



NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE COLLEGE POLICIES



Persons With Disabilities

(Excerpted from the Board of trustees' Policy, 2.1.6, adopted November 20, 1989)

The Board of Trustees of Community-Technical Colleges and all of the colleges under its jurisdiction are committed to the goal of achieving equal educational opportunity and full participation for people with disabilities in the Community Colleges. To that end, this statement of policy is put forth to reaffirm our commitment to ensure that no qualified person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity on a Community College campus or in the system office of the Board of Trustees.

The board recognizes that a physical or functional impairment is a disability only to the extent that it contributes to cutting the person off from some valued experience, activity, or role. Higher education is therefore especially important to people with disabilities, since it aims to increase every student's access to valued experiences, activities, and roles. Improving access for students and employees means removing existing barriers that are physical, programmatic, and attitudinal; it also means taking care not to erect new barriers along the way.

The efforts of the Community Colleges to accommodate people with disabilities should be measured against the goals of full participation and integration. Services and programs best promote full participation and integration of people with disabilities when they complement and support, but do not duplicate, the regular services and programs of the college.

Achieving the goal of full participation and integration of people with disabilities requires cooperative efforts within and among higher education. The Board of Trustees will work with the board of governors to achieve a higher level of services and appropriate delivery methods at all Connecticut Community Colleges.

This statement is intended to reaffirm the board's commitment to affirmative action and equal opportunity for all people and in no way to replace the equal opportunity policy statement.

✓ Policy on Aids and Other Communicable Diseases

(Excerpted from the Board of Trustees' Policy, 2.10, adopted February 21, 1989)

The Community College system reaffirms its commitment to provide a safe and healthy educational environment, safeguard the rights of individuals, and comply with state and federal antidiscrimination laws and regulations. Sound and compassionate legal, ethical, moral and educational principles require that students and employees with AIDS, HIV infection, and other communicable diseases be accorded the same rights and assume the same responsibilities as all other members of the Community College community. It is recognized that the best method of allaying fears and promoting understanding is education: the dissemination of information based on fact and current scientific knowledge.

1. People with AIDS and other communicable diseases shall be accorded the same rights as all other students and employees. State and federal laws and regulations prohibit discrimination against and harassment of individuals solely because of disability. No individual shall be discriminated against in any college programs, services, or employment solely because of his or her status as AIDS- or HIV-infected or having any other communicable disease.

2. Each college shall provide information and educational programs and activities concerning AIDS and other communicable diseases for students and employees. Such information and programs shall rely on the



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most current knowledge about such diseases and shall focus on how such diseases are and are not transmitted, how they can be prevented, and the rights of persons with such diseases.

3. Each college president shall designate an individual responsible for coordination, delivery, and evaluation of the college AIDS education program. A committee representative of the college community should be involved in formulating educational and information activities.

4. Restrictions shall not be placed on admission, programs, services, or employment offered to an individual on the basis of a diagnosis of AIDS, HIV infection, or other communicable disease, except in individual cases when it has been medically determined that there is risk of infection or danger to others or in programs from which individuals with specific communicable diseases are excluded by law or regulation.

5. Colleges shall not require testing of students or employees for AIDS, HIV infection, or other communicable diseases for participation in employment, programs, or services of the college, except as required by law or regulation. Where possible, colleges shall maintain a listing of local referral sources for such testing and shall publish such listing with other educational information.

6. All student or employee information related to inquiries, testing, and disclosure of AIDS, HIV, or other infection status shall be treated confidentially as all other health records. All reasonable steps shall be taken to protect the identity of an individual with AIDS.

7. Students and employees involved in the direct delivery of health care services and those who might otherwise come in contact with blood and other body fluids (such as in science laboratories or allied health practice) shall at all times follow the guidelines regarding precautions to be taken in the handling of such fluids disseminated by the Department of Health Services (January 1987, provided as Appendix A) or other approved guidelines.

8. Violations of any part of this policy shall be dealt with under the appropriate disciplinary procedures for students or employees.

