2013-2014

A CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ACCREDITED BY
The Western Association of Schools and Colleges
Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges
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APPROVED BY
The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges
The California Department of Education
The University of California
The California State Universities

APPROVED FOR
The training of U.S. veterans and other eligible persons

COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS
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Accuracy Statement
The Santa Clarita Community College District and College of the Canyons have made every reasonable effort to
determine that everything stated in this catalog is accurate. Courses and programs offered, together with other
matters contained herein, are subject to changes without notice by the administration of the College for reasons
related to student enrollment, level of financial support, or for any other reason at the discretion of the College. The
College further reserves the right to add, to amend, or repeal any of the rules, regulations, policies and procedures,
consistent with applicable laws.
Regulations and Policies

"Picture in Picture." From 2013 COC Student Calendar. Photographer: Robin Shane
ACADEMIC FREEDOM

A. GENERAL PRINCIPLES ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

1. Freedom of speech is a right granted to all citizens by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution; it is vital to American standards of fairness and intelligent debate, and, therefore, it extends to the classroom environment for teachers and students.

2. A mature, democratic society functions best when its citizens are permitted and able to exercise their right to discuss, debate, disagree, challenge, and engage in dialogue on all topics relating to the welfare of individuals and the larger community.

3. An institution of higher education in such a society is expected to enable its faculty, students, and staff to comprehend and value the freedoms and responsibilities inherent in its national culture.

4. Only an academic environment that promotes an open and free exchange of ideas can properly develop the cognitive skills of critical inquiry which promote individual success and societal progress.

5. The college, as an institution of higher education, has an obligation to the community to promote the thoughtful introduction of a full gamut of ideas for discussion. This is facilitated by:
   a. Establishing a policy promoting the principle of academic freedom and encouraging faculty and students to exercise this practice by developing and accepting opportunities for critical thinking and personal growth.
   b. Ensuring that the policy of academic freedom successfully guarantees mutual respect by all participants in the educational environment, including the protection from the threat of political or personal attack. Such guarantees include the full scope of professional faculty obligations relative to assigning textbooks, presenting student learning activities, evaluating student performance or achievement and participating in the academic life of the community.

B. ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND THE FACULTY

1. Academic freedom in the course of instruction means that faculty members teaching in the District have the prerogative to present and explore all issues relevant to their disciplines which contribute to the education of students regarding the substance of each course’s content and the student learning outcomes.

2. Quality teaching is understood to involve intellectual honesty and academic integrity in the presentation of subjects assigned. Such professional decorum requires the presentation of differing perspectives and interpretations with balanced intellectual rigor.

3. Faculty members are expected to maintain their own scholastic currency in their academic disciplines, and their capabilities as instructors within those disciplines.

4. It is recognized by the District and faculty members that the faculty members are also private citizens, with all attendant rights and responsibilities as private citizens.

5. As members of a profession that relies on academic freedom, all faculty members have an obligation to exemplify the highest standards of professional conduct in this regard and to promote an understanding of this principle to their colleagues, to students, and the community at large.

C. ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND STUDENTS

1. By accepting an academic course of study within the College system, students accept the principle that they will study in an environment that is designed to present the fullest range of academic insight in the subjects they are enrolled in, including contemporary and historical perspectives, and open, thoughtful examination of differing points of view in pursuit of knowledge within general and specific fields of study.

2. Academic freedom allows students to take reasoned exception to the concepts and conclusions presented in any course of study. Students are, however, responsible for learning the content of any course in which they are enrolled, and can expect to be tested on their knowledge of such information.

D. DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES AND SUPPORT

1. The District is committed to the full support of the principle of academic freedom within all its activities.

2. The District supports the freedom of all faculty to inquire, to teach controversial content, to model and encourage critical thinking, and to present all viewpoints within each discipline.

3. The District supports the freedom of all students to inquire, to have access to the full range of information available, to explore difficult and controversial material, to develop and practice critical thinking skills, and to operate in a classroom climate free of intimidation and conducive to the free exchange of ideas is fully encouraged and expected.

4. Under the provisions of the California Education Code, the faculty have the right and the professional responsibility to assign grades. The District recognizes its obligation to ensure that faculty members will be allowed to exercise these responsibilities free from political influence, intimidation, or threat of lawsuit.
EQUAL EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
The Santa Clarita Community College District subscribes to and promotes the principles and implementation of equal opportunity. Pursuant to the provisions of state and federal law, the District's Board of Trustees has adopted policies and procedures ensuring that its programs and activities are available to all persons without regard to race, religious creed, color, ethnic or national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, uniformed service member status, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, pregnancy, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other protected basis.

The Santa Clarita Community College District is committed to implementing the concept, intent, and spirit of providing equal employment and educational opportunity to all persons. Positive action will be taken by the administration, faculty, staff and students to ensure the implementation of this policy and to overcome any form of exclusion or discrimination, whether purposeful or inadvertent.

Additional information on these policies and procedures is available in the District's Equal Employment Opportunity Office (Human Resources); University Center (UCEN) 360; (661) 362-3424; TTY (661) 362-5178.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY
The Santa Clarita Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religious creed, color, ethnic or national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, uniformed service member status, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, pregnancy, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other protected basis in compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, the Unruh Civil Rights Act, the Sex Equity in Education Act, and Assembly Bill 803 of 1977. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, the College's programs and activities, including educational employment. Inquiries regarding the equal opportunity policies, the filing of complaints, or to request a copy of the procedures covering discrimination complaints may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Human Resources, University Center (UCEN) Room 360, 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91355; telephone (661) 362-3424. The college recognizes its obligation to provide overall program accessibility throughout the college for disabled persons. Contact the DSP&S Director to obtain information as to the existence and location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by disabled persons.

Inquiries regarding Federal laws and regulations concerning nondiscrimination in education or the District's compliance with those provisions may also be directed to the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Room 509F, HHH Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20201.

POLÍTICA CONTRA LA DISCRIMINACIÓN
El Distrito de Colegios Comunitarios de Santa Clarita no discrimina por motivos de raza, credo religioso, color, origen étnico o nacional, ascendencia, estado de migración, miembro de servicio militar, incapacidad física o mental, condición médica, estado civil, sexo, embarazo, edad, orientación sexual, identidad de género, o cualquier otra base protegida en conformidad con Título VI y VII de la Ley de Derecho Civil de 1964 y según la enmienda de la Ley de Derecho Civil de 1991; el título IX de las Enmiendas de Educación de 1972; la sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973; la Ley de Discriminación por Edad contenida en la Ley de Empleo de 1967; la Ley de Americanos Minusválidos de 1990; la Ley de Empleo y Vivienda Justos de California; la Ley Unruh de Derecho Civil; la Ley de Igualdad Sexual en la Educación; y el Proyecto de Ley 803 de 1977. Esta política contra la discriminación incluye el ingreso, el acceso, el tratamiento y el empleo en los programas y actividades de la institución, incluyendo la educación vocacional.

Para mayor información sobre la política de igualdad de oportunidades, sobre cómo presentar una queja, o sobre cómo pedir una copia de un documento que explique el proceso de quejas por discriminación, puede dirigirse al AssistantSuperintendent/Vicepresidente de Recursos Humanos, del Centro Universitario, de la habitación 360, 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91355; teléfono (661) 362-3424. College of the Canyons reconoce su obligación de proveer acceso generalizado a los minusválidos por toda la institución. Comuníquese con el coordinador de servicios a los minusválidos si necesita información sobre la prestación de servicios, las actividades, y las instalaciones con acceso para minusválidos.

