement. The lack of a negative response is not consent. Consent may not be given by a minor or by any individual who is incapacitated, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, by drugs and/or alcohol. Past consent of sexual activities does not imply ongoing future consent.

Stalking is defined as: Any behaviors or activities occurring on more than one (1) occasion that collectively instill fear in the victim and/or threaten her/his safety, mental health and/or physical health. Such behaviors or activities may

include, but are not limited to, whether on or off campus, non-consensual communications (face to face, telephone, e-mail, etc.), threatening or obscene gestures, surveillance or being present outside the victim's classroom or workplace.

Relationship Violence is defined as:

- Physical abuse, which can include but is not limited to, slapping, pulling hair or punching.
- Threat of abuse, which can include but is not limited to, threatening to hit, harm or use a weapon on another (whether victim or acquaintance, friend or family member of the victim) or other forms of verbal threat.
- Emotional abuse, which can include but is not limited to, damage to one's property, driving recklessly to scare someone, name calling, threatening to hurt one's pets and humiliating another person.
- Sexual harassment, which can include any unwelcome sexual advance or request for sexual favors, or any conduct of a sexual nature when submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's education; submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for academic decisions affecting the individual; or such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment. Examples of conduct which may constitute sexual harassment include but are not limited to:
 - sexual flirtation, touching, advances or propositions
 - verbal abuse of a sexual nature
 - pressure to engage in sexual activity
 - graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's dress or appearance
 - use of sexually degrading words to describe an individual
 - display of sexually suggestive objects, pictures or photographs
 - sexual jokes
 - stereotypic comments based upon gender
 - threats, demands or suggestions that retention of one's educational status is contingent upon toleration of or acquiescence in sexual advances.

The definitions contained in this statement are in addition to any applicable provisions of state law.

Confidentiality: While the College will treat reports of sexual misconduct and relationship violence seriously and with sensitivity for all concerned, the College can not assure complete confidentiality in all instances with respect to such information, particularly when that information pertains to an offense or an alleged offender that may affect the safety of others on campus or is mandated to be reported.

Time for Reporting: Normally reports must be received by the Dean of Students or other designee of the President within thirty (30) days of the date of a possible violation or within thirty (30) days of the date the facts constituting a possible violation were known. However, the College recognizes that the decision to file a report of sexual misconduct or relationship violence is difficult and may take some time. Because memories may fade and witnesses may become inaccessible, the sooner information is gathered, the greater is the ability of the College to effectively investigate and resolve the matter fairly to all parties concerned.

(Adopted October 18, 1976; amended February 19, 1979, April 20, 1981, July 20, 1981, November 16, 1987, and February 26, 1990, and entirely replaced February 26, 2007)

5.2.2 POLICY ON STUDENT RIGHTS

Section 1: Rights of Students

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees of Community-Technical Colleges that the educational offerings of the community colleges be available to students without regard to the individual's race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, present or past history of mental disability, genetic information, marital status, mental retardation, sexual orientation, learning disability, or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, or prior conviction of a crime (unless the provisions of sections 46a-60(b), 46a-80(b), or 46a-81(b) of the Connecticut general statutes are controlling or there is a bona fide occupational qualification excluding persons in one of the above protected groups). With respect of the foregoing, discrimination on the basis of sex shall include sexual

harassment as defined in Section 46a-60(8) of the Connecticut General Statutes. Further, the system will not discriminate against any person on the grounds of political beliefs or veteran status.

Students are entitled to an atmosphere conducive to learning and to impartial treatment in all aspects of the teacher-student relationship. The student should not be forced by the authority inherent in the instructional role to make particular personal choices as to political action or his or her own part in society. Evaluation of students and the award of credit must be based on academic performance professionally judged and not on matters irrelevant to that performance, whether personality, race, religion, degree of political activism, or personal beliefs. Students are free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study, but they are responsible for learning the content of the course of study, as defined by official college publications.