9. This policy shall be published in all college catalogs and student handbooks and shall be made available to all employees.

All Community College employees are further subject to the June 3, 1988 "AIDS Policy for State Personnel" and the January 1987 "AIDS Guidelines for State Personnel."



✓ Policy Against Sexual Harassment

What is Sexual Harassment?: Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which is illegal under state and federal law and is also prohibited by the Board of Trustees' Nondiscrimination Policy. The Board's policy recognizes that sexual harassment undermines the integrity of employer-employee and student-faculty-staff relationships and interferes with the right of all members of the College community to work and learn in an environment free from harassment. Such conduct will not be tolerated.



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Sexual harassment may be described as: Any unwelcome sexual advance or request for sexual favors, or any conduct of a sexual nature when (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or education, (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment or academic decisions affecting the individual, or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic or work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive employment or educational environment.

Sexual harassment may be verbal, visual or physical. It may be overt or implicit and may, but need not, have tangible adverse effects on the victim's employment or learning experience.

Examples of conduct which may constitute sexual harassment include but are not limited to:

- * sexual flirtation, touching, advances or propositions
- * verbal abuse of a sexual nature
- * pressure to engage in sexual activity
- * graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's dress or appearance
- * use of sexually degrading words to describe an individual
- * display of sexually suggestive objects, pictures or photographs
- * sexual jokes
- * stereotypic comments based upon gender
- * threats, demands or suggestions that retention of one's employment or educational status is contingent upon toleration of or acquiescence in sexual advances.

The perpetrator of sexual harassment, like the victim of such conduct, may be a man or a woman. Sexual harassment may involve individuals of the same or opposite sex and, in the College environment, may involve an employee and a student, an employee and another employee or a student and another student. Harassment in any of these relationships is a violation of the Board's policy.

Because of the power relationship between faculty and student, and between supervisor and subordinate employee, freedom of choice may be compromised in such relationships. Accordingly, this policy holds that where a faculty member or professional staff member has responsibility for a student through teaching, advising, supervision or other obligation, romantic or sexual liaisons between such persons shall be deemed a violation of this policy. Romantic or sexual liaisons between supervisors and subordinate employees, while not prohibited, are strongly discouraged.

It should be noted, additionally, that retaliation against a person for complaining or being associated in any way with the resolution of a complaint of sexual harassment also violates Board policy.

What To Do If You Are The Victim of Sexual Harassment: When an employee or student feels that he or she has been the victim of sexual harassment, he or she should report such incident(s) to a College official.

- * Employees may report incidents of sexual harassment to the Dean of the area of the College in which the individual is involved, the College Affirmative Action Officer, or another College official who has been designated by the President as a recipient of such complaints.
- * Students may report incidents of sexual harassment to the Dean of Students or to such other College official as the President may have designated. Nothing shall prevent students from speaking to a college counselor about their concerns. However, such communication is not a substitute for filing a complaint of sexual harassment with an appropriate College designee.



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- * A claim that an employee of a third party contractor has engaged in sexual harassment on College premises or in connection with the performance of the third party contract should be reported immediately either to the President or to another appropriate College official as set forth in this document. The President will ensure that appropriate follow-up action is taken.

Depending on the nature of the complaint and the desires of the complainant, the College official to whom the complaint has been made may attempt to resolve the complaint informally. Any informal resolution of a complaint must be approved by the College President. No person shall be forced to pursue informal avenues of resolution before filing a formal complaint of sexual harassment.

If informal resolution is not possible or appropriate, a written complaint should be filed in accordance with the existing Affirmative Action Grievance Procedure for Employees (see Board Policy 2.1.3) or Student Grievance Procedure for students (see Board Policy 5.2.2).

- * For employees, a written complaint should be filed within fifteen (15) calendar days of the alleged harassment. This time frame may be extended by up to fifteen (15) additional calendar days if efforts at informal resolution have been made.
- * For students, a written complaint should be filed within thirty (30) days of the date the grievant knew or should have known of the alleged harassment. However, a delay in filing a formal complaint will not be reason for refusing to investigate such complaints. Although the ability to investigate may be compromised by delay, a written complaint will be treated in the manner prescribed by this policy if filed within 180 days of the date the student knew or should have known of the alleged harassment.