Para pedir información sobre leyes federales sobre la discriminación en la educación o sobre el cumplimiento de estas normativas por el Distrito Universitario, puede también dirigirse a la Oficina de Derecho Civil, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Room 509F HHH Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20201.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY
I. POLICY STATEMENT
The Santa Clarita Community College District is committed to creating and maintaining an academic and work environment in which all persons who participate in District programs and activities can work together in an atmosphere free of sexual harassment, exploitation, or intimidation, and that values and protects individual dignity and the academic process. Sexual harassment is unlawful and undermines the atmosphere of mutual trust and respect necessary for an effective learning and working environment and hinders the District's ability to fulfill its academic mission. Toward this end, all members of the college community must understand that sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, and sexual exploitation of professional relationships violate the District's policy and will not be tolerated. The District will take every step to resolve complaints promptly and will institute disciplinary proceedings against persons found to be in violation of this sexual harassment policy. For faculty and
staff members, such proceedings may result in a range of sanctions, up to and including termination of District affiliation. Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary measures up to and including expulsion.

II. APPLICABILITY
This policy applies to all applicants for employment and admission to District programs, officers and employees of the District, students, and persons who serve the District as its agents and are under the control of the District. It applies to all aspects of the academic environment, including but not limited to classroom conditions, grades, academic standing, employment opportunities, scholarships, recommendations, disciplinary actions, and participation in any District activity. In addition, this policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment including but not limited to hiring, placement, promotion, disciplinary action, layoff, recall, transfer, leave of absence, training opportunities and compensation. Specific adherence to this policy shall also be made an express term of every contracted services agreement entered into by the District.

III. LEGAL AUTHORITY
Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which is prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended by the 1991 Amendments to the Civil Rights Act), by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), and California Education Code. Santa Clarita Community College District's Unlawful Discrimination and Affirmative Action Policy also prohibits sex discrimination.

IV. DEFINITION
Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of either sex against a person of the opposite or same sex, and occurs when such behavior constitutes unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome requests for sexual favors, and other unwelcome verbal or physical behavior of a sexual nature where:

1. Submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual's employment, academic status, or progress;
2. Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by an individual is used as the basis of employment or academic decisions affecting the individual's welfare;
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's welfare, work or academic performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, offensive, or demeaning work or educational environment; or
4. Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the community college.

A third party may also file a complaint under this policy if the sexual conduct of others in the work or educational environment has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the third party's welfare, work or academic performance.

Examples of prohibited behavior or prohibited acts that constitute sexual harassment may take a variety of forms. Examples of behavior generally viewed as sexual harassment when they are unwelcome include, but are not limited to:

1. Verbal: Inappropriate or offensive remarks, slurs, jokes or innuendoes based on sex. This may include, but is not limited to, inappropriate comments regarding an individual's body, physical appearance, attire, sexual prowess, marital status or sexual orientation; sexually suggestive or insulting sounds or gestures, including sucking noises, winking, and throwing kisses; unwelcome flirting or sexual propositions, invitations or solicitations; demands for sexual favors; verbal abuse, threats or intimidation of a sexual nature (direct or indirect threats or bribes for unwanted sexual activity); or sexist, patronizing or ridiculing statements that convey derogatory attitudes about a particular gender.
2. Physical: Inappropriate or offensive touching, assault, or physical interference with free movement. This may include, but is not limited to, kissing, patting, stroking, lingering or intimate touches, grabbing, pinching, leering, squeezing, staring, unnecessarily brushing against or blocking another person, whistling, sexual gestures, or giving a neck or shoulder massage. In addition to stalking (either inside or outside the institution), and attempted or actual sexual assault.
3. Visual or Written: The display or circulation of offensive, sexually-oriented visual or written material. This may include, but is not limited to, objects, pictures, posters, cartoons, calendars, drawings, graffiti, video tapes, audio recordings, literature, computer graphics, electronic media transmissions or other materials with sexual content.
4. Environmental: An academic or work environment that is permeated with sexually-oriented talk, innuendoes, insults or abuse not relevant to the subject matter of the class or employment. A hostile environment can arise from an unwarranted focus on sexual topics or sexually suggestive statements in the classroom. An environment may be hostile if unwelcome sexual behavior is directed specifically at an individual or if the individual merely witnesses unlawful harassment in his or her immediate surroundings. The determination of whether an environment is hostile is based on the totality of the circumstances, including such factors as the frequency of the conduct, the severity of the conduct, whether the conduct is humiliating or physically threatening, and whether the conduct unreasonably interferes with an individual's learning or work. This may include, but is not limited to, consensual sexual relationships.

Romantic or sexual relationships between supervisors and employees, or between faculty or staff members and students are discouraged. There is an inherent imbalance of power and potential for exploitation in such relationships. A conflict of interest may arise if the faculty or staff member must evaluate the student's work or make academic decisions affecting the student or if a
supervisor must evaluate the performance of an employee. The relationship may create an appearance of impropriety and lead to charges of favoritism by other students or other employees. A consensual sexual relationship may change, with the result that sexual conduct that was once welcome becomes unwelcome and harassing. By definition, sexual harassment is not within the course and scope of an individual's employment with the District.

Sexual harassment may occur between peers. Unwelcome sexual behavior between peers under this definition is unacceptable in the District.

Examples of harassment can include, but are not limited to, all of the behaviors described above as well as the following behaviors:

- leaving obscene messages on campus computers;
- creating a sexually demeaning atmosphere, such as displaying posters and pictures that are sexist or otherwise demeaning to females or males;
- unwelcome touching and grabbing;
- persistent unwanted sexual attention, such as continually asking a person for a date after the person has indicated no interest;
  - whistling or yelling obscenities at people walking by, or loudly discussing their sexual attributes and rating them;
  - threatening rape;
  - mooning, whereby individuals expose their buttocks aggressively;
  - exposing one's genitals;
  - "streaking" - running naked in front of others;
  - "sharking" - biting breasts, buttocks, or other private body parts;
  - shouting obscenities;
- "quid pro quo" sexual harassment occurs when a person in a position of authority (supervisor and subordinate or teacher and student) makes educational or employment benefits conditional upon an individual's willingness to engage in or tolerate unwanted sexual conduct. (Please note: the relationship may be an indirect one where the harasser has the power to direct others who have authority over the victim.) The perpetrator's intent or lack of intent to harass is not relevant to the determination of whether quid pro quo harassment occurred.

The aforementioned lists of behaviors should be used to assist in identifying offensive behaviors but in no way should be construed as exhaustive lists of unacceptable acts. In determining whether the alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment, consideration should be given to the records of the incident or incidents as a whole and to the totality of the circumstances, including the context in which the alleged incidents occurred.

This definition recognizes two categories of sexual harassment:

1. "Quid pro quo" sexual harassment occurs when a person in a position of authority (supervisor and subordinate or teacher and student) makes educational or employment benefits conditional upon an individual's willingness to engage in or tolerate unwanted sexual conduct. (Please note: the relationship may be an indirect one where the harasser has the power to direct others who have authority over the victim.) The perpetrator's intent or lack of intent to harass is not relevant to the determination of whether quid pro quo harassment occurred.