Community college students are both citizens and members of the academic community. As citizens, they enjoy the same freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and right of petition that other citizens enjoy, and as members of the academic community they are subject to the obligations which accrue to them by virtue of this membership.

Section 2: Student Grievance Procedure

1. **Definition:** A grievance is an allegation by a student that, as to him or her, an agent of the college has violated board or college policies relating to students other than assignment of grades or other academic evaluation (see Section 3: Review of Academic Standing).
2. **How to file a grievance:** A grievance is to be submitted in writing to the Dean of Student Affairs or such other college official as the President may designate (hereinafter, the Dean of Student Affairs), within thirty days of the date the grievant knew or reasonably should have known of the alleged violation. The written grievance shall specify the right claimed to have been violated and state briefly the underlying facts.
3. **Procedure for grievance resolution:** the Dean of Student Affairs shall investigate the grievance and within thirty days from the time the grievance was submitted recommend to the President a disposition of the grievance, except as provided hereinafter.
 - a. In the course of each investigation, the Dean of Student Affairs shall consult with the Dean responsible for the area of college operations in which the grievance arose.
 - b. In the case of a grievance alleging discrimination based on race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, marital status, mental retardation or physical disability, prior conviction of a crime, political beliefs, veteran status, or sexual preference, the Dean of Student Affairs shall consult with the college's affirmative action person during the course of the investigation.
 - c. In the case of a grievance against a Dean, the grievance shall be filed with the President.

The President may accept or reject the recommendation, or direct such further investigation as he or she deems appropriate. The President shall notify the student of the final disposition of the grievance within fifteen days of receiving the recommendation, except for good cause or as provided in 4., below.
4. **Advisory Committee:** The President may establish an Advisory Committee of students and staff which may be charged with the responsibility of making recommendations at either the level of the Deans or the President. The President may appoint and remove members of the committee. If an Advisory Committee is appointed, the President shall establish a reasonable time frame within which the committee must make recommendations.

Section 3: Review of Academic Standing

A student may seek review of the assignment of a grade or other decision affecting academic status in accordance with the following procedure:

1. The grade or academic decision affecting academic status should be discussed informally with the instructor or official responsible for the decision within fifteen calendar days of the student's awareness of the decision.

2. If the matter is not satisfactorily adjusted within ten calendar days of this appeal or the instructor is not available, the student may refer the matter to the Academic Dean by filing a written appeal. The appeal must be filed with the Academic Dean within thirty calendar days of the student's awareness of the decision which is being appealed.

Upon receipt of such appeal, the Dean shall meet with the instructor, if he or she is available, to determine that step 1 has taken place or is not possible and to receive relevant information from the instructor responsible for the decision. The Dean may then refer the matter to the academic supervisor for informal consideration prior to step 3 below.

3. The Academic Dean or other designated official(s) shall afford review as provided below. The President may designate an official or an academic appeals committee to provide review at this step in lieu of the Academic Dean.

The student shall be afforded the right to present a statement of appeal and relevant information in support of it. It is the student's responsibility to show that the decision in question is arbitrary, i.e., without a reasonable basis, or was made for improper reasons in violation in section 1 of this policy. The student is entitled to a written response within thirty days of the completion of his or her presentation. A decision to change the grade or modify the decision which has been appealed is advisory to and subject to the approval of the President.

4. The foregoing decision may be appealed to the President by filing a statement of appeal within ten calendar days of the date of the decision. Review by the President shall be on the basis of the written record unless he or she decides that fairness requires broader review. The decision of the President shall be final.
5. The time frames provided herein may be modified by the President for good cause shown.

Adopted October 10, 1975; amended May 17, 1982, July 19, 1982, April 15, 1985, November 17, 1986, February 26, 1990 and March 22, 1993; technical amendment May 1, 2002 in compliance with Public Acts 98-180 and 01-28.)