When a formal complaint of sexual harassment is received, the College will investigate it. The rights of all persons involved in the investigation shall be respected and every effort will be made to protect the confidentiality of both the alleged victim and the alleged harasser. Toward this end, only persons with a need to know shall be made privy to the complaint. However, complete anonymity cannot be assured, given the College's obligation under law to investigate and take appropriate action in all cases of sexual harassment.

All complaints of sexual harassment shall be taken seriously. It is expected that complaints will be made in good faith, however. Frivolous or vexatious complaints can cause irremediable damage to the reputation of an accused person, even though he or she is subsequently vindicated. Therefore, any person who files a false complaint of sexual harassment shall himself or herself be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, if an employee, or expulsion, if a student.

In addition to invoking the available grievance procedure, an employee who believes he or she has been sexually harassed may file a complaint with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 21 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106 and/or with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, One Congress Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, within 180 days of the date when the harassment occurred.

A student who believes he or she has been sexually harassed may, in addition to the available grievance procedure, file a complaint with the federal Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education (Region 1), John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse, Room 222, Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109.



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Publication of Sexual Harassment Policy: This document shall be distributed to all members of the College community. Notice of the Board's policy against sexual harassment also shall be given to any independent contractor with whom a College has a business relationship, as a mandatory part of that contract.

Training: Training in the implementation of the Board's policy against sexual harassment and in sexual harassment prevention shall be provided for all supervisory employees, in accordance with the provisions of State law. Attendance at such training sessions shall be mandatory. In addition, awareness and sensitivity training for all employees and students is strongly encouraged.



Policy on Racism & Acts of Intolerance

(Excerpted from the Board of Trustees' Policy, Section 2.1.5. Adopted February 26, 1990)

The community colleges have long been committed to providing educational opportunities to all who seek and can benefit from them, as evidenced in the mission statements and policies concerning student rights, affirmative action, and equal opportunity. The board and the colleges recognize that an important part of providing opportunity is creating a welcoming environment in which all people are able to work and study together, regardless of their differentness. At the same time, colleges and universities have traditionally been at the cutting edge of protection of our most cherished freedoms, most notably freedom of speech and non-violent action, which protect even unpopular or divisive ideas and perspectives.

Such constitutionally-protected expression can contribute to an unwelcoming and even offensive social and educational environment for some individuals in the college community, particularly when it concerns race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, or ethnicity, and the first amendment does not preclude colleges from taking affirmative steps to sensitize the college community to the effects of creating such a negative environment. Therefore, the community colleges recognize that they have an obligation not only to punish proscribed actions, but also to provide programs which promote pluralism and diversity and encourage the college community to respect and appreciate the value and dignity of every person and his or her right to an atmosphere not only free of harassment, hostility, and violence but supportive of individual academic, personal, social, and professional growth.

Acts of racism or harassment directed against individuals or specific groups of individuals will not be tolerated and will be dealt with under the employee affirmative action grievance procedures and the student grievance and disciplinary procedures.

Each college will provide a comprehensive educational program designed to foster understanding of differentness and the value of cultural diversity. This will include plans to (1) promote pluralism, (2) educate the college community about appropriate and inappropriate behaviors to increase sensitivity and encourage acceptance, and (3) widely disseminate this policy statement to the entire college community.



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Policy on Violence Prevention & Response

(Excerpted from the Board of Trustees' Policy, Section 2.13, Adopted December 20, 1999)

On August 4, 1999, Governor John G. Rowland signed Executive Order No. 16 instituting a “zero tolerance” Violence in the Workplace Prevention Policy for all state agency personnel, contractors, subcontractors and vendors. In accordance with this directive and in an effort to provide a safe environment for employees, students, visitors and guests while on the premises of the Community Colleges, the Board of Trustees of Community-Technical Colleges has adopted and expanded the application of the Governor’s policy. Executive Order No. 16 is attached to this Board policy and is fully incorporated herein.

