2013-2014
A CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ACCREDITED BY
The Western Association of Schools and Colleges
Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges
10 Commercial Blvd, Ste 204
Novato, CA 94949
(415) 506.0234
Fax (415) 506.0238

APPROVED BY
The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges
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The training of U.S. veterans and other eligible persons

COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS
Valencia Campus
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355
(661) 259-7800
www.canyons.edu

COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS
Canyon Country Campus
17200 Sierra Highway
Santa Clarita, CA 91351
(661) 362-3800
www.canyoncountrycampus.com

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.
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.

Dd. 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 typeset 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.

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 no 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 noted 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 notification 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 concerns 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;

2. discuss confidentiality; inform the student that the Dean of Student Services (or designee) shall, or requests in writing that the case be referred to the Dean of Student Services Office for a scheduled interview, only when the student either appears at 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 a hearing.

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

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

5. 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.

In the cases of alleged violations of classroom and/or academic misconduct the Dean will notify the complainant of this outcome (if allowed by law). The complainant may appeal this decision, within ten working days, to the Vice President of Instruction.

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 without regard to the outcome of the case that occasioned the issuance of the 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.

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

Instruction.

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.

In the cases of alleged violations of classroom and/or academic misconduct the Dean will notify the complainant of this outcome (if allowed by law). The complainant may appeal this decision, within ten working days, to the Vice President of Instruction.

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.
   a. 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.”