

# STUDENT HANDBOOK

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# STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

## OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

The Office of Student Life, located on the Pensacola campus, assists students by conducting AIDS Education workshops, acting as a mediator in non-academic grievances that have not been resolved by the department, making available current information on students' rights, listening to complaints or criticisms with an open mind and following up quickly, providing a fair and impartial hearing for any student accused of violating the Pensacola State College Code of Conduct and/or state law, and providing drug education information and referral.

## BASIC STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The statement which follows was prepared by a student-faculty committee after an extensive and intensive review and study of the college's rules and regulations governing students and student organizations. The purpose of this statement is to clarify for students and to assist students in understanding the position of the college on matters of student rights and responsibilities. This statement endorses a concept of community responsibility wherein students will be provided the opportunity to develop an independent capacity to search for truth and formulate educational goals.

### Introduction

A student is first a citizen of his or her country, and as such is entitled to its freedoms and benefits as well as being responsible for compliance with its laws and regulations — local, state and national. Similarly, when a person enrolls at Pensacola State College, he or she becomes a member of the academic community of which membership brings to the student certain responsibilities. In this sense, the relationship between the student and the college is a voluntary agreement, or contract, which involves rights and responsibilities designed to accomplish with maximum order and effectiveness the goals of the college.

Enrollment at this institution is not compulsory. The Federal Constitution protects the equality of opportunity for all qualified persons to enroll at Pensacola State College. Enrollment is voluntary. Since enrollment is voluntary, the student voluntarily assumes the obligations of performance and behavior reasonably imposed by the institution relevant to its lawful mission, processes and functions. The institution assumes the obligation of establishing guidelines and taking necessary steps to assure compliance with this obligation. The rights of the students to learn and of the faculty to teach are obligations the institution is charged to uphold. The institution will, therefore, take the necessary steps to protect those rights.

No member of the academic community may, without liability to lawful discipline, intentionally act to impair or prevent the accomplishment of any lawful mission, process, or function of the institution.

### Student Responsibilities

1. The student is responsible for compliance with regulations contained in the college Catalog/Student Handbook, and in any bulletins, letters or memoranda issued by the president or his or her designated representatives.
2. The student should strive to become an active learner and engage in free discussion, inquiry, and expression where appropriate.
3. The student should make every effort to be present for class sessions throughout the term so that sufficient basis is established for grading.
4. The student is responsible for learning the content of any course as required by the instructor.
5. The student should be punctual and prepared for class.
6. The student is responsible for his or her own and his or her classmate's honesty in the classroom, according to the Student Honor Code.
7. The student is responsible for his or her actions on campus and in the classroom.
8. The student is responsible for reviewing his/her Pirate Mail account on a frequent and regular basis.

## College Authority Regarding Students

1. Under the authority of the State Board of Education (Regulation No. 6A-14.56), the District Board of Trustees of Pensacola State College is required to establish policies and procedures governing the behavior and discipline of students.
2. The delegated authority of the college to impose penalties will be asserted when the Code of Conduct as described on page 19 is violated.
3. When the activities of students results in violation of federal, state or local laws, those students who violate such laws will be penalized as prescribed by civil and institutional authorities.
4. Student organizations are also responsible for compliance with the policies set forth in this section.
5. Activities sponsored by the college, including student groups participating off campus in college-sponsored or related activities, shall be subject to supervision by the college.

## Policy Information

A student who wishes to suggest changes in the academic policy of the college (policy concerning curriculum, attendance, grading, etc.) should submit a written recommendation to the Student Government Association for evaluation. The SGA may approve or disapprove the suggestion. If approved, the proposal will be submitted by the SGA through administrative channels to the president of the college for action.

## Classroom Activity

1. The professor, in the classroom and in conference, should encourage free discussion, inquiry and expression. Student performance should be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards.
2. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study, and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion. They are responsible, however, for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.
3. Students should be evaluated through orderly procedures. At the same time, they are responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled.

## Class Attendance

Regulations governing punctual and regular class attendance are outlined under the Academic Regulations and Policies section.

## Dress and Appearance

Students are expected to dress and maintain their personal appearance in a manner which will not endanger their health, welfare or safety. This will be in accordance with state and local laws and the college's Code of Conduct.

## Student Honor Pledge

All students enrolled at Pensacola State College are expected to fulfill the Honor Pledge, which is as follows:

"I pledge myself to uphold the highest standards of truth, honor and integrity. I refuse to tolerate violations of these standards on the part of any other student."

### THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE CONSIDERED INFRACTIONS OF THE HONOR PLEDGE:

1. Lying is a deliberate falsification of facts. It includes a deliberate act of deception or the telling of an untruth during direct questioning before members of authority, either fellow students or faculty members.
2. Cheating is giving or receiving aid, whether written, oral or otherwise, in order that a student may receive undeserved credit.

## STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

When students enroll at Pensacola State College, they are responsible for compliance with regulations in the college Catalog/ Student Handbook, and any bulletin, letters or memoranda issued by the president or his/her delegated representatives. No member of the academic community may, without liability to lawful discipline, intentionally act to impair or prevent the accomplishment of any lawful mission, process, or function of the institution.

Recognizing that the college has the responsibility of providing an atmosphere within which its students can pursue their respective academic goals and realize the opportunities afforded them by the college, a Code of Conduct was established to govern students enrolled at Pensacola State College.