For purposes of this policy, “violence” is defined as an overt act or threat of harm to a person or property, or any act that poses a substantial threat to the safety of any person or property. “Premises” is defined as any space owned or leased by the Community Colleges or any of its constituent units, including vehicles and any location where college or system business or activities are conducted. Conduct that may violate this policy includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Intimidating, harassing or threatening behaviors
- Physical abuse, including hitting, slapping, poking, kicking punching, grabbing, etc.
- Verbal abuse, including yelling, shouting, use of sexually, racially or ethnically charged epithets, etc.
- Vandalism
- Carrying or possessing weapons or dangerous instruments of any kind on Community College premises, unless properly authorized
- Using such weapons

- Any other act that a reasonable person would consider to constitute a threat of violence, including oral or written statements, gestures or expressions that communicate a direct or indirect threat of physical harm

Reporting Threats or Violent Act

A person who feels that he or she has been subjected to threats or acts of violence as defined herein, or a person who witnesses such threats or acts, must report the incident to a supervisor, manager or to the Human Resources office.

Supervisors and managers who receive such reports shall seek advice from the Human Resources office regarding investigating the incident and initiating appropriate action. **Serious incidents or serious threats of imminent danger to the safety of persons or property should immediately be reported to proper law enforcement authorities and/or to the campus Public Safety/Security Department.**

Any individual who has applied for or obtained a protective or restraining order which lists the premises of the Community Colleges as protected areas, must provide to the Human Resources office a copy of the petition and declaration used to seek the order, a copy of any temporary protective or restraining order that is granted, and a copy of any protective or restraining order that is made permanent. The sensitivity of the information requested is understood and colleges are responsible for treating such information in a manner that recognizes and respects the privacy of the reporting person.



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Enforcement of this Policy

All reported incidents of violence will be taken seriously and will be dealt with appropriately, including prompt evaluation, investigation and response. An individual who makes a substantial threat of violence or commits an act of violence as defined in this policy shall be removed from the premises. Any weapon or dangerous instrument will be confiscated and turned over to appropriate law enforcement/public safety authorities. There is no reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to such items on college premises.

Violations of this policy, including knowingly providing a false report, or failing to cooperate fully with an investigation, may lead to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from employment or expulsion from the college. Violations may also result in criminal penalties.

Threat Assessment Team

Each college will establish a Threat Assessment Team to oversee the implementation of this policy. The Threat Assessment Team should include representatives of management, human resources, employee unions, public safety, and facilities management.

One goal of the team approach is to ensure that people are prepared to work together to deal with violent or potentially violent situations. Although violence cannot always be prevented, planning ahead and being prepared to act swiftly to deal with threats, intimidation and other disruptive behavior at an early stage can reduce the risk. The Assessment Team has three major functions:

- **Identifying the potential for violence.** This involves analyzing trends in incidents relating to particular units, jobs, activities, time of day and so forth.
- **Prevention.** This includes recommending procedures to prevent violence, such as conducting violence prevention and response training for employees and students, establishing mechanisms for employees, students and others to discuss their concerns about violence, conducting inspections of college premises, evaluating working environments of employees and students to ascertain any unusual risks, conducting employee/student surveys, recommending changes in physical plant, equipment and practices to enhance campus safety.
- **Responding to individual acts of violence.** Incidents reported to the Human Resources office and/or the Public Safety department should be shared with the Threat Assessment Team which may advise and assist in the investigation if appropriate. The Team may also assist in the management of threats or incidents of violence by planning a response to mitigate further damage, coordinating responses with local law enforcement and the community and managing media inquiries.

Publication of Policy on Violence Prevention and Response

This policy shall be distributed to all members of the college community and shall be posted prominently in areas where students, staff and guests may gather. The policy should also be included in orientation materials for new employees and students and published in college newsletters, catalogues, handbooks, as appropriate. The policy should be reissued once a year as a reminder of the importance of this issue in our community. Contractors, subcontractors, and vendors doing business with the college shall be advised that compliance with this policy is mandatory.