2. "Hostile environment" sexual harassment occurs when unwelcome conduct based on sex is sufficiently severe or pervasive so as to alter the conditions of an individual's learning or work environment, unreasonably interfere with an individual's academic or work performance, or create an intimidating, hostile, or abusive learning or work environment. The victim must subjectively perceive the environment as hostile, and the harassment must be such that a reasonable person of the same gender would perceive the environment as hostile. The determination of whether an environment is "hostile" must be based on all of the circumstances. These circumstances could include the frequency of the conduct, its severity, and whether it is physically threatening or humiliating. As with quid pro quo harassment, the perpetrator's intent or lack of intent to harass is not relevant to the determination of whether hostile environment harassment occurred.

V. SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The basic reasons for which a community college district exists are the discovery and transmission of knowledge, activities which are founded upon the free and open exchange of ideas. Such activities flourish only in a climate uncluttered by exploitation, coercion, intimidation or reprisal. In order for productive learning and the work that supports it to occur, certain conditions should prevail on campus. It is for these reasons that members of the college community - faculty, students and staff personnel - should pursue their responsibilities guided by a strong commitment to basic ethical principles and professional codes of conduct.

Primary responsibility for maintaining high standards of conduct resides especially with faculty and supervisors, since they exercise significant authority and power over others. If the highest standards of professional conduct are to be maintained, however, all responsible members of the community of learning should understand that sexual advances or comments by a faculty member or supervisor toward one of his or her students or employees may constitute unprofessional conduct. Such unprofessional conduct blurs professional boundaries, interferes with a climate conducive to the open exchange of ideas between persons, subverts the normal structure of incentives that spurs work and learning, and interferes with the free and open exchange of ideas. Such activities flourish only in a climate uncluttered by exploitation, coercion, intimidation or reprisal. In order for productive learning and the work that supports it to occur, certain conditions should prevail on campus. It is for these reasons that members of the college community - faculty, students and staff personnel - should pursue their responsibilities guided by a strong commitment to basic ethical principles and professional codes of conduct.
REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

3. No person shall destroy evidence relevant to an investigation of sexual discrimination.

Behavior Prohibited by all persons

1. No supervisor, manager, administrator, faculty member, student, or any other person in the District shall create a hostile or offensive work environment for any other person by engaging in any sexual harassment or by tolerating it on the part of any employee or student.

2. No supervisor, manager, administrator, faculty member, student, or any other person in the District shall assist any individual in doing any act which constitutes sexual discrimination against any employee or student of the District.

VII. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. College Community - Faculty, Students or Staff Personnel

If faculty, students or staff personnel believe that they have been subjected to sexual harassment or any unwanted sexual attention, they should:

• If possible, communicate the unwelcomeness of the behavior to the harasser.
• If practical, communicate to their supervisor (or instructor) that unwelcome sexual behavior has occurred. However, under no circumstances shall a faculty member, student or staff personnel of the District, who believes that she/he has been the victim of sexual harassment by their supervisor (or instructor) be required to first report that harassment to their supervisor (or instructor).

• Make a written record of the date, time, and nature of the incident(s) and the names of any witnesses; and
• Report the incident to the District's Affirmative Action Officer, supervisor, or appropriate District officer.

• Cooperate with any investigation of any alleged act of sexual harassment conducted by the District or by an appropriate state or federal agency.

B. Administrators, Managers and Supervisors

Administrators, managers and supervisors must deal expeditiously and fairly with allegations of sexual harassment within their division/office whether or not they are reported to them. Faculty members must deal expeditiously and fairly with allegations of sexual harassment observed within their classrooms or on campus whether or not they are reported to them. Faculty members must:

• Ensure that harassment or inappropriate sexual conduct is reported to an appropriate administrator or directly to the District's Affirmative Action Officer.

• Discuss sexual harassment policy with their students, as appropriate. Students should be informed of their rights under this policy.

C. Faculty

Faculty members must deal expeditiously and fairly with allegations of sexual harassment observed within their classrooms or on campus whether or not they are reported to them. Faculty members must:

• Ensure that harassment or inappropriate sexual conduct is reported to an appropriate administrator or directly to the District's Affirmative Action Officer.

• Discuss sexual harassment policy with their students, as appropriate. Students should be informed of their rights under this policy.

D. All Employees

All employees of the District shall:

• Report any conduct, including that directed toward a student, which fits the definition of sexual harassment, to their immediate supervisor or appropriate authority figure. This includes conduct of non-employees, such as sales representatives or service vendors.

VIII. NON-REPRISAL

No faculty, administrator or staff, applicant for employment, student, or member of the public may be subject to restraint, interference, coercion or reprisal for action taken in good faith to seek advice concerning a sexual harassment matter, to file a sexual harassment complaint, testify, assist or participate in any manner in the investigation, proceedings, or hearing of a sexual harassment complaint.

IX. MALICIOUS, FALSE ACCUSATIONS

A complainant whose allegations are found to be both false and brought with malicious intent will be subject to disciplinary action which may include, but is not limited to, informal reprimand, formal reprimand, demotion, transfer, suspension, or dismissal.

X. CONFIDENTIALITY

District administrators will make every reasonable effort to conduct all proceedings in a manner which will protect the confidentiality of all parties. Information will be revealed strictly on a need-to-know basis. All parties to the complaint should treat the matter under investigation with discretion and respect for the reputation of all parties involved.

STUDENT GRIEVANCE POLICY

In the pursuit of academic ends, the student should be free of unfair or improper action by any members of the academic community. A grievance may be initiated by a student when it is believed she/he has been subject to unjust action or denied rights as stipulated in published
Formal Hearing

Procedure to File Grievances

Preliminary Action

Students may initiate a grievance for any of the following actions:

1. Prejudicial or capricious action in the evaluation of the student's academic performance. Such grievances may be referred to the chief instructional officer.
2. Acts or threats of intimidation, harassment, or physical aggression. Such grievances may be referred to the Dean, Student Services.
3. Arbitrary action or imposition of sanctions without proper regard for academic due process as specified in published College rules and regulations. Such grievances may be referred to the Dean, Student Services.

Procedure to File Grievances

1. Not later than twenty (20) school days after a student believes an injustice has been done, she/he shall first attempt to resolve the grievance by informal consultation with the following persons, preferably in sequence:
   a. Student, faculty member, or administrator concerned,
   b. Coordinator, Student Activities,
   c. Dean, Student Services,
   d. Chief instructional officer where an academic grievance is concerned.
2. Within ten (10) school days, if the student still believes that the issue has not been resolved by informal consultation, the student may submit a signed statement specifying the time, place, and nature of the grievance to the Dean, Student Services or chief instructional officer, as appropriate, who shall arrange for the meeting of a hearing committee to consider the grievance.

Formal Hearing

1. The Chancellor, the Chairperson(s) of the Academic Senate and the President of the Associated Students shall form a hearing committee within five (5) school days as follows:
   a. Two faculty members and two alternates, three students and three alternates, one administrator and one alternate.
   b. Six students and three alternates or the existing Student Judiciary, in cases where only students are involved, if the parties so desire.
   c. Committee members shall select one of their members as chairperson. The chairperson shall have the privilege of voting on all issues.
2. The President of the Associated Students shall notify each party of the membership of the committee within five (5) school days. Each party shall be allowed one peremptory challenge and two challenges for cause. Challenges will be communicated to the President of the Associated Students. Released members will be replaced by alternates.
   a. Legitimacy of challenges for cause against faculty members shall be decided by the Chairperson(s) of the Academic Senate.
   b. Legitimacy of challenges for cause against students shall be decided by the President of the Associated Students.
   c. Legitimacy of a challenge for cause against an administrator shall be decided by the Chancellor.
3. The hearing committee shall conduct its proceedings according to academic due process standards.
4. Hearings shall be closed and confidential unless it is the request of all parties that a hearing be open to the public.
5. The hearing committee shall submit its findings of fact and recommendations to both parties and the Student Judiciary (when only students are involved) for Associated Students’ constitutional review.
6. The findings of fact and recommendations, along with any judicial review, will be sent to the Chancellor no later than twenty (20) school days from the formation of the formal hearing committee.