Expulsion, suspension, or any lesser penalty may be imposed upon any student enrolled at Pensacola State College who participates in any of the following offenses:

1. Furnishing false information (written or oral) to the college with intent to deceive;
2. Forgery, alteration or misuse of college documents, records, or identification cards;
3. Assault and battery;
4. Malicious destruction, damage, or misuse of public property, including library materials, or private property on campus;
5. Attempted or actual theft, larceny, embezzlement, or the temporary taking of the property of another;
6. Issuing bad checks;
7. Gambling;
8. Vandalism;
9. Disorderly conduct or unlawful assembly;
10. Participation in hazing (see anti-hazing policy);
11. Obscene conduct or public profanity;
12. Illegal manufacture, sale, possession, or use of narcotics, marijuana, hypnotic, sedatives, tranquilizers, stimulants, hallucinogens, and other similar known harmful or habit-forming drugs and/or chemicals;
13. Possession or use of alcoholic beverages on campus, on field trips or at other instructional sessions off campus;
14. Drunkenness or intoxication;
15. Possession on person or in vehicle, display or discharge of a firearm, pellet gun, air rifle, or other such weapon. Law enforcement officers attending class on campus may carry a weapon if required to do so by the policies of the law enforcement agency by which such officers are employed;
16. Possession on person or in vehicle, display or use of any dangerous instrument, including, but not limited to, knives, fireworks, explosive chemicals, box cutters and razor blades (with the exception of a common pocket knife, plastic knife, or blunt-bladed table knife);
17. Exhibitionism in the form of nudity or indecent exposure of the person;
18. Interference with the freedom of movement of any member or guest of the college;
19. Deliberately impeding or interfering with the rights of others to enter, use or leave any college facility, service, or scheduled activity, or to carry out their normal functions or duties;
20. Deliberate interference with academic freedom and freedom of speech of any member or guest of the college;
21. Deliberate disruption of any class (in any format), meeting, or college function;
22. Occupation of any college facility, when unauthorized, through participation in "sit-in," "lie-in," or similar activities;
23. Failure to comply with directions of college officials or campus Police in performance of their duties and/or failure to identify oneself to one of these persons when requested to do so;
24. The active threat of violence against any member or guest of the college;
25. Participation in any activity which disrupts or interferes with the orderly process of operation of the college;
26. Failure to respond to an administrative summons;
27. Extortion;
28. Sexual harassment, sexual assault;
29. Use of college computers and/or technology resources to send, receive or view obscene or sexually explicit messages/pictures;

30. Violations of federal and state law, respective county and city ordinances and all college and District Board of Trustees rules and regulations;
31. Electronic Devices, such as cell phones, cell phone cameras, IPODS, pagers, etc. are to be turned to the "off position" while attending a class or lyceum program.

## PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC CHEATING

Plagiarism and academic cheating are serious offenses. An instructor may take action against any student who is suspected of plagiarism or academic cheating. The action taken may be the awarding of a failing grade on the assignment in question or withdrawal from the course with the assignment of an Early "F". A student who disputes the allegation of plagiarism or academic cheating may discuss the situation with the instructor. If the student does not reach resolution after discussion with the instructor, the student may discuss the situation with appropriate academic officers beginning with the department head and campus provost.

Plagiarism involves presenting the work, words or ideas of another student or writer without proper citation, even if unintentionally. Presenting someone else's work as your own, even if in your own words, is plagiarism. It is plagiarism if the work you present is derived from the work of any other person, including among others, any other student or college faculty member. It is plagiarism if the work you present is derived from any work, including among other things, any work of a literary, musical, dramatic, pictorial, graphic, sculptural, motion picture, sound recording, audiovisual or architectural nature, and regardless of the medium in which it is fixed, whether written, stored electronically, or in any other form by which it can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated, either directly or with the aid of a machine or device. Presenting plagiarized work as your own may also constitute infringement under Federal copyright laws (Title 17 U.S.C.).

## ANTI-HAZING POLICY

No student or other person associated with Pensacola State College shall engage in any "hazing" activities as that term is described herein below.

As used herein, "hazing" means any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of Pensacola State College. Such term shall include: beating, branding, forced calisthenics, or exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance; or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual; and any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual. Any activity as described above upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with a Pensacola State College organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be a "forced" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

Any student or other person associated with a Pensacola State College organization who engages in any hazing activity, on or off campus, may be subject to the following penalties:

1. Fine up to \$100;
2. Withholding of diploma or transcript pending payment of any fine imposed;
3. Probation.

If the hazing activities are willful and flagrant violations of this policy and/or if the hazing consists of brutality of a physical nature, the student or other person associated with a Pensacola State College organization who engages in such hazing activities may be suspended or dismissed.

Any Pensacola State College organization which authorizes hazing in blatant disregard of this policy may be subject to the following penalties:

1. Suspension or forfeiture of social privileges;
2. Suspension or forfeiture of representation in student publications;
3. Suspension or forfeiture of representation in intramural or other competitive campus activities;
4. Suspension of individual members' rights to participate in other campus activities or organizations.

The penalty to be imposed on a Pensacola State College organization which authorizes hazing in blatant disregard of this policy will depend upon the facts of each incident. Repeated violation of this policy may result in the suspension or forfeiture of the organization's campus charter.

Any penalties for violation of the college's Anti-Hazing Policy shall be in addition to those penalties imposed for violation of any of the criminal laws of the state of Florida or for violation of any other rule promulgated by this college to which the violator may be subject.

Any student or other person associated with a Pensacola State College organization charged with the violation of the college's Anti-Hazing Policy shall be entitled to a hearing and to the same procedural rights as any student accused of violating the college's Code of Conduct.

To communicate and implement the college's Anti-Hazing Policy, the following actions shall be taken.

1. Each college organization advisor shall be given a copy of the college's Anti-Hazing Policy and shall be charged with the responsibility of informing the organization of the adoption of this policy.
2. Each college organization shall be required to incorporate the college's Anti-Hazing Policy in its bylaws and to submit a copy of its revised bylaws to the Student Leadership and Activities office.
3. A copy of the Anti-Hazing Policy, rules and penalties is available to each student.
4. The college's Anti-Hazing Policy shall be printed in the college Catalog.
5. A representative of the college will meet with each student organization at the beginning of each school year to review, discuss and answer all questions relating to the college's Anti-Hazing Policy.

