

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Catalog content under this Main Heading is supplemented by material available in the Southwest Junior College *Student Handbook*.

Student Conduct

Definitions to be used in this catalog shall be as follows:

1. "Vice-President of Student Services" shall mean an administrator bearing that title, or the officer or officers directly responsible for student affairs in the college District.
2. A "student" shall mean one who is currently enrolled in the college District. These policies and regulations shall also apply to any prospective or former student who has been accepted for admission or readmission to any component institution while he or she is on the campus of any component institution.
3. The "campus" of the college District is defined as all real property over which the college District has possession and control.

Responsibility

Each student shall be charged with notice and knowledge of the contents and provisions of the college Director's rules and regulations concerning student conduct. All students shall obey the law, show respect for properly constituted authority, and observe correct standards of conduct. In addition to activities prohibited by law, the following types of behavior shall be prohibited:

1. Gambling and dishonesty.
2. The illegal use, possession, and/or sale of a drug or narcotic, as those terms are defined by the Texas Controlled Substances Act, on campus.
3. Scholastic dishonesty shall constitute a violation of these rules and regulations and is punishable as prescribed by Board policies. Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

"Cheating on a test" shall include:

- a. Copying from another student's test paper.
- b. Using test materials not authorized by the person administering the test.
- c. Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test without permission from the test administrator.
- d. Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, or soliciting, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
- e. The unauthorized transporting or removal, in whole or in part, of the contents of the unadministered test.
- f. Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for one's self, to take a test.
- g. Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.

"Plagiarism" shall be defined as the appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work.

"Collusion" shall be defined as the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements.

4. A student who owes a debt to the college District or who writes an "insufficient funds" check to the College District may be denied admission or readmission to the college District until the debt is paid or the check redeemed.

5. Violations of the Penal Statutes of Texas or of the United States occurring on College District property or in connection with College District-sponsored activities may also constitute violations of the College District's rules and regulations when such violations affect the educational process and goals of the College District.
6. Possession or use of firearms on College District-controlled property except for educational purposes that have the prior approval of the appropriate Vice-President.
7. Interference with teaching, research, administration, or the College District's subsidiary responsibilities through "disorderly conduct" or "disruptive behavior."
8. Use of alcoholic or intoxicating beverages and use of drugs on campus not prescribed by a physician.
9. Hazing with or without the consent of a student; a violation of that prohibition renders both the person inflicting the hazing and the person submitting to the hazing subject to appropriate discipline. Initiations by organizations may include no feature that is dangerous, harmful, or degrading to the student; a violation of this prohibition renders the organization subject to appropriate discipline.
10. Endangering the health or safety of members of the College District community or visitors to the campus.
11. Damaging or destroying College District property.

Any student violating a Conduct policy shall be subject to discipline, including suspension.

Sexual Assault

Southwest Texas Junior College reaffirms the principle that students, faculty, and staff have a right to be free from any form of sexual offense. Sexual offenses are unlawful. They will not be tolerated.

Sexual assaults include rape, sexual battery, corruption of a minor, gross sexual imposition and public indecency.

Any student or employee who believes a sexual offense has occurred is strongly encouraged to report the matter promptly and to preserve any evidence intact.

Resident students should also report any sexual offenses to the most readily available hall director or resident assistant.

Complaints involving sexual abuse will be reported to the police who will take action pursuant to civil law. Victims should contact the police regardless of whether they intend to press charges. It is important that reporting the incident does not obligate the victims to press charges. Going to the hospital does not mean that the victim will have to press charges.

Victims should consider seeking support from a relative, resident assistant, good friend or counselor.

Complaints of sexual offense will be responded to promptly and equitably. The right to confidentiality of all members of the college community will be respected in so far as possible. Retaliation against individuals bringing complaints of sexual assault is specifically prohibited.

A victim who wishes to file an informal or formal complaint of sexual assault against a student should notify the Vice-President of Student Services, who will conduct the investigation and any hearing.

Possible sanctions for students found guilty of sexual offenses include those cited in the sanctions portion of the student conduct code in the student handbook.