Final Action

1. Upon receiving the findings and recommendation of the hearing committee and after consultation as requested by either party, the Chancellor may accept or reject the committee recommendation within five (5) school days.
2. If the Chancellor rejects the committee recommendation, the Chancellor shall submit the decision with stated reasons to the hearing committee within five (5) school days.
3. The Chancellor shall transmit the decision to both parties, the Chairperson(s) of the Academic Senate and the President of the Associated Students. The Chancellor shall submit a report on the matter with the decision to the Board of Trustees.

Appeal

Either party may appeal within five (5) days the Chancellor’s decision, either in writing or by appearance to the Board of Trustees. Within fifteen (15) days after submission of the appeal, the Board of Trustees shall complete its review of the record and make a final determination of the matter.

COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Approved by Academic Senate in May, 2010

Students are expected to do their own work as assigned. At College of the Canyons, we believe that academic integrity and honesty are some of the most important qualities college students need to develop and maintain. To facilitate a culture of academic integrity, College of the Canyons has defined plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Due process procedures have been...
established when plagiarism or academic dishonesty is suspected.

At College of the Canyons, we define plagiarism as follows: Plagiarism is the submission of someone else’s work or ideas as one’s own, without adequate attribution. When a student submits work for a class assignment that includes the words, ideas or data of others, without acknowledging the source of the information through complete, accurate, and specific references, plagiarism is involved. This may include dual submissions of a similar work for credit for more than one class, without the current instructor’s knowledge and approval.

To be specific, below are some of the situations that will be considered plagiarism at College of the Canyons:

- Use information from any source, online or in print, in one’s own writing without acknowledging the source in the content and in the reference page of the assignment;
- Simply list the sources in the reference page, without parenthetical citations in the body of the essay;
- Take more than one printed line of words consecutively from the source without putting quotation marks around them, even though the student has put the author’s name in the parentheses or in the reference page;
- Turn in work done for other classes, regardless how big or small the assignment may be, without the current instructor’s approval—this is considered “self-plagiarism,” which is a form of academic dishonesty; or,
- Turn in work by another student, even by accident.

In addition, College of the Canyons has strict rules against using electronic devices during exams without the instructor’s approval. To be specific, absolutely no cell phones or any electronic devices can be on the desk or in sight during test or exam without the instructor’s approval. The presence of electronic devices in sight during exams may be considered as intention to cheat and will be processed as a form of academic dishonesty.

Cases of alleged academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism or cheating, will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for investigation. See your syllabus for course specific policies, rules, and guidelines on plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

**DISTRICT POLICIES GOVERNING STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**5529 STUDENT CONDUCT**

**5529.1 Introduction**

The California Education Code (section 66300) requires every community college governing board to adopt specific rules governing student behavior along with applicable penalties for violation of such rules.

Students enrolling at College of the Canyons assume an obligation to abide by all College regulations.

For the purposes of this policy, student is defined as an individual who:

1. has submitted an application to the College and has engaged in the admissions process;
2. is enrolled in, or registered in an academic program of the College, including classes for credit, noncredit classes, fee-based training classes, and programs including but not limited to the Employee Training Institute, Community Education, free workshops where teaching and/or training occurs, and/or;
3. has completed the immediately preceding term and is eligible for re-enrollment, including the recess periods between academic terms.

**5529.2 Grounds for Disciplinary Action**

A student may be disciplined for one or more of the following causes which must be College/District related and which may occur either on any District site or elsewhere off-site during a college-sponsored activity or event. This list is not intended to be exhaustive, but is an example of good and sufficient causes for disciplinary action.

A. Any theft, conversion, or damage or destruction of and/or to any property, real or personal, belonging to the College, a member of the College staff, a student, or a campus visitor.

B. Forgery, alteration or misuse of College documents, keys, records, or identification, or knowingly furnishing false information to a college.

C. Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and other forms of academic dishonesty, and/or facilitating academic dishonesty.

D. Violation of classroom rules including: the use of cell phones, pagers, other unauthorized devices, attendance and punctuality standards, decorum standards, safety standards, and other standards found in the course syllabus.

E. Physical or verbal abuse, including sexual assault, sexual harassment and stalking, or any threat of force or violence directed toward any member of the College or a campus visitor.

F. Manufacture, use, possession, distribution, or being under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, or other dangerous drugs on campus, or off campus at any College-sponsored event.

G. Unauthorized entry into, unauthorized use of, possession of, or misuse of, College property.

H. Disorderly, lewd, indecent, obscene or offensive conduct or language on College-owned or controlled property of at College-sponsored or supervised function.

I. Possession or use of any firearms, explosives, dangerous chemicals, or other potentially harmful implements or substances while on the College campus or at a College-sponsored function without prior authorization of the College President or designee.

J. Failure to identify oneself to or failure to comply with directions of College officials acting in performance of their duties including, but not limited to, the provisions of the Penal Code Sections 626.6 and 626.8.

K. Obstruction or disruption, on or off campus, of the College’s education process, administrative process, or other College function.

L. Violation of any order of the College President, notice of which has been given prior to such violation and which order is not inconsistent with any of the other provisions of this policy. This notice may be given by
publication in the College newspaper, Website, social network, or by posting on an official bulletin board designated for this purpose.

M. Soliciting or assisting another to undertake any act which would subject a student to expulsion, suspension, probation, or other discipline pursuant to this policy.

N. Abusive behavior directed toward, or hazing of, a member of the College community.

O. Any other cause not listed above which is identified as good cause by Education Code Sections 76032 and 76033.

P. Abuse of computing facilities or computer time, including but not limited to unauthorized entry into a file to use, read, or change the contents or any other purpose; unauthorized transfer of a file; unauthorized use of another individual's identification or password; use of computing facilities to interfere with the work of another student, faculty member, or College official; and/or use of computing facilities to interfere with a College computing system. For specifics refer to the College of the Canyons Acceptable Use Agreement.

Q. Committing any act or engaging in any behavior that threatens or endangers the health or safety of another individual on campus or at any college sponsored activity or event.

R. Willful misconduct that results in injury or death to a student or to College or District personnel or a campus visitor.

S. Unauthorized preparation, selling, giving, transfer, distribution, or publication, for any commercial purpose, of any contemporaneous recording of an academic presentation in a classroom or equivalent site of instruction, including but not limited to handwritten or typed written class notes, or any materials that are the intellectual property of a faculty member, except as permitted by any district policy or administrative procedure.

T. Gambling on College or District property.

U. Willful or persistent smoking in any area where smoking has been prohibited by law or by regulation of the College or District.

V. Failure to follow and comply with established guidelines and regulations of off-site entities while participating in college-sponsored, off-campus activities including, but not limited to, conferences, retreats, field trips, excursions, internships, externships, service-learning or volunteer placements, and athletic events.

W. Violation of College or District policies or of campus regulations including those concerning chartering and registration of student organizations, use of College or District facilities, or the time, place and manner of public expression.