Any amendment to the college's Anti-Hazing Policy, rules or penalties shall be submitted to the State Board of Education for its approval within ten (10) days after the adoption of such amendment.

## CHILDREN ON CAMPUS

1. Individuals who are not registered may not attend classes or labs unless expressly authorized to do so by the appropriate administrator.
2. Individuals who bring children to campus are responsible for their supervision at all times. College officials are to contact a parent or other party responsible for children left unattended on campus and inform them that children must be properly supervised while on campus.
3. Administrators and faculty members have the authority to enforce these guidelines.
4. Individuals who bring children to campus and refuse to abide by these guidelines are to be referred to the chief Student Affairs officer on the appropriate campus.
5. No children are permitted in labs, shops, clinical areas, or any area where potential hazards exist, with the exception of children directly involved in the instructional process (e.g., as patients in the Dental Clinic or observed children in the Child Care Lab).

## TRESPASSING

Pensacola State College adheres to Florida law addressing the crime of trespassing. Although, as a community college, we are open to the general public, specific situations may constitute the crime of trespassing. In those cases, any law enforcement officer may arrest, either on or off the premises, and without warrant, any person whom the law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe has committed any of the specific offenses addressed in the following Florida laws:

F.S.S. 810.08	Trespass in Structure or Conveyance
F.S.S. 810.09	Trespass on Property Other than Structure or Conveyance
F.S.S. 810.095	Trespass on School Property with a Firearm or Other Weapon Prohibited
F.S.S. 810.097	Trespass Upon the Grounds of a School Facility

Florida State Statutes are accessible through the following website: [www.flsenate.gov/Statutes/index.cfm](http://www.flsenate.gov/Statutes/index.cfm). Additionally, an individual may be removed from campus for violation of any applicable Board Policy and Procedure.

## STUDENT MOTOR VEHICLE REGULATIONS

### Registration

1. All students and employees operating motor vehicles on any Pensacola State College campus must register their vehicles at the time of class registration, or upon employment. Register in the Pensacola State College Police Department on any Pensacola State College campus.
2. Registered vehicles will be issued a Pensacola State College parking decal. To obtain a decal, the student must present a current student identification card (or receipt for fees paid) and a current vehicle registration. Employees must present a Pensacola State College ID or a copy of their contract, as well as their vehicle registration. There is no charge for parking decals. Vehicle registration procedures apply to part-time as well as full-time students and employees.
3. The decal shall be permanently affixed to the rear window (right side) or rear bumper (right side) so that permit is clearly visible from behind. Motorcycles and similar vehicles shall display the permit on the rear of the vehicle so that it is clearly visible from behind.
4. If a decal is lost, becomes illegible, or invalid due to expiration, it is the student's and employee's responsibility to immediately register the vehicle.
5. Decals are non-transferable.
6. The person who registered a vehicle, and was issued a decal for it, is at all times responsible for that vehicle, regardless of who is driving the vehicle. If the vehicle is sold, the decal should be removed.
7. Parking decals are subject to revocation by the Administration in the event of repeated violations of campus parking and traffic regulations.
8. Handicapped parking will be by decal issued by the state of Florida only. Contact the Pensacola State College Police Department for additional information.

### Parking Regulations

1. Backing into or pulling through campus parking spaces is prohibited. The vehicle decal displayed on the rear of the vehicle must be visible from parking lot throughways at all times.
2. Student parking decals allow parking in all unmarked parking spaces and in areas with a white curb. Other curb colors are reserved as follows: Green Curb — employee parking; Red Curb — visitor parking; Blue Curb — handicapped parking.
3. Reserved spaces are restricted Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Handicapped parking spaces are reserved at all times.
4. If it is necessary to drive an unregistered vehicle on campus, contact the office where you received the decal. They will issue a temporary parking decal.
5. Visitor spaces are reserved for non-student, non-employee visitors.
6. If overnight parking is necessary, please notify the Pensacola State College Police Department.

## Traffic Regulations

1. No person shall willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of any Police Department employee with authority to direct, control, or regulate traffic.
2. Police Department employees shall place traffic control devices (signs, signals, markings), in compliance with state laws and city ordinances, as is deemed necessary for the safe regulations of traffic. No one will willfully fail or refuse to comply with such a traffic control device. No one will alter, deface, injure, knock down, or remove traffic control devices.
3. All drivers shall operate their vehicles in accordance with the traffic laws of the state of Florida while on Pensacola State College campuses.
4. No person shall drive a vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the actual and potential hazards then existing, regardless of the posted speed limit. The speed limit on College Boulevard, Underwood Drive, and Airport and 12th Avenues is as posted. Congested areas and bad weather may require slower speeds. The speed limit in all campus parking lots and on all service or access roads is 10 MPH or as otherwise posted.
5. The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury or death of any person, or damage to the property of another, shall immediately stop the vehicle at the scene of the accident and remain there until the requirements below have been fulfilled:
  - The driver shall render any aid possible to any person injured, including arranging for transportation of injured person to a hospital.
  - The driver shall give his or her name and address, and the identification number of his or her vehicle, and shall, upon request, exhibit his or her driver's license to an officer of the Pensacola State College Police Department and/or to the person struck.
  - The driver shall immediately notify the Pensacola State College Police Department and shall remain at the scene of the accident until an investigation is complete.
  - If the accident involves a collision with an unattended vehicle, the driver shall immediately stop and notify the Pensacola State College Police Department.