POLICY STATEMENTS

2.1.2 Affirmative Action Policy Statement

This statement establishes a policy framework for the implementation of equal opportunity and affirmative action principles within the community college system. The purpose is to set forth an appropriate and consistent standard for each college and the system office. The statement constitutes the policy statement required by section 46a-68-63 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies.

The chancellor is authorized to promulgate a supplement to this statement in order to achieve compliance with paragraphs 3 and 8 of the subject regulation, which supplement shall be an integral part of this policy statement. The chancellor is further authorized to establish systemwide standards for the implementation of affirmative action and equal opportunity consistent with the requirements of applicable law, regulation, and executive orders.

THE ROLE AND PURPOSE OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The board of trustees recognizes that historically certain groups have been excluded from full participation in educational and employment opportunities and that if they are to overcome the present effects of this past exclusion affirmative steps beyond simple neutrality are required. Without such affirmative action, society runs the risk of the perpetuation of the status quo ante.

Affirmative action in employment involves taking additional steps to recruit, employ, and promote members of protected groups. More particularly, the board endorses and expects full compliance with the requirements of law, including but not limited to positive action designed to identify and remove practices, policies, or other job related requirements which

act as barriers to equal employment opportunity for women, blacks, hispanics, and other protected groups found to be underutilized in the work force or affected by policies or practices having an adverse impact.

Similarly, the board endorses and expects that there will be efforts made to reach out to groups within our society which have historically been excluded from or are disproportionately represented in postsecondary education. The mission of the community colleges is particularly well suited to include and provide an environment of success for members of such historically underrepresented groups.

NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Both the executive and legislative branches of government have identified the need for positive and effective affirmative action in employment and services offered to the public through the agencies of the state of Connecticut. The board recognizes, adopts, and pledges its support for such affirmative action as a necessary and immediate objective for all the community colleges and the system office of the board of trustees.

In considering the need for affirmative action, it is useful to distinguish between affirmative action and equal employment opportunity. The latter implies an absence of discrimination. In contrast, affirmative action recognizes that a simple stance of neutrality is not sufficient to surmount existing patterns of underrepresentation and underutilization both in employment and education.

While it is understood that affirmative action relates to societal groups based on such characteristics as race and sex, the board of trustees also recognizes the special problems of the aged and people with disabilities as requiring particular attention and sensitivity in the implementation of equal opportunity and affirmative action. To this end, each college and the system office shall identify problem areas, if any, and where appropriate establish program goals to achieve full and fair utilization of such individuals in the workplace.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The community college system of the state of Connecticut will not discriminate against any person on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, present or past history of mental disability, genetic information, marital status, mental retardation, sexual orientation, learning disability, or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, or prior conviction of a crime, unless the provisions of sections 46a-60(b), 46a-80(b), or 46a-81(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes are controlling or there is a bona fide occupational qualification excluding persons in one of the above protected groups. With respect to the foregoing, discrimination on the basis of sex shall include sexual harassment as defined in section 46a-60(8) of the Connecticut General Statutes. Although it is recognized that there are bona fide occupational qualifications which provide for exception from employment prohibitions, it is understood these exceptions are to be applied pursuant to section 46a-68-33 of the administrative regulations.

Further, the system will not discriminate against any person on the grounds of political beliefs or veteran status.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN EMPLOYMENT

The employment process consists of recruitment, selection, placement, promotion, transfer, tenure consideration, salary and fringe benefit determination, separation and termination, and job training. The role of affirmative action is to provide an environment for the application of equal opportunity principles and to monitor the employment process to prevent instances of illegal discrimination from arising or existing.

The affirmative action influence on the employment process seeks to assure that:

1. recruitment and hiring of protected group members reflect their availability in the job market;
2. selection, tenure, placement, and related activities are based upon job-related factors, and criteria and practices which have an illegal discriminatory impact have been identified and eliminated;

3. salary and fringe benefits, including opportunities for training and education, are administered in an equitable manner;
4. transfer, reassignment, separation, and termination decisions are nondiscriminatory and do not result in an illegal adverse impact upon members of protected groups, and, where there is a negative impact upon protected groups, alternative approaches to separation and termination are explored.