X. Attempting to perform any actions that are cause for disciplinary action identified above.

**BP 5530 DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

5530.1 The following policies regulating student disciplinary actions are adopted for the purpose of providing a uniform method of disciplining students for misconduct, and assuring that all students are accorded fair and objective treatment. Every effort shall be made to make the student aware of these policies.

**Types of disciplinary Action (Sanctions)**

The following types of disciplinary action may be imposed, or imposed and suspended, by appropriate College authorities when a student is found in violation of College rules and regulations.

1. **Warning:** Notice to the student that continuation or repetition of specified misconduct may be cause for other disciplinary action.

2. **Restitution:** The student is required to make payment to the College, or to other persons, groups, or organizations for damages incurred as a result of a violation of this policy.

3. **Fine:** A fine, as established in the associated Administrative Procedures 5530, payable to the College, for violations of this policy. Failure to pay the specific fine by the established date will result in a Hold on the student’s records and ability to register, in any district program, for future terms.

4. **Official Reprimand:** A written reprimand is for violation of specified regulations or misconduct. It serves to place on record that a student’s conduct in a specific instance does not meet with the student’s expected performance at the College. A person receiving a reprimand is notified that continued conduct of the type described in the reprimand may result in additional action against the student. The student is further informed that records of reprimands are destroyed four years after the last entry has been made concerning disciplinary action against an individual student and that such records are not considered part of a student’s permanent record at the College.

5. **Disciplinary Probation:** Disciplinary probation is a status imposed by the College for a specific length of time during which the student must conform to College standards of conduct. Conditions restricting privileges and/or eligibility may be imposed. For example, students may be removed from all College organization offices and denied the privilege of participating in all College and student-sponsored activities, including public performances. Other conditions, such as community service and academic workshops, may be imposed. The term of disciplinary probation shall be not less than one college month nor longer than four (4) college years. Repetition during the probationary period of conduct resulting in disciplinary probation may be cause for suspension or other, more stringent, disciplinary action.

6. **Removal by Instructor:** An instructor may remove a student from his/her class, field trip, lab, or other educational program when the student has interfered with the instructional process. The duration will be for the day of the removal, at a minimum, and the next class meeting at the instructor’s discretion. The instructor shall immediately report the removal to the Office of Student Services for appropriate action.

7. **Disciplinary Suspension:** Disciplinary suspension consists of the temporary removal of the student from enrollment in the College for both academic, noncredit, fee-based training classes, and programs including, but not limited to, the Employee Training Institute, Community Education, free workshops and extracurricular purposes. A student may be suspended from...
one or more classes for the remainder of the school term; or from all classes and activities of the College for one or more terms. A suspended student is not to occupy any portion of the campus and is denied all College privileges including class attendance and privileges noted under “Disciplinary Probation.” Removal of a student suspended from one or more courses may be notated on the student's transcript as "W for withdrawal.

8. **Expulsion:** Expulsion consists of the permanent and unconditional removal of the student from the College and all its programs. Students may be expelled from the College only by action of the Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the CEO (Education Code 76030). Notation of the expulsion will be noted on the student's official transcript for an indefinite period of time. Appeal of this notation may be made to the CEO using the process established in Policy 5531.3(F) – Due Process.

9. **Interim Suspension:** Interim suspension consists of temporary removal of the student from the College for both academic and extra-curricular activities during the limited time necessary to complete an investigation and is not necessarily considered a disciplinary action. **Interim Suspension shall be:**

   a. Imposed by the CEO of the College, or designee, pending a hearing, only when such action is deemed to be necessary for the immediate safety and welfare of the students and staff members or for the protection of the District property;
   b. Limited to only that period of time necessary to assure that the purpose of interim suspension is accomplished;
   c. For not more than a maximum of ten (10) College days.

Students suspended on an interim basis shall be given an opportunity for a hearing within ten (10) days.

**The hearing will be held on the following issues:**

   a. the reliability of the information concerning the student's conduct,
   b. whether the conduct and surrounding circumstances reasonably indicate that the continued presence of the student on the campus poses a substantial threat to the student or to others, or to the stability and continuance of normal College functions. This hearing does not preclude the initiation of regular disciplinary action.

**BP 5531 DUE PROCESS - STUDENT DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

5531.1 Introduction

Students are members of both society and the academic community with attendant rights and responsibilities. Students are expected to comply with the general law as well as College policies. The procedures below apply to alleged misconduct of students on campus, or at official College events off campus.

The following procedures outlined in sections 531.2 and 531.5 represent steps that may be employed to reach a resolution in cases of alleged misconduct. The reader should note that each case is handled individually, and that while due process is always employed, some of the procedures outlined below may not be necessary in every case. Questions concerning these procedures should be addressed to the Office of the Dean of Students.

5531.2 Definition of Terms

Student: The term "student" means an individual who:

1. has submitted an application to the College and has engaged in the admissions process;
2. is enrolled in, or registered in an academic program of the College, including classes for credit, noncredit classes, fee based training classes, and programs including but not limited to the Employee Training Institute, Community Education, and free workshops where teaching and/or training occurs, and/or;
3. has completed the immediately preceding term and is eligible for re-enrollment, including the recess periods between academic terms.

Notice: Whenever this Policy requires giving notice to any student, mailing such notice, to the mailing address most recently provided by the student or, if undeliverable at that address, to the student's permanent address of record, shall constitute notice.

Days: For purposes of this Policy, the term "days" means normal business days and shall not include Saturdays, Sundays, or administrative holidays.

**Student Conduct Committee:** Student Conduct Committee: This committee consists of five members of the campus community who convene as needed to adjudicate cases of misconduct. See 531.4 for additional information.

5531.3 Due Process

A. **Referral of Cases:**

Any member of the campus community who has knowledge of alleged misconduct of students may bring the matter to the attention of the Dean of Student Services. The Dean may require a written statement relative to the alleged misconduct. The Dean of Student Services in consultation with the Academic Senate will develop specific procedures to address alleged violations of academic and/or classroom misconduct. Referrals to the Dean of Student Services Office shall be made within thirty days following the discovery of the alleged misconduct. The CEO may grant exceptions.

B. **Investigation and Notice to Student:**

Upon receiving notice of the alleged violation, the Dean of Student Services (or designee) may consider information acquired from a complainant and may augment that information through further investigation in order to determine if there is cause to believe that a violation may have occurred. In cases in which the Dean (or designee) determines that there is not cause to believe that a violation may have occurred, the Dean (or designee) may decide that the case will not be pursued further. If the allegation concerned academic and/or classroom misconduct, the Dean will contact the complainant to explain his or her reasoning. The complainant may appeal the decision to not pursue discipline, within 10 working days, to the Vice President of Instruction.
The Dean may refer the matter to other campus and/or community resources.

The Dean shall notify the accused student in writing of the following:

1. the nature of the alleged conduct in question, including a brief statement of the factual basis of the charges; the time, date, and place it is alleged to have occurred; and the campus regulations allegedly violated;

   a. Campus Restraining Order (CRO):
      In cases in which the Dean has a reasonable suspicion to believe that an alleged violation of Policy 5529.2(D) and/or 5529.2(M) occurred, the Dean may issue, in addition to the letter of notification, a Campus Restraining Order (CRO). The CRO shall prohibit named students from intentionally contacting, telephoning, or otherwise disturbing the peace of others specifically named for a specified period of time. A CRO shall not include a provision that terminates the accused student's status as a student, nor shall it be construed as a finding of culpability on the part of any student. Nevertheless, violation of a term or condition of such an Order may be regarded as actionable misconduct and may subject the student to disciplinary action without regard to the outcome of the case that occasioned the issuance of the CRO.