## Other Regulations And Provisions

1. The parking and traffic regulations apply to motorcycles, motorscooters, and mopeds just as they apply to other vehicles.
2. Motorized vehicles operated by Pensacola State College employees are permitted to operate on campus sidewalks, as are vehicles for disabled persons. The pedestrians will always have the right of way.
3. Every operator and passenger of a motorcycle or motorscooter shall wear an approved safety helmet, as required by law, while the vehicle is in motion.
4. College vehicles on emergency business are exempt from the rules in this section.
5. Skateboarding, skating, rollerblading and riding scooters is prohibited in any Pensacola State College campus area.
6. The college assumes no responsibility for any damage to motor vehicles, or for any other loss, while the car is driven or parked on campus.
7. During special events, certain parking and/or driving areas may be restricted.
8. Bicycles will not be brought inside Pensacola State College buildings at any time.

## FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Only college-recognized organizations may conduct fundraising projects. Such organizations may sell on campus consumable goods, if prepared in accordance with health department regulations, as well as nonconsumable goods or services in order to raise funds for the support of activities, provided that this provision shall not be construed to allow the raising of funds for the support of activities or causes unrelated to the local college community, unless expressly authorized by the president or his/her designated representative. In the event that any controversy arises over whether a particular project is designed to raise funds for activities or causes unrelated to the local college community, or whether any item is improper for sale, the president or his/her designated representative shall resolve the controversy.

Any organization desiring to conduct a fundraising project on campus shall submit a written request describing the project to the appropriate Student Leadership and Activities office on the form available from that office at least two (2) weeks prior to the time that the organization desires to conduct the project. The completed form shall contain the signature of the organization's president and advisor, if applicable, when submitted to the appropriate Student Leadership and Activities office for consideration. The activity may commence only after approval by the provost or the provost's designated representative.

Solicitation of donations, directly or indirectly, for support of any cause shall not be permitted on campus unless written permission from the president or his/her designated representative is first obtained.

This provision shall not be construed to allow the sale of printed matter as a fund raising project. The sale of printed matter on campus is not permitted except within the operation of the college bookstores.

Fundraising projects must not conflict with other scheduled projects or programs and must be in accordance with local, state and federal laws.

## SPEECH AND PUBLICATION GUIDELINES

### Guest Speakers

The freedom of speech and assembly guaranteed by the First and Fourteenth amendments of the United States Constitution shall be enjoyed by the students of Pensacola State College including the opportunity to hear off-campus or outside speakers on the college campus. Free discussions of subjects of controversial nature shall not be curtailed.

Students at Pensacola State College are expected to accept fully the responsibilities that accompany the freedoms of speech and assembly which they enjoy. When inviting an outside speaker, a student organization is charged with the responsibility of making a choice that reflects the students' genuine concern for the best interest and welfare not only of their own organization but of the college and the community as well.

Policies concerning the issuance of invitations to outside speakers shall be limited to the following:

1. A request to invite an outside speaker will be considered only when made by an organized student group recognized by the college.
2. Invitations by an organized group shall not be issued to an outside speaker without prior written concurrence by the president of the college, or such person or committee as may be designated by the president (such person or committee thereafter referred to as his/her authorized designee), for scheduling of speaker dates and assignments of campus facilities.

3. Any speaker request shall be made in writing by an officer of the student organization desiring to sponsor the proposed speaker not later than 10 calendar days prior to the date of the proposed speaking engagement. This request shall contain the name of the sponsoring organization; the proposed date, time and location of the meeting; the expected size of the audience; and topic of the speech. Any request not acted upon by the president, or his/her authorized designee, within four days after submission shall be deemed granted. A request made by a recognized organization may be denied only if the president or his/her authorized designee determines, after proper inquiry, that the proposed speech will constitute a clear and present danger to the institution's orderly operation by the speaker's advocacy of such actions as:
  - a. The violent overthrow of the government of the United States, the state of Florida, or any political subdivision thereof; or
  - b. The willful damage or destruction, or seizure and subversion of the institution's buildings or other property; or
  - c. The forcible disruption or impairment of, or interference with, the institution's buildings or other property; or
  - d. The physical harm, coercion, intimidation or other invasion of lawful rights of the institution's officials, faculty members or students; or
  - e. Other campus disorders of a violent nature.

In determining the existence of a clear and present danger, the president or his/her authorized designee may consider all relevant factors, including whether such speaker has, within the past five years, incited violence resulting in the destruction of property at any state educational institution or willfully caused the forcible disruption of regularly scheduled classes or other educational functions at any such institution.

4. Where the request for an outside speaker is denied, any sponsoring organization thereby aggrieved shall, upon application to the president or his/her authorized designee, obtain a hearing within two (2) days following the filing of its appeal before the Student/ Faculty Relations Panel for a de novo consideration of the request. The matter may be referred to the District Board of Trustees of Pensacola State College if the Student/Faculty Relations Panel believes that the request was improperly denied by the president. Any sponsoring organization aggrieved by the action of the Student/Faculty Judiciary or the District Board of Trustees in denying the request may obtain judicial review upon application at any court of competent jurisdiction, state or federal, by presenting its verified petition setting forth the grounds of complaint and giving adequate notice of such filing to the president. Upon a hearing to be conducted as soon as practicable, and at such time and place as the court may prescribe, the court shall either reverse or affirm the decision of the president as may be proper under the law and facts.
5. When the request for an outside speaker is granted and the speaker accepts the invitation, the sponsoring organization shall inform the president or his/her authorized designee in writing immediately. The president or his/her authorized designee may, at his or her discretion, require that the meeting be chaired by a member of the administration or faculty and may further require a statement to be made at the meeting that the views presented are not necessarily those of the institution or of the sponsoring group. In accepting the invitation to speak, the speaker assumes full responsibility for any violation of law committed by him while he is on campus.

