



Mountain Empire Community College Publication Change Form

Please fill in and print this page to request changes to MECC's publications. This process provides for MECC's publications on the college's web site to be maintained with up-to-date information, unlike the printed copies that are updated once a year.

Change Applies to: Catalog Student Handbook Other _____

Type of Change: Update Deletion Addendum

Does the change need to be applied to the website? Yes No

If yes, which web page(s) requires the change? _____

Current Page Number: 48 -or- Proposed Page Number: _____

Effective Date: _____

Brief Description of Change:

Updates to the Student Conduct Section of Handbook under: MECC Statements Regarding Student Conduct. Please add the highlighted areas and remove the strikethroughs.

Person Submitting Change:

Lelia Bradshaw

Name (print)

Lelia Bradshaw
Signature

Vice President of Academic Affairs and Workforce Solutions:

[Signature]
Signature

3/10/2020
Date

Send this form and attachments to the office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Workforce Solutions.

Student Conduct

Student Rights and Responsibilities

The Virginia Community College System guarantees to students the privilege of exercising their rights of citizenship under the Constitution of the United States without fear of prejudice. Special care is taken to ensure due process and to spell out defined routes of appeal when students feel their rights have been violated.

Each student is considered a responsible adult, and it is assumed that students shall maintain standards of conduct appropriate to membership in the college community. Emphasis is placed on standards of student conduct rather than on limits or restrictions of students. Students should be aware of the Colleges' guidelines and regulations governing student conduct that are contained herein. The College reserves the right to take disciplinary action compatible with its own best interests when it is clearly necessary.

The State Board for Community College's Statements Regarding Student Conduct

The State Board for Community Colleges has issued the following statements regarding student conduct for all students in the Virginia Community College System:

- Each individual is considered a responsible adult, and it is assumed that men and women of college age will maintain standards of conduct appropriate to membership in the College community.
- Emphasis is placed on standards of conduct rather than on limits or restrictions of students. Guidelines and regulations governing student conduct usually are developed by representatives of the students, faculty, counseling staff, and administration. The College refrains from imposing a rigid code of discipline but reserves the right to take disciplinary action compatible with its own best interest when necessary.
- Failure to meet standards of conduct acceptable to the College may result in one of the following sanctions: admonition, warning, censure, disciplinary probation, restitution, suspension or expulsion. A disciplinary probation period, unless otherwise specified, is the duration of one (1) semester. A student who is dismissed must reapply to the College and will normally be required to appear before the Student Affairs Committee before admission can be granted.
- The Virginia Community College System guarantees to each student the privilege of exercising his/her rights of citizenship under the Constitution of the United States without fear of prejudice. Special care is taken to assure due process and spell out defined routes of appeal when a student feels his/her rights have been violated.
- Basically, students of the community colleges are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen, both within the College and elsewhere. For student conduct which tends to discredit or injure the College, the Chancellor is authorized by the State Board of Community Colleges to impose such penalty as he/she may deem appropriate, including expulsion from the College. This authority has been delegated by the Chancellor to the administration of each community college.

MECC Statements Regarding Student Conduct

Generally, institutional discipline shall be limited to conduct which adversely affects the College community's pursuit of its educational objectives. While all forms of misconduct cannot possibly be enumerated here, the following misconduct is subject to disciplinary action:

- All forms of dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, knowingly furnishing false information to the institution, forgery and alteration or use of institutional documents or items of identification with intent to defraud.
- Disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, educational processes, or other College activities.
- ~~Physical or verbal abuse of any person on College premises or at College-sponsored or supervised functions.~~
- Any of the following actions to individuals on College premises or at College-sponsored or supervised functions:
 - Violent Acts
 - Bullying
 - Abuse, or threat of abuse – including, but not limited to, physical, psychological, and/or verbal
- Use of alcoholic beverages on campus, or at any college function, including the purchase, consumption, possession, or sale of such items except where specifically authorized within the regulations of the College.
- Theft, vandalism, destruction, or unauthorized use or movement of College property or personal property of other students, employees, or visitors. ~~of or damage to the College's property or an institutional member's property on campus.~~
- ~~Threatening to harm an individual/individuals or College property~~
- Failure to comply with directions of College officials acting in the performance of their duties.
- ~~Possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs on campus.~~
- Possession, selling, using, manufacturing, or otherwise distributing illegal substances, including drugs or alcohol while on campus, attending a College sponsored off campus event, or while serving as a representative of the College at off campus meetings.
- Littering, defacing, destroying, or damaging property of the College or property under its jurisdiction or removing or using such property without proper authorization.
- Prohibited Conduct as defined by the *Sex Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policy*, including but not limited to: sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. (Title IX Coordinator oversees cases involving Prohibited Conduct; full policy available at [\(insert hyperlink\)](#)).
- Violation of published institutional regulations, including those relating to entry and use of institutional facilities, and any other regulations that may be enacted.
- Conduct that is unbecoming, disorderly, or that reflects negatively on the College community, including but not limited to acts that are lewd, indecent, or obscene.
- Violations of Federal, State, local laws.
- Any type of sexual harassment.

In developing responsible student behavior, student conduct proceedings play a role secondary to personal example, guidance, and admonition. Educational institutions, however, have a responsibility to protect their educational purpose through the enactment of standards of student scholarship and conduct and through the regulation of the use of institutional facilities. In exceptional circumstances, where preferred means fail to resolve problems of student conduct, designated procedural safeguards will be observed to protect the student from unfair disciplinary procedures involving serious penalties.