(Adopted October 10, 1975; amended May 17, 1982, July 19, 1982, April 15, 1985, November 17, 1986, February 26, 1990 and March 22, 1993; technical amendment May 1, 2002 in compliance with Public Acts 98-180 and 01-28.)

2.1.5 Racism and Acts of Intolerance Policy Statement

The community colleges have long been committed to providing educational opportunities to all who seek and can benefit from them, as evidenced in the mission statements and policies concerning student rights, affirmative action, and equal opportunity. The Board and the colleges recognize that an important part of providing opportunity is creating a welcoming environment in which all people are able to work and study together, regardless of their differences. At the same time, colleges and universities have traditionally been at the cutting edge of protection of our most cherished freedoms, most notably freedom of speech and nonviolent action, which protect even unpopular or divisive ideas and perspectives.

Such constitutionally protected expression can contribute to an unwelcome and even offensive social and educational environment for some individuals in the college community, particularly when it concerns race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, or ethnicity, and the First Amendment does not preclude colleges from taking affirmative steps to sensitize the college community to the effects of creating such a negative environment. Therefore, the community colleges recognize that they have an obligation not only to punish proscribed actions, but also to provide programs which promote pluralism and diversity and encourage the college community to respect and appreciate the value and dignity of every person and his or her right to an atmosphere not only free of harassment, hostility, and violence but supportive of individual academic, personal, social, and professional growth.

Acts of racism or harassment directed against individuals or specific groups of individuals will not be tolerated and will be dealt with under the employee affirmative action grievance procedures and the student grievance and disciplinary procedures.

Each college will provide a comprehensive educational program designed to foster understanding of differentness and the value of cultural diversity. This will include plans to (1) promote pluralism, (2) educate the college community about appropriate and inappropriate behaviors to increase sensitivity and encourage acceptance, and (3) widely disseminate this policy statement to the entire college community.

(Adopted February 26, 1990)

2.1.6 People with Disabilities: Policy Statement

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The Board of Trustees of Community-Technical Colleges and all of the colleges under its jurisdiction are committed to the goal of achieving equal educational opportunity and full participation for people with disabilities in the community colleges. To that end, this statement of policy is put forth to reaffirm our commitment to ensure that no qualified person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity on a community college campus or in the system office of the board of trustees.

The board recognizes that a physical or functional impairment is a disability only to the extent that it contributes to cutting the person off from some valued experience, activity, or role. Higher education is therefore especially important

to people with disabilities, since it aims to increase every student's access to valued experiences, activities, and roles. Improving access for students and employees means removing existing barriers that are physical, programmatic, and attitudinal; it also means taking care not to erect new barriers along the way.

The efforts of the community colleges to accommodate people with disabilities should be measured against the goals of full participation and integration. Services and programs best promote full participation and integration of people with disabilities when they complement and support, but do not duplicate, the regular services and programs of the college.

Achieving the goal of full participation and integration of people with disabilities requires cooperative efforts within and among higher education. The board of trustees will work with the board of governors to achieve a higher level of services and appropriate delivery methods at all Connecticut Community Colleges.

This statement is intended to reaffirm the board's commitment to affirmative action and equal opportunity for all people and in no way to replace the equal opportunity policy statement.

(Adopted November 20, 1989)

2.1.6.1 ADA Grievance Procedure for the General Public

A grievance is an allegation that an agent of the college has discriminated against the grievant on the basis of disability in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et. seq. (ADA). The following procedure shall apply only to members of the public.

1. How to file a grievance: A grievance must be submitted in writing to the ADA coordinator or such other college official as the president may designate within thirty days of the date the grievant knew or reasonably should have known of the alleged violation. The written grievance shall describe the discriminatory action and state briefly the underlying facts.
2. Procedure for grievance resolution: The ADA coordinator shall investigate the grievance in consultation with the college's affirmative action person and, within thirty days from the time the grievance was submitted, recommend to the president a disposition of the grievance. The president may accept or reject the recommendation or direct such further investigation as he or she deems appropriate. The president shall notify the grievant of the final disposition of the grievance within fifteen days of receiving the recommendation.