### Public Address Area

1. Students, faculty, administration, staff or non-students may use the address area for free speech, advocacy and recruiting any time the college is officially in session. The area used for this purpose on the Pensacola campus is defined as the triangle directly in front of the Student Center and bounded by the sidewalks. This area is identified on the campus map and does not include the sidewalks, which are used as boundaries. The address area on the Warrington campus is on the grass at the south side of the west entrance to Building 3600. On the Milton Campus, it is just to the North of the entry to the covered walkway to building 4200.

2. Although no prior request for use of the area need be made for extemporaneous expression, individuals reserving the use of the area have priority.
3. When reservations are made for use of the area, they will be made on a first-come, first-served basis by the appropriate Student Leadership and Activities Office.
4. Individuals using the speaker's area during extemporaneous discussion must, as a matter of courtesy, yield the platform after a reasonable amount of time when others desire to speak.
5. Speech within the address area is subject to the regulations of the college and all local, state and federal laws. Individuals who use speech which defames another, which is obscene, or which constitutes a clear and present danger to the institution's orderly operation may be enjoined by the college and such speech may provide grounds for action under the Code of Conduct. The provisions of the Code of Conduct apply to the address area as well as other areas of the campus.

### Posting, Distributing, Exhibiting Printed or Filmed Material

Students may distribute free non-commercial literature within the public address areas set aside by the college. Tables and easels may be set in designated areas. In these areas, signs may be used in conjunction with the tables. Tables should be supervised at all times. In the event of congestion or unreasonable interference with the flow of students passing through the area, the provost or his/her designee may reasonably regulate such activity.

Non-commercial notices may be posted by students and registered student groups on all bulletin boards. All postings must be cleared through the appropriate office to avoid congestion and to obtain optimum use of facilities available.

Students are expected to use mature judgment and a sense of discretion in the publication, posting and distribution of any material on campus and to realize that they and their group or organization must accept responsibility for the consequences of their behavior.

The president or his/her authorized designee may prohibit the distribution on campus of any material or publication or the showing on campus of any films containing obscene or defamatory matter, or containing matter which the president or his/her authorized designee reasonably believes would incite others to take action which would substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities. Should the president prohibit the distribution of any film on campus, the student or recognized student group thereby aggrieved shall, upon written application to the president or his/her authorized designee, obtain a hearing within two days following the filing of the appeal before the Student Relations Panel. The appeal procedure shall be the same as provided in the case where the president denies a student organization's request to invite an outside speaker to appear on campus.

Responsibility for editorial or other content of publications distributed on campus shall lie with the sponsoring agency, group, or organization. All publications distributed on campus should appropriately indicate that the opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of the college or of the student body. The use of the college name, seal, or other official insignia in printed matter shall not imply that the college approves, supports, or endorses the contents.

1. All posting must be approved by the Student Leadership and Activities Office (Pensacola)/Student Services Office (Milton and Warrington).
2. Posting includes: posters, small banners, sheet banners hung between trees, stake signs, changeable signs, table tents, flyers, rolling signs, easel signs, and commercial advertisements.
3. Posting may be done two (2) weeks prior to any club/ organization or Pensacola State College sponsored event including athletics, intramurals, homecoming, mid-term, organization week, and various elections.
4. Posting outlined in (2) above may be done on all campus bulletin boards, in the gymnasium, and on the carpeted wall in the Warrington Student Services area.
5. No posting will be allowed on doors or glass or on building walls other than the gymnasium interior walls.
6. Any posting should be removed within one (1) school day after the event has taken place. It is the responsibility of those putting up the posting to take it down.

# STUDENT RIGHTS

## BASIC STUDENT PROCEDURAL DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

Pensacola State College will observe the fundamentals of due process to reach a fair, equitable, and consistent resolution for students with complaints and grievances. Due process will be observed in the adjudication of alleged student violations of College policies and procedures. A student pursuing either a non-academic or academic complaint/grievance may utilize Pensacola State College's Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman at no cost or obligation. The use of the services of the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman is to be determined by the student.

### Appeals Available To Students

#### NON-ACADEMIC APPEALS

- 1. Student Motor Vehicle Regulations.** Students who wish to dispute an alleged violation of the Student Motor Vehicle Regulations may submit an appeal to the Traffic Appeals Court through the Student Leadership and Activities Office on the appropriate campus.
- 2. Discrimination and Harassment Outside of the Classroom Setting.** A student with a complaint regarding issues of discrimination or harassment, including Title IX and Section 504, that occur on campus (but not as part of the classroom setting) should bring the issue to the immediate attention of the Associate Vice President for Institutional Diversity.
- 3. Code of Conduct Violations.** A student accused of violating a section or sections of the Pensacola State College Code of Conduct shall be entitled to certain procedural rights. See the Code of Student Conduct Violations in the Non-Academic Appeals Procedure section of the College Catalog.

#### ACADEMIC APPEALS

- 1. Grievances of Classroom and Instructor Issues.** A student with a complaint regarding specific issues related to a member of the Pensacola State College faculty, including Title IX and Section 504, may seek resolution through this process.
- 2. Discrimination and Harassment within an Academic Setting.** A student with a complaint regarding issues of discrimination or harassment, including Title IX and Section 504, that occur on or off campus within an academic setting, should bring the issue to the immediate attention of the Associate Vice President for Institutional Diversity.
- 3. Grade Grievance Procedure.** A student who disputes a grade assigned by a faculty member has 10 working days from the time of grade assignment to initiate a grievance. After the 10 day period, the student loses the right to file a grievance (see p. 25) and no other administrative remedy or campus option is available.
- 4. Graduation Policy Exception.** Students who wish an exception to an existing graduation policy may appeal to the Student Academic Appeals Committee.
- 5. Reinstatement in Class.** A student who has been withdrawn for excessive absences may request consideration for reinstatement by discussion with the instructor. If the instructor does not permit continued enrollment, the student may appeal to the Student Academic Appeals Committee.
- 6. Late Withdrawal.** A student who wishes to withdraw from a class after the established withdrawal deadline may petition the Student Academic Appeals Committee.
- 7. Academic Suspension or Academic Dismissal.** A student who has been placed on academic suspension or who has been dismissed for academic reasons may petition for continued enrollment.