2. a copy of the student conduct procedures; and

3. that an interview with the Dean must be scheduled within seven (7) days for the purpose of an initial hearing. The student may waive the right to an initial hearing and request that the matter be referred directly to the Student Conduct Committee for a hearing.

C. Placement and Notice of Hold:

In the event that the student does not contact the Dean of Student Services Office within the seven (7) day period, or fails to keep any scheduled appointment, the Dean may then place a Hold on the student's records and notify the student that this action has been taken. Such Hold will be removed only when the student either appears at the Dean of Student Services Office for a scheduled interview, or requests in writing that the case be referred to the Student Conduct Committee for hearing.

D. Initial hearing with the Dean:

The Dean of Student Services (or designee) shall, at the initial hearing:

1. determine that the student has received a copy of these procedures;

2. discuss confidentiality; inform the student that the content of this and all subsequent communications with the Office regarding information not relevant to the case shall, insofar as allowed by law, be treated confidentially, unless such confidentiality is waived by the student; and that information relevant to the case may be divulged to those who have a legitimate educational interest;

3. describe to the student as completely as possible the allegation, and the College policies allegedly violated, hear the student's defense to such charges and;

4. provide the student with an opportunity to inspect all documents relevant to the case which are in the possession of the Dean at the time of the hearing, and all such documents arriving after the initial hearing but before disposition of the case by the Dean of Students;

5. provide the student with copies of the documents relevant to the case, at the student's request, and;

6. counsel the student regarding the campus discipline process as appropriate.

7. Student may be accompanied by any person(s) of their choice at the initial hearing.

E. Disposition by the Dean of Student Services:

After meeting with the student, the Dean (or designee) may take one of several actions:

1. Insufficient Evidence:
   If the Dean concludes that there is insufficient evidence to sustain a finding of culpability, he or she may decide not to refer the case to the Student Conduct Committee. The complainant may still attempt to resolve the matter through campus and/or community resources.

2. Informal Agreement of Resolution:
   In cases in which the Dean determines that an Informal Agreement of Resolution is appropriate, the accused student will be informed that this Resolution, while not a part of the student's permanent record, is binding. If the student fails to abide by the Informal Agreement of Resolution, such failure will be regarded as actionable misconduct, under District Policy 5529.2(K), and may subject the student to disciplinary action by the College.

   Each Informal Agreement of Resolution shall be regarded as binding within the College and may include:

   a. Direction by the Dean to the student to refrain from the behavior(s) described by the Dean and/or restrictions regarding contact with others involved in the case.

   b. Required participation by the student in educational programs and/or reconciliation processes, including mediation.

   c. Required participation by the student as an unpaid volunteer in activities that serve the College and/or community.

   d. Retention of the case file and the Informal Agreement of Resolution in the Dean of Student’s Office for two years from the date
appearing on the Agreement. During those two years, should the Dean have a reasonable suspicion to believe that the student has engaged in misconduct related in nature to the conduct which occasioned the Agreement, both cases may be subject of College disciplinary action.

3. Formal Disciplinary Action:
   a. If the student does not admit culpability, and if the Dean concludes that an Informal Agreement of Resolution is not appropriate, and that there is sufficient evidence such that a student Conduct Committee could find, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the student has violated College policy, the Dean shall refer the case to the Student Conduct Committee for a hearing.
   b. If the student does admit culpability, and if the Dean concludes that there is sufficient evidence to sustain a finding of culpability, the Dean may impose, or impose and suspend, one or more of the sanctions listed in Santa Clarita Community College District Policy 5530 (excluding expulsion); moreover, the imposition of any sanction may be effective retroactively. No sanction involving separation from the College (i.e., Suspension or Expulsion) shall become official until five (5) days from the date appearing on the letter confirming the Dean's disposition. Regardless of the action taken, the Dean shall confirm his or her disposition of the case in a written notice mailed to the student within seven (7) days of the action.

F. Appeal of the Sanction Imposed by the Dean:
   If the Dean imposes a sanction of Suspension or recommends Expulsion, the student may submit a written appeal of the imposed Suspension or Expulsion to the CEO within five (5) days of the date appearing on the Dean's written confirmation of his or her action. The imposition of a sanction of Suspension shall be withheld during such appeal. The CEO's review of such appeal shall be in accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 5531.5, The CEO, below. The CEO's decision is final.

5531.4 The Student Conduct Committee
A. The Student Conduct Committee shall provide a hearing for all cases referred to it under this Policy.
B. It is the intention of this Policy that hearings be set as soon as reasonably possible after referral to the Student Conduct Committee.
C. Hearings shall be held in accordance with generally accepted standards of procedural due process, including, but not limited to, the opportunity to present evidence in an orderly manner, and the right to examine and cross-examine witnesses. The student may be advised by any person of the student's choice, at the student's own expense; however, the student must represent him or herself. The Committee Chair may grant exceptions (for example pending criminal charges against the student). The Committee Chair shall rule on all questions of procedure. Evidence may be received of the sort upon which responsible persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of serious affairs, and is not restricted to evidence admissible under the strict rules of evidence of a court of law.

D. When the hearing involves an allegation of rape, or other forms of sexual assault, evidence of the complainant's past sexual history, including opinion evidence, reputation evidence, and evidence of specific instances of the complainant's sexual conduct, shall not be admissible by the accused student unless the Committee Chair makes a specific finding of relevance after an offer of proof by the accused student. Under no circumstances is past sexual history admissible to prove consent. The offer of proof must be made and resolved by the panel before the complainant testifies.
E. No inference shall be drawn from the silence of the accused. The standard of proof to be applied in these hearings is that of a preponderance of the evidence. Hearings shall be recorded and the student shall receive, upon request, a copy of the record without charge. The record may be an audio-tape recording of the hearing.
F. The hearing shall be closed to spectators unless the student specifically requests an open hearing.
G. The Committee Chair has the right to exclude spectators from the hearing room if deemed necessary for the quiet or secure conduct of the hearing. When the hearing involves an allegation of rape or other forms of sexual assault, the hearing shall be closed to spectators except for the following:
1. The complainant shall be entitled, for support, to have up to two persons of the complainant's choice accompany the complainant to the hearing. A support person may be called as witness, and the fact that he or she is to act as a witness shall not preclude that person's attendance throughout the entire hearing. If a support person is also a witness, the Committee Chair may require him or her to testify before the complainant. Neither of these persons shall be entitled to represent or defend the complainant. Similar rights shall be afforded the accused student.
2. The complainant shall have the right to be present during the entire hearing, notwithstanding the fact that the complainant is to be called as a witness.

H. Responsibility for Presentation of Cases:
1. At the hearing, the accused must represent him or herself (exceptions may be granted by the Committee Chair); however he or she may receive advice, from any person at the student's own expense. An advisor is not allowed to address the Committee directly and must conduct him or herself in an appropriate manner.
2. If the student wishes the Hearing Coordinator to direct communications concerning the case to his or her advisor, as well as to him or herself, he or
she must provide the Hearing Coordinator with such a request, including the name and address of his or her advisor, in writing.

3. The College's representative shall be the Dean of Students or the Dean's designee. The Dean may consult with Campus Attorneys.

I. Continuing Informal Resolution:

Until the Student Conduct Committee makes its report to the CEO, any agreement between the accused student and the Dean of Students as to the disposition of the matter shall bind all parties and terminate all proceedings.