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Records Retentions & Management

Records Management is the systematic control of all organizational records during the various stages of their life cycle: from their creation or receipt, through their processing, distribution, maintenance and use, to their ultimate disposition.

A Public Record is any recorded data or information relating to the conduct of the public's business prepared, owned, used, received or retained by a public agency, or to which a public agency is entitled to receive a copy by law or contract under section 1-218, whether such data or information be handwritten, typed, tape-recorded, printed, photostatted, photographed, or recorded by any other means. [CGS §1-200(5)]

A Records Retention Schedule is a comprehensive list of record series which indicates the length of time each series is to be retained until it is reviewed for destruction or archival retention. The components of a Records Management Program are (1) Records Inventory (2) Records Retention Schedule (3) Approvals (4) Compliance.

CRIMINAL INTENT : CGS §1-240 Sec. 1-240. (Formerly Sec. 1-21k). Penalties. (a) Any person who willfully, knowingly and with intent to do so, destroys, mutilates or otherwise disposes of any public record without the approval required under section 1-18 or unless pursuant to chapter 47 or 871, or who alters any public record, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor and each such occurrence shall constitute a separate offense.

(b) Any member of any public agency who fails to comply with an order of the Freedom of Information Commission shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor and each occurrence of failure to comply with such order shall constitute a separate offense.

CGS § 53-153 Sec. 53-153. Unlawful removal or alteration of records. Counterfeiting seals. Any person who, willfully and corruptly, takes away, alters, mutilates or destroys any book, record, document, archive or other property in the possession or custody or under the control of any institution, board, commission, department or officer of the state or any county or municipality or court, or who counterfeits the seal of this state or the seal of any court or public office entitled to have and use a seal, and makes use of the same, or, with evil intent, affixes any of the said true seals to any document, or who has in his possession any such counterfeited seal, and willfully conceals the same, knowing it to be falsely made and counterfeited, shall be imprisoned not more than ten years.

The Records Management Liaison Officer (RMLO) is responsible for: Creating guidelines for maintaining and using agency guidelines; Inventory or supervise an agency records inventory; Prepare agency records retention schedules to be submitted to the Office of the Public Records Administrator; Review Agency disposal authorizations and obtain approval to dispose of records; Transfer records to the State Records Center; Coordinate the implementation of records technology to ensure compliance with guidelines and regulations established by the Connecticut State Library; Maintain a control file of records retention schedules, disposal authorizations, and record transfers; Disseminate records management information to agency personnel; Appoint Assistant RMLOs as necessary.

Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Campus RMLO.



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Standards of Conduct

Northwestern Connecticut Community College prides itself on being a community of responsible citizens. To this end, it is expected that members of the community will abide by NCCC's policies and local laws.

We recognize that despite these laws, expectations and standards, some people will illegally consume or possess alcohol or other drugs, and some will have medical, legal, and/or interpersonal problems as a result of their use. Moreover, even those of legal age may misuse alcohol and in so doing come in conflict with standards of community conduct.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The College prohibits the underage and unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students or by employees on College property. The College will impose disciplinary sanctions on students and employees who violate the standards. Disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed on students include warning, disciplinary probation, community service hours, suspension, and dismissal. Whenever the College determines that a student has violated one of the standards, it will consider as a possible sanction referral of the matter to law enforcement officials for prosecution.

Although sanctions will vary according to the specific circumstances of the case, and greater or lesser sanctions imposed depending on these circumstances, it is nonetheless important for students to understand the potential consequences of violating the College's policies on drugs and alcohol.

This document is a summary of the College policy on alcohol and other drugs. The full documents can be found on the College's website www.nwcc.commnet.edu under the link: About NCCC/Employment Opportunities at NCCC, which includes the College regulations and many relevant laws, information regarding substance-free events, resources for those who have or are concerned about problems related to alcohol or drug use, and clarification about potential outcomes if found in violation of the College's policy.