## NON-ACADEMIC APPEALS PROCEDURES

- 1. Student Motor Vehicle and Parking Violations.** Students may appeal motor vehicle and parking ticket violations through the Student Leadership and Activities Office on the appropriate campus. The student must appeal the ticket violations within ten (10) class days after receiving the ticket. Appeals received after this time will not be considered. There must be justifiable reasons for the appeal process to be initiated. The Student Government Association Traffic/Parking Appeals Committee will review the appeals. The SGA TPA Committee will either uphold the issuance of the ticket or recommend that the ticket be rescinded. The Director for Student Life will review the SGA TPA Committee's recommendation. The decision of the Director for Student Life is final.
- 2. Non-Academic Discrimination and Harassment.** Students claiming they have been discriminated upon or harassed in a non-academic environment at Pensacola State College should immediately notify the Associate Vice President for Institutional Diversity of their claim. The office is located in Building 7 on the Pensacola campus. Pensacola State College does not permit discrimination upon the basis of race, gender, religion, marital status, national origin, age, disability, or sexual orientation.
- 3. Code of Student Conduct.** The Pensacola State College Code of Student Conduct is published in the College Catalog. A student accused of violating the Pensacola State College Code of Student Conduct shall be entitled to certain procedural rights outlined below. Students attending Pensacola State College are expected to abide by the Pensacola State College Code of Student Conduct. In some instances student conduct off campus can also be reviewed by Pensacola State College. The primary goal of the review process is to "educate" the student of the value to adhering to the established Pensacola State College Code of Student Conduct. In the event the Director for Student Life and/or the Vice President for Student Affairs determines that the continued presence of a student on the campuses of Pensacola State College poses an imminent threat to the student and/or the campus community, the Director for Student Life and/or the Vice President for Student Affairs of Pensacola State College shall have the authority to immediately remove the student from the campuses without the immediate entitlement of due process for the student. The student may request the initiation of due process only when the Director for Student Life and/or the Vice President for Student Affairs determine that the student no longer poses a threat to him/herself or others in the college community.

#### A. Informal Process:

The Director for Student Life or his/her designee shall attempt to informally resolve the alleged violation of the Pensacola State College Code of Student Conduct with the student. This process may include the implementation of a disciplinary sanction that is agreed upon by the Director for Student Life or his/her designee and the student involved. The mutually agreed-upon resolution associated with this process is final and cannot be appealed. In the event resolution to the alleged violation of the Pensacola State College Code of Student Conduct cannot be reached during the informal process, the matter will be referred to the formal process for resolution.

## **B. Formal Process:**

1. The student shall receive written notification of the alleged violation of the Pensacola State College Code of Student Conduct. The written notification will be provided to the student within five (5) class days by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee. The written notification shall be delivered to the student by certified mail with return receipt;
2. The student will be required to schedule a hearing with the Student Judicial Review Board to review the alleged violation of the Pensacola State College Code of Student Conduct. Optimally, the meeting will be scheduled within five (5) class days of receipt of the written notice;
3. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs shall convene the hearing of the Student Judicial Review Board. The Student Judicial Review Board shall consist of two (2) members of the faculty; two (2) members of the Career Service organization; and two (2) members of the student body;
4. The Director for Student Life or his/her designee shall present the evidence associated with the alleged violation of the Pensacola State College Code of Student Conduct;
5. The student shall be entitled to appear in person and to present his/her defense to the Student Judicial Review Board and may call witnesses on his/her behalf. If the student does not appear, and has not provided satisfactory justification to the Director for Student Life for non-appearance, the hearing shall be held in the student's absence;
6. A recording of the hearing shall be made and retained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs;
7. Following the hearing, the Student Judicial Review Board will convene and recommend to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs a disciplinary sanction, if applicable. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs can either accept the recommendation, reject the recommendation, request the Student Judicial Review Board reconvene to further review the evidence in the case, or modify the recommendation of the Student Judicial Review Board;
8. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs will officially notify the student of the determination of guilt or innocence and the nature of sanctions. The decision of the Vice President for Student Affairs is final and cannot be appealed. The decision will be presented to the student, in writing, by certified mail with return receipt required.

### **4. Student Non-Academic Grievance and Appeals Process.**

A student may file a non-academic grievance against another member of the student body, or a member of the Pensacola State College staff, administration and/or faculty. To file a non-academic grievance, the student must submit, in writing, the nature of the non-academic grievance to the Office of the Director for Student Life. If the non-academic grievance is filed against the Director for Student Life, the submission of the non-academic grievance shall be made to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

A student may withdraw a non-academic grievance anytime during the review process.

## **A. Informal Process:**

The non-academic grievance shall first be reviewed in an informal hearing, conducted by the Director for Student Life or his/her designee. In the event the non-academic grievance is filed against the Director for Student Life, the Vice President for Student Affairs shall designate an individual to review the grievance in an informal hearing. All parties associated with the non-academic grievance will attempt to resolve the grievance in an informal manner. Should a resolution to the non-academic grievance be reached during the informal process, the non-academic grievance shall be discontinued and it cannot be further appealed.

## **B. Formal Process:**

Should resolution of the non-academic grievance be not attained, the student has the option of pursuing the grievance in the formal process.