(Adopted December 21, 1992)

Members of the public include all those who are not employees or students of the Connecticut Community College system. Employees shall use the affirmative action grievance procedure and students shall use the student grievance procedure.

2.10 Policy on AIDS and Other Communicable Diseases

The community college system reaffirms its commitment to provide a safe and healthy educational environment, safeguard the rights of individuals, and comply with state and federal antidiscrimination laws and regulations. Sound and compassionate legal, ethical, moral, and educational principles require that students and employees with AIDS, HIV infection, and other communicable diseases be accorded the same rights and assume the same responsibilities as all other members of the community college community. It is recognized that the best method of allaying fears and promoting understanding is education: the dissemination of information based on fact and current scientific knowledge.

1. People with AIDS and other communicable diseases shall be accorded the same rights as all other students and employees. State and federal laws and regulations prohibit discrimination against and harassment of individuals solely because of disability. No individual shall be discriminated against in any college programs, services, or employment solely because of his or her status as AIDS- or HIV-infected or having any other communicable disease.
2. Each college shall provide information and educational programs and activities concerning AIDS and other communicable diseases for students and employees. Such information and programs shall rely on the most current knowledge about such diseases and shall focus on how such diseases are and are not transmitted, how they can be prevented, and the rights of persons with such diseases.
3. Each college president shall designate an individual responsible for coordination, delivery, and evaluation of the college AIDS education program. A committee representative of the college community should be involved in formulating educational and information activities.
4. Restrictions shall not be placed on admission, programs, services, or employment offered to an individual on the basis of a diagnosis of AIDS, HIV infection, or other communicable disease, except in individual cases when it has been medically determined that there is risk of infection or danger to others or in programs from which individuals with specific communicable diseases are excluded by law or regulation.

All community college employees are further subject to the June 3, 1988 "AIDS Policy for State Personnel" and the January 1987 "AIDS Guidelines for State Personnel."

5. Colleges shall not require testing of students or employees for AIDS, HIV infection, or other communicable diseases for participation in employment, programs, or services of the college, except as required by law or regulation. Where possible, colleges shall maintain a listing of local referral sources for such testing and shall publish such listing with other educational information.
6. All student or employee information related to inquiries, testing, and disclosure of AIDS, HIV, or other infection status shall be treated confidentially as all other health records. All reasonable steps shall be taken to protect the identity of an individual with AIDS.
7. Students and employees involved in the direct delivery of health care services and those who might otherwise come in contact with blood and other body fluids (such as in science laboratories or allied health practica) shall at all times follow the guidelines regarding precautions to be taken in the handling of such fluids disseminated by the Department of Health Services (January 1987, provided as Appendix A) or other approved guidelines.
8. Violations of any part of this policy shall be dealt with under the appropriate disciplinary procedures for students or employees.
9. This policy shall be published in all college catalogs and student handbooks and shall be made available to all employees.

(Adopted February 21, 1989)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which is illegal under state and federal law and is also prohibited by the Board of Trustees' Nondiscrimination Policy. The Board's policy recognizes that sexual harassment undermines the integrity of employer-employee and student-faculty-staff relationships and interferes with the right of

all members of the college community to work and learn in an environment free from harassment. Such conduct will not be tolerated.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT MAY BE DESCRIBED AS:

Any unwelcome sexual advance or request for sexual favors, or any conduct of a sexual nature when 1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or education; 2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment or academic decisions affecting the individual; or 3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic or work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive employment or educational environment.

Sexual harassment may be verbal, visual or physical. It may be overt or implicit and may, but need not, have tangible adverse effects on the victim's employment or learning experience.