J. Reports to the CEO:

Within fifteen (15) days after the conclusion of a hearing, the Committee Chair shall submit a report advising the CEO of:

1. the Committee's specific finding of fact;
2. whether, in the opinion of a majority of the Committee the student has violated one or more College policies; and
3. a recommendation of sanction, provided that prior to recommending any sanction, the Committee and accused student are briefed by the Dean of Students regarding sanctions imposed in similar cases, and any previous cases of misconduct by the student on file with the Dean of Student Services; and provided further that the Committee indicate the rationale for such recommendation.

The CEO may grant an extension of time for submission of the report for good cause shown and upon such terms as shall avoid undue prejudice to the student. Any member of the Committee may submit a minority report to the CEO.

K. A copy of all reports required to be submitted to the CEO by this Policy, including any minority reports, shall be sent to the accused student, the Dean of Student Services, and the complainant (if allowed by law), when transmitted to the CEO.

L. The accused student shall have seven (7) days from the date appearing on the Committee report in which to submit to the CEO any written argument supporting the student's position.

M. If an accused student does not meet with the Dean and/or does not appear at the hearing, or has withdrawn from the College while subject to pending disciplinary action, the case may proceed to disposition without the student's participation.

5531.5 THE CEO

A. Decision by the CEO:

The final decision regarding the case shall be made by the CEO except in cases which:

1. are resolved by the Dean of Students, and no written appeal is made by the student;
2. include a recommendation for expulsion.

B. Bases for Decision:

The CEO shall base his or her decision upon:

1. the report submitted by the Student Conduct Committee
2. counsel solicited from the Dean, regarding sanctions imposed in similar cases, and any previous cases of misconduct by the student on file with the Dean of Student Services Office.

C. Sanctions:

The CEO may decide to impose, or impose and suspend, one or more of the sanctions listed in Section 5530, with the exception of expulsion (discussed below). The CEO is not limited to those sanctions imposed by the Dean, or to those recommended by the Student Conduct Committee, even though such decision may result in a decrease of the student's penalty; moreover, the imposition of any sanction may be effective retroactively.

D. Recommendation for Expulsion:

Should the Dean, CEO, or CEO designee recommend a sanction of expulsion, the Santa Clarita Community College District Board of Trustees will meet in closed session, unless otherwise requested by the student, to affirm or alter the sanction. The Board is not limited to the recommended sanctions(s), and may impose an alternative sanction, even though such decision may result in a decrease of the student's penalty; moreover, the imposition of any sanction may be effective retroactively.

Whether the matter is considered at a closed session, or at a public meeting, the final action of the Board shall be taken at the next public meeting and the result of such action shall be public record of the District.

E. Discussion With Student:

If the CEO deems it necessary or desirable, he or she may meet with the student at any point to discuss the case. The student may be accompanied by any person of his or her choice at the student's own expense.

F. CEO:

Not later than twenty (20) days after the date appearing on the written appeal of the student; or the report of the Student Conduct Committee, if any, whichever is latest, written notification of the CEO's decision shall be delivered to:

1. the accused student;
2. the Chair of the Student Conduct Committee, if the Committee heard or reviewed the case and made a report to the CEO, and
3. the Dean of Student Services.

The CEO may also notify other parties of his or her decision. The CEO may direct the Dean of Student Services to notify others, if there is an institutional interest in doing so, and if such parties are authorized to receive such information under the "Santa Clarita Community College District Policy on the Disclosure of Information from Student Records."
MATRICULATION - STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Matriculation is a process that promotes access to the California Community Colleges and supports the efforts of students to succeed in their educational endeavors. The goals of matriculation are to ensure that all students complete their college courses, persist to the next academic term, and achieve their educational objectives.

College of the Canyons provides students except as exempted pursuant to Title 5, section 55532, with all of the following matriculation services:

A. The processing of applications for admission;
B. Orientation and pre-orientation services designed to provide non-exempt students and potential students, on a timely basis, with information concerning college procedures and course scheduling, academic expectations, financial assistance, and any other matters the college or district finds appropriate;
C. Assessment for all non-exempt students pursuant to Title 5, section 55524;
D. Counseling or advisement for non-exempt students pursuant to Title 5, section 55523;
E. Assistance in developing a student educational plan pursuant to Title 5, section 55525, which identifies the student's educational objectives and the courses, services, and programs to be used to achieve them;
F. Post enrollment evaluation, pursuant to Title 5, section 55526, of each student's progress; and
G. Referral of students to:
   1. Support services which may be available, including, but not limited to, counseling, financial aid, health services, campus employment placement services, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services, campus child care services, tutorial services and Disabled Students Programs and Services; and
   2. Specialized curriculum offerings including but not limited to, pre-collegiate basic skills courses and programs in English as a Second Language.

It is the responsibility of each non-exempt student under the provisions of Title 5, section 55530 and the Matriculation Plan to:

a. Express at least a broad educational intent upon admission and to declare a specific educational objective no later than the term after which the student completes 15 semester units of degree applicable credit coursework. Once the student has declared the specific educational goal, the College will provide the student with an opportunity to develop a Student Educational Plan (SEP) pursuant to Title 5, section 55525.
b. Participate in counseling or advisement.
c. Diligently attend class and complete assigned coursework.
d. Complete courses and maintain progress towards an educational goal in accordance with the College's standards for probation and dismissal.

If the student fails to fulfill the responsibilities listed above, fails to cooperate in the development of an SEP or fails to abide by the terms of his/her SEP, the College may, subject to the requirements of Title 5, Chapter 5, Article 4, suspend or terminate the provision of services authorized and required in this policy. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to permit the College to suspend or terminate any service to which a student is entitled under any other provision of law.

ORIENTATION

Orientation is a process which acquaints students with college programs, services, facilities and grounds, academic expectations, and institutional procedures.

All new students entering College of the Canyons will be required to participate in the Orientation component of the Matriculation Program unless exempted from this requirement according to the criteria listed below.

Exemptions from Orientation:

A. Students who have completed an associate degree or higher at an accredited institution.
B. Students who declare they are taking less than six units and those units are career technical education or personal enrichment courses.

The College will make reasonable efforts to ensure that all exempt students are provided the opportunity to participate in orientation.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is the process that includes the administration of assessment instruments to determine student competency in computational and language skills, assisting students in identifying their aptitudes, interests and educational objectives, evaluating students’ study and learning skills, and evaluating other factors that may be pertinent to their success in meeting their educational objectives.

All new students entering College of the Canyons will be required to participate in the assessment component of the Matriculation program unless exempted from this requirement according to the criteria listed below.

Exemptions from assessment

A. Students who have completed an associate degree or higher at an accredited institution.
B. Students who declare they are taking less than six units and those units are vocational or personal enrichment courses.
C. Students who present recent test scores from a U.S. community college that uses the same test vendor, and subject testing areas as College of the Canyons. Tests must have been taken within the last two years. The test scores will be filtered through the College of the Canyons multiple measures weighting formula and placement will be based on our cut scores.
D. Student transferring from other accredited post-secondary institutions with course credit for degree appropriate English, ESL, or mathematics. (Exempt from placement testing only.)
The College will make reasonable efforts to ensure that all exempt students are provided the opportunity to participate in the assessment component.

COUNSELING
Counseling/Advisement in this sense is a process in which a student is assisted in interpreting assessment results, reviewing past academic performance, identifying educational objectives, and designing a plan to meet those objectives.