1. The student shall submit the non-academic grievance to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs;
2. In the event the non-academic grievance is filed against the Vice President for Student Affairs, the grievance will be submitted to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs;
3. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs shall convene a meeting of the Student Non-Academic Grievance Appeals Board to review the non-academic grievance within five (5) class days;
4. The Student Non-Academic Grievance Appeals Board will consist of two (2) members of the faculty; two (2) members of the Career Services organization; and two (2) members of the student body;
5. The student will have the opportunity to present witnesses in support of the filed non-academic grievance;
6. The accused student, staff, faculty or administrator shall also be present during the grievance hearing, and have the right to question the grievant and witnesses;
7. A recording of the non-academic grievance hearing shall be made and retained by the office of the vice president for student affairs;
8. Following the hearing, the Student Non-Academic Grievance Appeals Board will convene and recommend to the Office of the vice president for student affairs whether the non-academic grievance should be upheld or not;
9. The vice president for student affairs shall review the recommendation and either accept the recommendation, reject the recommendation, request the Student Non-Academic Grievance Appeals Board reconvene to further review the recommendation, or modify the recommendation;
10. The office of the vice president for student affairs will officially notify the student and the accused student, staff, faculty or administrator of the outcome of the grievance procedure. The decision of the vice president for student affairs is final and cannot be appealed. The decision will be presented to the student and the accused, in writing, by certified mail with return receipt requested.

## **Records Retention**

The non-academic records of any student charged with an alleged violation of the Pensacola State College Code for Student Conduct and applicable appeals, shall be maintained in the office of the vice president for student affairs. The records will be maintained and purged in accordance with state-approved records retention schedules.

## **Non-Academic Judicial Review Bodies**

1. SGA traffic/parking appeals committee
2. Office of the director for student life
3. Student judicial review board
4. Student non-academic grievance appeals board
5. Office of the vice president for student affairs.



## STUDENT ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The purpose of the grievance procedure is to provide, at the lowest possible level, a means to mediate a fair and equitable solution to any complaint other than grade disputes (including Title IX and Section 504) that a student may have with a faculty member. A student with a complaint regarding issues of discrimination or harassment that occur on or off campus within an academic setting, should bring the issue to the immediate attention of the Associate Vice President for Institutional Diversity. This procedure will not involve itself in any dispute in which the student is accused of a violation of the honor pledge or infraction of any rule or regulation governing the conduct of students, as set down by the institution.

The time limit indicated throughout this procedure should be considered as maximum, and every effort should be made to expedite the process. However, the time limits may be extended by mutual consent of the parties concerned.

Any student who has a grievance with a member of the faculty that has not been resolved to his or her satisfaction may take the following steps to resolve the issue:

### Informal Procedure

1. Within 60 days or less of the incident, the student should discuss the grievance with the department head to attempt to resolve the problem.
2. After the initial discussion with the appropriate department head, if the grievance is still not resolved, the student may discuss the grievance with the campus provost or designee.

### Formal Procedure

1. If, as a result of informal discussion, the grievance is still unresolved, the student may file a Formal Grievance Petition by outlining the grievance in writing on a prescribed form available from the Provost's Office.
2. Within one calendar week of filing of the formal grievance, the provost shall transmit the completed Formal Grievance Petition form and documentation to the vice president for academic affairs office.
3. The vice president of instructional affairs will appoint a provost to chair the Student-Faculty Relations Panel.
4. The Student-Faculty Relations Panel will schedule a hearing within two calendar weeks of the petition filing. The student will receive notification at least five days in advance of the grievance hearing, and should appear at the hearing to present information and to call witnesses. Information and testimony in the hearing are limited to the scope of the complaint and the information provided during the informal process in steps III above.
5. It is agreed that each party of a grievance shall furnish the other with any information in his or her possession which may be legally released and is necessary for the processing of grievances or complaints.
6. The Student-Faculty Relations Panel will recommend a solution to the complaint to the Vice President for Instructional Affairs, in writing, within one calendar week after the hearing.
7. The vice president for instructional affairs or his or her designee will provide a written decision to the student within two calendar weeks of the receipt of the panel's recommendation.
8. No reprisals of any kind shall be taken against any student for participation in any grievance.
9. Nothing in this procedure shall be construed to deny to any student any rights or benefits guaranteed by law.
10. A grievance may be withdrawn at any level by the student filing the grievance.
11. All documents, forms, communications, and records dealing with a grievance shall be filed separately from the permanent record files of the participants. A copy of the formal grievance and its final disposition will be filed in the office of the vice president for instructional affairs.
12. The student shall be entitled to be accompanied and advised by counsel or other representative, but he/she may not participate in the hearing.
13. All hearings are closed.

## Grade Disputes

The student has 10 working days from when the student's grades are posted on the Pensacola State College website to initiate a grade grievance. After the 10 day period, the student loses the right to file a grievance and no other administrative remedy or campus option is available.

## Academic Appeals

See Academic Regulations and Policies for appropriate procedures in petitioning for reinstatement in a class, appealing an academic suspension or dismissal, and appealing any college policy (graduation, late withdrawal, etc.)

## OFFICIAL STUDENT GRADE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

In order to institute this grade grievance procedure, the student will be prepared to show that course or grade requirements were not clearly explained in the course syllabus, requirements were not uniformly applied, requirements were changed without sufficient notice or for capricious reasons, the instructor's data was not accurate, the final course grade could not be reasonably derived from data given, and/or prejudice affected assignment of the grade.

The outcome of the process may be that the assigned grade will stand, assignment of the grade will be postponed until some agreed upon work has been completed, another grade will be substituted for the one originally assigned, or a compromise fitting the specific situation is reached.

In the event that the faculty member who assigned the grade is no longer employed by the college (due to resignation, retirement, or death), a faculty member from the same program/discipline will serve in the stead of the original faculty member. This substitute faculty member will be selected by a vote of the faculty members and the department head in the affected department/discipline.