EXAMPLES OF CONDUCT WHICH MAY CONSTITUTE SEXUAL HARASSMENT INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- sexual flirtation, touching, advances or propositions
- verbal abuse of a sexual nature
- pressure to engage in sexual activity
- graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's dress or appearance
- use of sexually degrading words to describe an individual
- display of sexually suggestive objects, pictures or photographs
- sexual jokes
- stereotypic comments based upon gender
- threats, demands or suggestions that retention of one's employment or education status is contingent upon toleration of or acquiescence in sexual advances

The perpetrator of sexual harassment, like the victim of such conduct, may be a man or a woman. Sexual harassment may involve individuals of the same or opposite sex and, in the college environment, may involve an employee and a student, an employee and another employee or a student and another student. Harassment in any of these relationships is a violation of the Board's policy. Because of the power relationship between faculty and student and between supervisor and employee, freedom of choice may be compromised in such relationships. Therefore, romantic and sexual liaisons between such persons are strongly discouraged.

It should be noted, additionally, that retaliation against a person for complaining or being associated in any way with the resolution of a complaint of sexual harassment also violates Board policy.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT:

- When an employee or student feels that he or she has been the victim of sexual harassment, he or she should report such incident(s) to a college official.
- Employees may report incidents of sexual harassment to the dean of the area of the college in which the individual is involved, the college Affirmative Action officer, or another college official who has been designated by the President as a recipient of such complaints.
- Students may report incidents of sexual harassment to the Dean of Student Services or to such other college official as the President may have designated. Nothing shall prevent students from speaking to a college counselor about their concerns. However, such communication is not a substitute for filing a complaint of sexual harassment with an appropriate college designee.
- A claim that an employee of a third party contractor has engaged in sexual harassment on college premises or in connection with the performance of the third party contract should be reported immediately to either the President or to another appropriate college official as set forth in this document. The President will ensure that appropriate follow-up action is taken.

Depending on the nature of the complaint and the desires of the complainant, the college official to whom the complaint has been made may attempt to resolve the complaint informally. Any informal resolution of a complaint must be approved by the college President. No person shall be forced to pursue informal avenues of resolution before filing a formal complaint of sexual harassment.

If informal resolution is not possible or appropriate, a written complaint should be filed in accordance with the existing Affirmative Action Grievance Procedure for employees (see Board Policy 2.1.3) or Student Grievance Procedure for students (see Board Policy 5.2.2).

- For employees, a written complaint should be filed within fifteen (15) calendar days of the alleged harassment. This time frame may be extended by up to fifteen (15) additional calendar days if efforts at informal resolution have been made.
- For students, a written complaint should be filed within thirty (30) calendar days of the date the grievant knew or should have known of the alleged harassment. However, where the alleged harasser is a faculty member and the complainant is, at the time of the acts complained of, a student in that faculty member's class, the complaint should be filed no later than fifteen (15) days after the end of the semester.

When a formal complaint of sexual harassment is received, it will be investigated by the college. The rights of all persons involved in the investigation shall be respected and every effort will be made to protect the confidentiality of both the alleged victim and the alleged harasser. Toward this end, only persons with a need to know shall be made privy to the complaint. However, complete anonymity cannot be assured, given the college's obligation under law to investigate and take appropriate action in all cases of sexual harassment.

All complaints of sexual harassment shall be taken seriously. It is expected that complaints will be made in good faith, however. Frivolous or vexatious complaints can cause irremediable damage to the reputation of an accused person, even though he or she is subsequently vindicated. Therefore, any person who files a false complaint of sexual harassment shall himself or herself be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, if an employee, or expulsion, if a student.

In addition to invoking the available grievance procedure, an employee who believes he or she has been sexually harassed may file a complaint with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 90 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106 and/or with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, One Congress Street, Boston, MA 02114, within 180 days of the date when the harassment occurred. A student who believes he or she has been sexually harassed may, in addition to the available grievance procedure, file a complaint with the federal Office for Civil Rights, U. S. Department of Education (Region I), John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse, Room 222, Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

The Connecticut Community College (CCC) System provides information technology resources (IT resources) to faculty, staff and students for academic and administrative use. IT resources may also be available to members of the college community through college libraries and websites. This policy applies to all users of IT resources.