Counseling/Advisement shall be available to all students including those students entering the College for the first time. Counseling/Advisement is required of all new students unless exempted according to the criteria listed below.

Exemptions from Counseling/Advisement:
A. Students who have completed an associate degree or higher at an accredited institution.
B. Students who declare they are taking less than six units and those units are career technical education or personal enrichment courses.

The College will make reasonable efforts to ensure that all new and continuing exempt students are provided the opportunity to have counseling and/or advisement.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT RECORDS AND ACCESS TO RECORDS
(Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
College of the Canyons maintains student records to ensure the privacy of all such records in accordance with statutes set forth in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. By law, the college shall not permit access to or release of records or information to outside agencies without an educational interest unless the College obtains the student’s written permission.

This statute applies regardless of the student’s age. Once a student under the age of 18 is admitted, they are considered a college student and this law applies to their records.

The one area of student records that can be released is called “Directory Information.” Directory information is defined as: student’s name, current enrollment status, dates of attendance, major field of study, degrees and awards received, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, and the most recent public or private school attended by the student. Directory information will only be blocked from release by written request of the student. Students may file a written release to block such information in the Admissions & Records office.

The College, at its discretion, may limit or deny the release of student directory information to public or private persons or organizations based on the best interests of the students.

In accordance with the privacy act, the College also has the right to release students’ records to institutions and agencies on the basis of educational interest. These are examples of situations where records would be released on the basis of educational interest: college officials, state and federal educational and auditing officers, requests in connection with the application for or receipt of financial aid, subpoenas, recovery services and court orders.

Any student has the right to inspect and review his or her student records, within five days of making an official request. The student may challenge the accuracy of the record or the appropriateness of its retention. Records maintained under this statute include, but are not limited to information regarding: college admission, registration, academic history, official transcripts from other schools and colleges, career, student benefits or services, extracurricular activities, counseling and guidance, discipline or matters related to student conduct and any other information the college feels appropriate. All official transcripts from other schools and colleges become property of the College upon receipt and photocopies are not released.

The College makes a reasonable charge for furnishing copies of any student record, except for the normal College procedures that apply to transcript requests. Particular questions with respect to students’ rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 should be directed to the Director of Admissions & Records.

BP 3900 SMOKING/TOBACCO USAGE IN AND ON CAMPUS FACILITIES
In the interest of promoting health and well being of district students, staff and visitors and maintaining the safety of district facilities, it shall be the policy of the district to limit or prohibit smoking/tobacco usage in and on campus facilities.

Administrative Procedure
AP 3900 Smoking/Tobacco Usage In and On Campus Facilities
A. Student, employee, and visitor health is a primary concern of the Santa Clarita Community College District. Because of the clear evidence of the harmful nature of smoke inhalation and air contamination, the district, in accordance with state law, bans smoking/tobacco usage within all campus buildings and in any outdoor area except in designated smoking areas. This policy includes all college-leased and college-occupied buildings. In addition, smoking/tobacco usage shall be prohibited at events held on campus initiated by internal district users or external agencies as defined by the Civic Center Act. Further, smoking/tobacco usage is banned in the swimming pool area, in the Cougar Stadium, and in all college vehicles.
B. Smoking shall be allowed in a designated area near Cougar Stadium. In addition, smoking is allowed in perimeter parking lots away from the central campus.
C. Smoking is not permitted in the parking area directly adjacent to Boykin Hall and the lot adjacent to the Early Childhood Education Center
D. Following recommendations from the Health and Welfare Committee, other smoking areas may be designated by the chief executive officer of the district.
E. All other tobacco usage in and on district facilities is expressly prohibited.
F. Violators shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

G. Questions regarding this policy shall be directed to the chief executive officer of the district or his/her designee. Any review and decision by the chief executive officer of the district or his/her designee shall be deemed to be final.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION INFORMATION

As students and employees you should be aware that illicit drug use and alcohol abuse may lead to financial, health, psychological, work and school and legal problems. College of the Canyons presents these facts to make you aware of the dangers of abuse of illicit drugs and alcohol.

HEALTH RISKS

The following are commonly abused drugs and their associated health risks:

Alcohol
- Brain, heart, liver disease
- Fetal alcohol syndrome
- Some forms of cancer
- Addiction
- Reduced life expectancy
- Death from severe overdoses causing respiratory and heart shutdown

Alcohol is involved in two-thirds of violent behavior, one-half of all injuries, one-third of all emotional difficulties and one-third of all academic problems on college campuses. The use of alcohol is detrimental to athletic and academic skills, and impairs concentration, judgment and body coordination.

Marijuana
- Breast enlargement in men
- Increased appetite
- Loss of motivation and purpose
- Heavy psychological dependence
- Loss of sex drive and reduced fertility
- May cause heart and lung damage
- Insomnia for up to 6 months after quit using

Cocaine
- Excitability and restlessness
- False feeling of self-confidence
- Painful nose bleeds and nasal erosion
- Quick addiction
- Depression
- Easy overdose leading to heart failure
- Crack babies
- Behavior leading to exposure to the AIDS virus and syphilis

Stimulants
- Loss of appetite
- Insomnia
- High distractibility
- Anxiety and severe depression
- Suicidal tendencies, anger, violence, and psychotic or criminal behavior

In addition to the above, opiates, depressants, deliriant, hallucinogens and tobacco have significant health risks. Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of disease and premature death in the United States. Tobacco use causes more deaths each year than alcohol use, car crashes, suicide, AIDS, homicide, and illegal drug use combined. Save your health and your money: schedule a free appointment with the tobacco cessation counselor at the Student Health and Wellness Center (661)362-3259.

Therapeutic drugs, when used for medical treatment, can have beneficial and predictable results. Drugs used for non-medical reasons can cause serious physical and psychological problems.

APPLICABLE LEGAL SANCTIONS

Laws and regulations forbidding substance abuse include the Federal Controlled Standards Act, the California State Business and Professional Code, and the California State Penal Code.

Legal sanctions may be taken against you if you are:
- Driving under the influence of any drug,
- In possession of illegal drugs or controlled substances,
- Using a false I.D. to obtain alcohol,
- Obtaining or providing alcohol for people under legal age,
- Giving prescription drugs to others,
- Selling any drug or controlled substance.

Santa Clarita Community College District Board Policy

In accordance with Public Law 101-226 DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES ACT AMENDMENT OF 1989, the Board of Trustees of Santa Clarita Community College District prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on college property and as part of any college-sponsored or sanctioned activity.

Any student or employee in violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, expulsion from college or termination from employment and referral for prosecution for violations of the standard of conduct.

The decision to take disciplinary action in any such instance rests with the Board of Trustees after consideration of the recommendation of the chancellor of the college.
COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS RESOURCES
VALENCE CAMPUS
Student Health and Wellness Center
(661) 362-3259

CANYON COUNTRY CAMPUS
Student Health and Wellness Center
(661) 362-3812

OFF-CAMPUS RESOURCES
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Santa Clarita
20655 Soledad Canyon Road, #16
Canyon Country, CA 91351
(661) 299-2888

National Alcohol Hotline
800-ALCOHOL

Cocaine Anonymous (CA)
(818) 760-8402

Narcotics Anonymous (NA)
(661) 299-5599

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)
(661) 250-9922

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information
(800) 487-4889

Personal health insurance policies may have their own treatment or referral services.

“Reflection at Mentry”. From 2013 COC Student Calendar. Photographer: Brita Murphy