In the event that the faculty member who assigned the grade will be returning to his or her position at the college but is temporarily away for longer than 10 days, the faculty member will be notified by his or her department head of the impending action. Unless the faculty member agrees to be available to meet earlier, or has an alternate solution, the time lines below shall be amended so that the initial 10 days specified in Step One will not begin until the faculty member returns from the temporary absence. If however, the Step Two deadline would be delayed longer than 30 calendar days, another full-time faculty member or administrator shall be designated to substitute. If the faculty member is unable to identify a substitute who is willing and able to fill this role, the department head shall serve as the substitute. For extenuating circumstances where the student cannot meet the 10 day deadline, the student should contact the appropriate academic department head or provost for an extension of time. The student should be prepared to present appropriate documentation to explain the need for the extension.

### Informal Student Grievance Process

1. Within ten (10) working days of when the student's grades are posted on the Pensacola State College website, the student shall meet with the faculty member and present data to support his or her assertion.
2. Within ten (10) working days, the faculty member must give fair hearing to the student's claim and consider the data in an attempt to resolve the issue. In the event that the resolution is not satisfactory to the student, the student may proceed to Step Three.
3. The student may meet with the department head and present data to support his or her assertion in the dispute. The department head must then meet and discuss the dispute with the faculty member. The department head must then attempt to resolve the dispute within ten (10) working days. In the event that the resolution is not satisfactory to the student, the student may proceed to Step Four.
4. The student may meet with the dean/provost and present data to support his or her assertion in the dispute. The dean must then meet and discuss the dispute with the faculty member. The dean/provost must then attempt to resolve the dispute within ten (10) working days. In the event that the resolution is not satisfactory to the student, the student may proceed to the Formal Student Grievance Process.

## Formal Student Grievance Process

Within ten (10) working days of when the student is notified of the dean/provost's response, the student may begin the formal grievance process by outlining the grievance in writing and presenting the petition to the campus provost. A provost will chair a one-time panel also including three students and three faculty members, none of whom shall have any direct connection with the parties involved. At least one of the student members and at least one of the faculty members must be from a related discipline in which the grade is being disputed. In the event that there is no related discipline, at least one student member and at least one faculty member shall possess demonstrated knowledge of or experience with the discipline area involved in the grade dispute. A chair for the panel will be selected by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

## STUDENT ADVOCATE/STUDENT OMBUDSMAN

Reflecting Florida Statute 1006.51, K-20 Education Code, Pensacola State College has created the office of student advocate/student ombudsman, which is accountable to the president of the college.

A student pursuing either a non-academic or academic complaint/grievance may utilize Pensacola State College's Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman at no cost or obligation. The use of the services of the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman is to be determined by the student.

The Coordinator of Student Activities and Leadership Development on each Pensacola State College campus shall serve as the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman for his/her respective campus. Students are encouraged to consult with the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman regarding:

1. Guidance and advice regarding the informal and formal processes associated with complaints and grievances;
2. Assistance in seeking a mutually agreeable resolution of the complaint;
3. Counsel the student throughout the informal and formal processes associated with complaints and grievances; and
4. Assist the student with comprehension of existing policies and procedures of the college.

If a student's issue is related to academic standards of progress, graduation requirements, access to courses, or other academic policies, the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman will advise and guide the student regarding the existing informal and formal academic grievance procedures. The Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman will initially endeavor to seek a mutually agreeable resolution of the student complaint, as stipulated by the existing informal academic grievance process. If the informal resolution process fails to reach a mutually agreeable resolution, the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman will refer the student to the Student Academic Appeals Committee. If requested by the student, the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman will assist the student in completing the appropriate Academic Appeals Form. The Student Academic Appeals Committee shall conduct a formal hearing and review of the documentation associated with the academic grievance. If requested by the student, the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman may serve as an advisor to the student during the proceedings of the Student Academic Appeals Committee. The Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman may not speak on behalf of the student, but simply advise and guide the student during the hearings. The Student Academic Appeals Committee shall make a recommendation to the Vice President for Instructional Affairs or his/her designee. The Vice President for Instructional Affairs or his/her designee shall review the student's petition and interview the student if necessary. If requested by the student, the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman may serve as an advisor to the student during the interview process.

The Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman may not speak on behalf of the student, but simply advise and guide the student during the interview. The Vice President for Academic Affairs or his/her designee shall either uphold, deny, or modify the recommendation(s) of the Student Academic Appeals Committee.

If the Academic complaint relates to alleged discrimination and harassment issues, the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman shall immediately and automatically refer the student to the Associate Vice President for Institutional Diversity for guidance and assistance.

If the student issue is related to a non-academic complaint, the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman will advise and guide the student regarding the existing informal and formal non-academic grievance procedures. The Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman will initially endeavor to seek a mutually agreeable resolution of the student complaint, as stipulated by the existing informal non-academic grievance process. If the informal resolution process fails to reach a mutually agreeable resolution, the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman will refer the student to the Director for Student Life who will convene an official hearing before the Student Judicial Review Board. If requested by the student, the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman will assist the student in completing the appropriate Student Judicial Review Board Appeals Form. The Student Judicial Review Board shall conduct a formal hearing and review of the documentation associated with the non-academic grievance. If requested by the student, the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman may serve as an advisor to the student during the proceedings of the Student Judicial Review Board. The Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman may not speak on behalf of the student, but simply advise and guide the student during the hearings. The Student Judicial Review Board shall make a recommendation to the Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee. The Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee shall review the student's petition and interview the student if necessary. If requested by the student, the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman may serve as an advisor to the student during the interview process. The Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman may not speak on behalf of the student, but simply advise and guide the student during the interview. The Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee shall either uphold, deny, or modify the recommendation(s) of the Student Judicial Review Board.

If the Non-Academic complaint relates to alleged discrimination and harassment issues, the Student Advocate/Student Ombudsman shall immediately and automatically refer the student to the Associate Vice President for Institutional Diversity for guidance and assistance.