IT resources include, but are not limited to, computer and peripheral hardware, software, networks, databases, electronic communications and Internet connectivity. CCC IT resources are the property of the Board of Trustees. Use of such resources is a privilege and is subject to such IT policies, standards and procedures as may be promulgated from time to time.

IT resources shall be used solely for legitimate and authorized academic and administrative purposes, and in furtherance of CCC mission and goals. They shall not be used for personal purposes, including monetary gain. Use of IT resources may be monitored by the appropriate CCC authority to ensure proper and efficient usage, as well as to identify problems or to check for security violations.

Any unauthorized or illegitimate use of IT resources may subject the user to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal or expulsion, as well as loss of computing privileges. Users must comply with all applicable state and federal laws and may be subject to criminal prosecution for violation thereof under state and federal laws.

The Chancellor is authorized to promulgate necessary and appropriate IT policies, standards and procedures, including but not limited to those affecting acceptable uses of IT resources, electronic communications and network security. Colleges shall ensure that users of IT resources are aware of all IT policies, standards and procedures, as appropriate. (Adopted October 21, 2002) {This policy replaces that adopted on July 22, 1985}

4.23 Weapons on College Campuses

The use or possession of weapons (as defined in Section 53-206 of the Connecticut General Statutes) is prohibited on college campuses or at college activities except as authorized by Board or college policies. Colleges are hereby authorized to develop policies which allow for specific exemptions to the extent permitted by law.

(Adopted May 18, 1992)

Sec. 53-206: "slung [sic] shot, air rifle, BB gun, black jack, sand bag, metal or brass knuckles, or any dirk knife, or any switch knife having an automatic spring release device by which a blade is released from the handle, having a blade of over one and one half inches in length, or stiletto, or any knife the edged portion of which is four inches or over in length, or any martial arts weapon or electronic defense weapon, as defined in section 53a-3, or any other dangerous or deadly weapon or instrument" Sec. 53a-3(6): "any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, bill, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles."

STUDENT RECORDS AND CONFIDENTIALITY (FERPA)

5.7 NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the College receives a request for access. Students should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The College official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the College official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
2. The right to request amendment of an education record that the student believes is inaccurate. Students may ask an appropriate College official to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. The student should write to the College official, clearly identify the part of the record he or she wants changed, and specify why he/she believes it is inaccurate. The College will notify the student of the decision. If the College decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the College will advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for

amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

NOTE: FERPA is not intended to provide a process to question substantive judgments that are correctly recorded. For example, the right of challenge does not allow a student to contest a grade in a course because the student believes that a higher grade should have been assigned.

3. The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. FERPA permits disclosure without consent to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A "school official" includes but is not limited to the following: a person employed by the College in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research or support staff position (including law enforcement and security personnel, counseling and health staff); a person or company with whom the College has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, collection agent or official of the National Student Clearinghouse); a person serving on the Board of Trustees who is authorized to act on its behalf; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities.

FERPA also permits disclosure of education records without consent in connection with, but not limited to:

- To comply with a judicial order or a lawfully issued subpoena;
 - To appropriate parties in a health or safety emergency;
 - To officials of another school, upon request, in which the student seeks or intends to enroll;
 - In connection with a student's request for or receipt of financial aid, as necessary to determine the eligibility, amount or conditions of the financial aid, or to enforce the terms and conditions of the aid;
 - To certain officials of the U.S. Department of Education, the Comptroller General, to state and local educational authorities, in connection with certain state or federally supported education programs;
 - To accrediting organizations to carry out their functions;
 - To organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the College;
 - The results of an institutional disciplinary proceeding against the alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence to the alleged victim of that crime with respect to that crime.
 - Directory information as defined in the policy of the Board of Trustees.
4. The right to refuse to permit the College to release directory information about the student, except to school officials with a legitimate educational interest and others as indicated in paragraph 3 above. To do so, a student exercising this right must notify the Office of Registrar in writing. Once filed, this notification becomes a permanent part of the student's record until the student instructs the College, in writing, to remove it.
 5. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Colleges to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Board of Trustees has designated the following as directory information: student names and addresses, dates of attendance, full vs. part-time student status, awards and honors and graduation date. For purposes of access by military recruiters only, telephone listings and, if known, age, level of education and major are also designated as directory information.

Colleges may disclose directory information without prior consent, unless a student has exercised the right to refuse to permit the College to release directory information in accordance with paragraph 4 above.

4.15 DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY

THE FOLLOWING POLICY COVERING ALCOHOL AND DRUGS HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGES:

The Board of Trustees of Community-Technical Colleges endorses the Statement of the Network of Colleges and Universities Committed to the Elimination of Drug and Alcohol Abuse, which is based on the following premise:

American Society is harmed in many ways by the abuse of alcohol and other drugs—decreased productivity, serious health problems, breakdown of the family structure, and strained social resources. Problems of illicit use and abuse of substances have a pervasive effect upon many segments of society — all socioeconomic groups, all age levels, and even the unborn. Education and learning are especially impaired by alcohol abuse and illicit drug use.

(1) The Board recognizes that education regarding alcohol and substance abuse is an appropriate and even necessary part of contemporary college life. Since the unauthorized use of controlled substances, in addition to the potential harmful effect it may have on students and employees, is contrary to state and federal law and regulation, it must be prohibited in any college activity, on or off the college campus. Although the conditions of alcohol and drug dependency may be considered disabilities or handicaps under state law and regulation and Board of Trustees policy, employees and students will not be discriminated against because they have these disabilities. All students and employees are considered to be responsible for their actions and their conduct.

THESE PROVISIONS SHALL APPLY TO ALL COLLEGES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD:

1. No student or employee shall knowingly possess, use, distribute, transmit, sell, or be under the influence of any controlled substance on the college campus or off the college campus at a college-sponsored activity, function, or event. Use or possession of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a registered physician shall not be a violation of this provision.
2. All colleges shall develop and enforce policies regarding the sale, distribution, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus, subject to state and federal law. Consistent with previous Board policy, the consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus may be authorized by the president subject to the following conditions, as appropriate:
 - a. when a temporary permit for the sale of alcoholic beverages has been obtained and dram shop act insurance has been purchased;
 - b. when a college permit has been obtained;
 - c. when students bring their own beverages;
 - d. when alcoholic beverages are provided by a student organization and no fee is charged for attendance or for said beverages.
3. All colleges shall provide educational programs on the abuse of alcohol and other drugs and referral for assistance for students and employees who seek it. Colleges are encouraged to establish campus-wide committees to assist in

development of these programs in response to particular campus needs and identification of referral resources in their respective service planning regions.

4. This policy shall be published in all college catalogs, faculty and staff manuals, and other appropriate literature.
5. Failure to comply with this policy will result in invocation of the appropriate disciplinary procedure and may result in separation from the college and referral to the appropriate authorities for prosecution.

(Adopted November 20, 1989)

- (1.) Statement of the Network of Colleges and Universities Committed to the Elimination of Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

SMOKING

Smoking is permitted only in the college parking lot and in the gazebo located near the LRC. Smoking is not permitted in any entrance, sidewalk, deck, or grassy area around the building.

UNIFORM CAMPUS CRIME REPORT

In accordance with Connecticut Public Act 90-259, the Campus Safety Act, the college has prepared a Uniform Campus Crime Report consistent with the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System. This report reflects the crime statistics on the property of the institution for the preceding academic year. A copy of the report may be obtained by request from the Dean of Administrative Services.